

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 7:20p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Councilmember Monica Higgs, Councilmember Hope Love, Councilmember Shireka McCarthy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Kizzie Scott, Councilmember Gloria Sistrunk

Staff: Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Devan A. Martin, Interim Deputy City Manager and Chief of Police, Jeannelle B. Wallace, Interim City Manager

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The Invocation was given by Councilmember Higgs.

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned by Councilmember Sistrunk and seconded by Councilmember Love to approve the Public Session Agenda. The motion carried, and the agenda was unanimously approved by the Council.

1.1.5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Approval of Regular Work Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, February 1, 2021

Motion to Approve Regular Work Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, February 1,2021.

Motion by Shireka McCarthy, second by Monica Higgs.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Shireka McCarthy, Kelly Porter, Gerald Raynor Sr, Kizzie Scott, Gloria L Sistrunk

Approval of Special Session Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Motion to Approve Special Session Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 3, 2021.

Motion by Gloria Sistrunk, second by Gerald Raynor.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Shireka McCarthy, Kelly Porter, Gerald Raynor Sr, Kizzie Scott, Gloria L Sistrunk

Approval of Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Motion to Approve Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 3, 2021.

Motion by Shireka McCarthy, second by Monica Higgs.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Shireka McCarthy, Kelly Porter, Gerald Raynor Sr, Kizzie Scott, Gloria L Sistrunk

Approval of Public Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, February 8, 2021

Motion to Approve Public Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, February 8, 2021

Motion by Gloria Sistrunk Sr, second by Hope Love.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Shireka McCarthy, Kelly Porter, Gerald Raynor Sr, Kizzie Scott, Gloria L Sistrunk, Hope Love

Approval of Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, February 8, 2021

Motion to approve Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, February 8, 2021.

Motion by Shireka McCarthy, second by Monica Higgs.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Shireka McCarthy, Kelly Porter, Gerald Raynor Sr, Kizzie Scott, Gloria L Sistrunk, Hope Love

Approval of Special Session Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Motion to approve Special Session Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Motion by Gerald Raynor Sr, second by Monica Higgs.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Shireka McCarthy, Kelly Porter, Gerald Raynor Sr, Kizzie Scott, Gloria L Sistrunk

Approval of Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Motion to Approve Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Motion by, Kizzie Scott, second by Gerald Raynor Sr.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Shireka McCarthy, Kelly Porter, Gerald Raynor Sr, Kizzie Scott, Gloria L Sistrunk

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Latasha Gatling-

I would like to register to speak at the Public Session. I would like to read my comments into the record.

- As reported in the media, there have been allegations of sexual misconduct, harassment, hostile work environment and retaliation presented against a government official. It is my understanding that an investigation has taken place. When will the redacted findings of the investigation be made public? Have you notified LGIT of the impending litigation?
- If the findings indicate that the allegations are not allegations, but the truth, who will pay the former employee back pay? I suppose the taxpayers will have to absorb this debt as we have already absorbed the debts of past mismanagement.
- What are the plans moving forward to secure that this does not occur again?
- How many vacant positions does the city currently have? And when will they be fulfilled considering there was a furlough?
- I want to thank my council person Gerald Raynor for all of his hard work. Please keep up the good work.

- **Anika Gzifa**

- Good evening council. Will you continue putting the responses to citizen questions and comments on the city's webpage? I appreciate that change and hope you add the responses to tonight's questions there.
- Katrina Robinson
- I called Ms. Rhoda last month to get an answer if I will be receiving a statement for tax purposes reference the training, I attended for the 2020 Census and have yet to receive a response. She indicated that several people had call and that she would get with the HR person and get a response for everyone. I have not heard back with an answer to date. I am scheduled to drop off my taxes, so a response is needed ASAP.
- Since the city is now collecting trash, do we practice with the WSSC program "Can the Grease" on trash day?
- Can I get an explanation as to what is the Constant Yield Hearing?
- **Correction Date** - You have Monday April 17th that needs a date correction on the city's website reference your upcoming calendar events, because that date is on a Saturday.

3. PRESENTATION

3.1 None

4. LEGISLATION

4.1. Resolution R-21-10 Amending Resolution R-21-02 Adoption of Annexation Plan for the City of Seat Pleasant. Resolution R-21-10 was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, February 8, 2021. The second reading of Resolution R-21-10 was held on Monday, March 8, 2021.

It was motioned by Shireka McCarthy and seconded by Gloria Sistrunk to Approve Resolution R-21-10 Amending Resolution R-21-02 Adoption of Annexation Plan for the City of Seat Pleasant with amendments for the acreage from 41.7 to 41.2302.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Shireka McCarthy, Kelly Porter, Gerald Raynor Sr, Kizzie Scott, Gloria L Sistrunk

4.2 Charter Amendment Resolution CA-21-07 To Amend Charter Amendment Resolution CA-21-03 Annexation of Corporate Boundaries of Seat Pleasant. Charter Amendment Resolution CA-21-07 was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, February 8, 2021. The second reading of Charter Amendment Resolution CA-21-07 was held on Monday, March 8, 2021.

It was motioned by Gloria Sistrunk and seconded by Gerald Raynor, Sr., to approve Charter Amendment Resolution CA 21-07 to Amend Charter Amendment Resolution CA-21-03 Annexation of Corporate Boundaries of Seat Pleasant.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Shireka McCarthy, Kelly Porter, Gerald Raynor Sr, Kizzie Scott, Gloria L Sistrunk

5. REPORTS:

5.1. Mayor Eugene W. Grant

- Mayor Grant was absent from the meeting and no report was submitted in writing.

5.2. Council President Report

- Council President Porter stated that the monthly report can be viewed in Board Docs.

5.3. City Manager Report-Jeannelle B. Wallace, Interim City Manager

- Mrs. Wallace stated that she had initially submitted the Annual Report on March 1, 2021 and she will provide a summary. The City is in good standing financially, not in turmoil as stated. We were impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, which all municipalities were impacted.

- However, the smaller cities such as seat pleasant who do not have the staff to support, was more impacted.
- During the past fiscal year, the department in consultation with the city attorney, amended the City's Charter numerous times to reflect the actual functionality of the government, and to ensure that there is ample checks and balances between the administrative branch and the legislative branch of government. The major revisions to the Charter are:
 - Revised the form of government as a Council/Manager form of government. There are currently four (4) forms of government in Maryland, Mayor/Council (strong mayor, weak council), Strong Council/weak mayor – where the mayor serves in a ceremonial capacity, council manager form of government where the city manager runs-the day-to-day operations of the government at the discretion and direction of the city council, and a commissioner form of government. The city was previously operating under a mixture of council/manager and mayor/council form of government which led to confusion. The City council decided that it wanted to operate under a council/manager form of government, hence the change in title of the head of the administration department from Chief Operating Officer to City Manager. Under this form of government, the city manager “manages” the day-to-day operations at the direction of the city council who collectively serve as the head of the government. This is consistent with the legislative and budgetary authority of the council which is mandated by the city charter.
 - The mayor now serves as the ceremonial head of government.
 - Preparation of the annual budget and annual report is now designated to the city manager.
 - The city manager has hiring and firing authority of the employees with the approval of the city council. The manager cannot hire or fire the Chief Financial Officer, Chief of Police, or City Clerk, without approval of the majority of the city council. She/he can only recommend.
 - The council president now has the authority to perform ceremonial functions of the mayor in the event the mayor is

incapacitated or unavailable to perform said functions. The council president can also designate another council person to perform these functions as well.

- These revisions were approved by Charter Amendment Resolution CA-21-06 which became effective January 26, 2021.
- The city manager also routinely makes recommendations concerning revisions to the code of ordinances concerning fees for services, and code violations in consultation with management and the NCC division.
- Councilmember McCarthy requested that Mrs. Wallace make the corrections to the second page of the Councilmembers on the second page of the annual report.
- Council President Porter stated that the newsletter should have the Councilmember and their Wards in the newsletter.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1. None

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. None

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1 Regular Work Session, Monday, April 5, 2021, by Zoom Video at 6:00p.m., Meeting link details can be found on the city's website.

8.2 Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Hearing, Monday, April 12, 2021 by Zoom Video at 6:00p.m., Meeting link details can be found on the city's website.

8.3 Constant Yield Hearing, Monday, April 12, 2021 by Zoom Video at 6:30p.m., Meeting link details can be found on the city's website.

8.4 Public Session, Monday, April 12, 2021, by Zoom Video at 8:00p.m., Meeting link details can be found on the city's website.

8.5 Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Hearing, Saturday, April 17, 2021 by Zoom Video at 10:00a.m., Meeting link details can be found on the city's website.

9. ADJOURN:

The City Council adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm

Submitted by,

DocuSigned by:
Dashaun N. Lanham
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Dashaun N. Lanham, CMC
City Clerk

APPROVED 04/12/21