

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021
8:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 8:07p.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, 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 s 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 Central Avenue Annexation Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for Monday, March 8, 2021. Motion to Approve of Central Avenue Annexation Public Hearing Meeting Minutes for Monday, March 8, 2021 Motion by Gloria Sistrunk, 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

1.6 Approval of Public Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, March 8, 2021

Motion to Approve the Public Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, March 8, 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

Action, Minutes: 1.7 Approval of Special Session Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Motion to approve Special Session Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

Motion by Monica Higgs, 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

1.8 Approval of Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Motion to Approve Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Motion by Gloria L Sistrunk, 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

Action, Minutes: 1.9 Approval of Special Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, March 29, 2021

Motion to Approve the Special Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, March 29, 2021

Motion by Gerald Raynor Sr, second by Hope Love.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS

The City did not receive any written or verbal comments from the citizens.

3. PRESENTATION

3.1 None

4. LEGISLATION

4.1. None

5. REPORTS:

5.1 Council President Report

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

5.2. Mayor Eugene W. Grant

- Mayor Grant was excused from the meeting and his report was uploaded in Boarddocs.

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

- Mrs. Wallace stated that the Quarterly Report is lengthy and the reports are on the website and can be sent to the residents upon request.
Reporting Period Objectives: Improve the City's constituent services, provide timely responses to citizenry inquiries, review the FY 2021 Budget in preparation for the FY 2022 Budget presentation to the Mayor and Council; prepare the FY 2022 Budget with the management team; review grant submission and discuss ideas; recommend Charter amendment revisions; review and analyze the investigative report; obtain financial statements from SPICE, and finalize the FY 2019 audit.
- Objective Outcomes to Date: The department was able to obtain the bank statements from SPICE following a meeting with the SPICE Board Chair and a committee of the City Council; the statements were electronically sent to the Auditing firm who subsequently has

developed additional questions and to the back- up documentation for invoices for travel, meetings, and salaries. The management team is currently concluding final questions from the auditors on purchases made for items related to the USDA project and lease payments for city vehicles. The management team has worked on several items including but not limited to hosting a hearing with Planet Fitness and their legal representatives regarding their business personal property taxes which are currently in arrears. Their attorney requested a reduction in the tax payment due to an inability to pay the city what is currently owed. The staff representatives at the meeting relayed the fact that the request had to be to the city council as they were the only entity the City that had the authority to grant such a request as this has a significant adverse effect on the city's revenue. The city attorney is currently preparing advice as to the next action regarding this matter.

- The team met with various sub committees of the city council including the Governmental Affairs Committee, and the Economic Development Committee, to recommend necessary revisions to the City Charter following an extensive review of each of the City Character. The City Attorney is now reviewing the document for legal sufficiency and the document will then be forwarded to the City Council for review and approval.
- The FY 2022 Budget document has been finalized and will be presented on April 1, 2021. The most significant changes from last year will incorporate a line- item budget which will delineate each City position by title and salary for every departmental budget; a 3% salary increase is proposed which is comprised of a 1.5 % Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and a 1.5% Merit increase which is based upon a satisfactory performance evaluation. The management team worked together to produce a document that is considered realistic and appropriate given the fact that the country is still experiencing some downward trends due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The Interim City Manager can be reached at 6301 Addison Road ▪ Seat Pleasant MD 20743-2125 ▪ (301) 336-2600 ▪ Fax (301) 456-8681
- The City Manager presented an annual report to the citizenry and the City Council highlighting the accomplishments of the entire city government despite many challenges. Inaccurate information that has

been circulating throughout the community was addressed in the document as well as during a hearing concerning annexation. They have successfully annexed the roadway of Central Avenue despite some opposition to this project, the goal of which is to significantly control and monitor pedestrian safety and vehicular traffic due to fatalities and the number of vehicular accidents that have occurred primarily due to excessive speed. There are no additional cameras scheduled to be installed on the annexed area. There is no requirement for the

City to maintain the roadway as it is still owned by State Highway Administration (SHA). SHA still maintains and owns Martin Luther King, Jr., Highway but the city receives revenue from the speed and red-light cameras and controls and monitors the traffic. This situation is no different than what is proposed with the annexation and will enhance the city's ability to improve safety and strive the goal of zero fatalities in conjunction with the State of Maryland goal, and the project has the potential for future growth of the city.

- As stated during the second annexation hearing, residents within the City of Seat Pleasant, and the surrounding unincorporated areas will not see a tax increase because of this annexation. In fact, the legislation approving the annexation states that real property owner's taxes will not be impacted.
- The leadership met and reviewed the Prince George's County proposed Constant Yield Tax Rate for FY 2022. Whenever the Constant Yield Rate is higher than the City's proposed Constant Yield Rate, the City is required to advertise its intent to have a rate higher than the County's rate. What does this mean: The City is proposing a rate that will equal the revenue it received in the prior fiscal year. To do otherwise would result in the city receiving less revenue from all its tax sources. What it does not mean: Your residential taxes will NOT increase. The only time a resident's property taxes increases is IF the property assessed value increases, (which is not controlled by the City), and/or if the City proposes a Constant Yield Tax Rate that is higher than the previous year. The City has NOT proposed a tax increase on residential property in several years.
- The administration department is currently within or below budget allocations.

The objectives of the next quarter center around budget hearings and approval of the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2022, the

conclusion of the FY 19 Audit and the commencement of the FY 20 audit. Challenges: the USDA project and problems with the roof leaking and sewer back-up at City Hall, and completing the reporting requirement to submit the application for the loan extension and increased funding

- Councilmember Love thanked Mrs. Wallace for getting the water issue corrected on 64th Place which has been going on for twelve years.
- Council President Porter stated that the staff is working and doing great things for Seat Pleasant. He gave commendations to the City Clerk and Interim City Manager
- Council President Porter stated that due to COVID will not be having a Summer Youth program as it will put a liability on the city.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1. None

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. None

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.3 Regular Work Session, Monday, May 3, 2021, by Zoom Video at 6:00pm. Meeting link details will be on the city's website, Seat Pleasant, MD

8.4 Public Session, Monday, May 10, 2021, by Zoom Video at 7:00pm. Meeting link details will be on the city's website, Seat Pleasant, MD

9. ADJOURN:

The City Council adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm

Submitted by,

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Dashaun N. Lanham

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Dashaun N. Lanham, CMC
City Clerk