MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
REGULAR WORK SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019
6:00P.M.

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Yeargin called the meeting to order at 6:17p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant, Councilmember Charl Jones, Councilmember Hope Love, Councilmember Lamar Maxwell (Absent), Councilmember Shireka McCarthy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gloria Sistrunk, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Sharron Lipford, Director of Public Engagement, Diamond Plater, Council Clerk, Jeannelle B. Wallace, Chief Operating Officer,

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Mayor Grant.

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned by Councilmember Sistrunk and seconded by Councilmember Love to approve the agenda. The motion carried and was approved by the Council.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

- None

3. REPORTS:

3.1. Mayor's Report

- Mayor Grant stated we have a lot work going on in the Government that was not happening at least thirty (30) years ago. Some of the work is complicated, and it is easy to criticize when you do not know. We need to walk in a person shoes to understand how the work should be produced. There are details that he doesn't know and there are things that the staff is filling their way through.
- Mayor stated that he was having some concerns with the events and the meticulousness of the events for set-up. When they were planning for the

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State of City, and the power required for the video wall that we need to tap into the grid.

- Mayor Grant stated that we do not have staff with the level of expertise to know and understand the details required to produce some of the events. He has seen growth in the staff. Mayor Grant stated that there are concerns when we hear that someone has been terminated and he cannot share information until we have closed door meeting.
- Mayor Grant stated that there was a case that was won in court that Chief Martin was involved with the PG County Police Chief and the judge stated that he has never seen things so meticulously done.
- Mayor Grant encouraged the Council to pick up the telephone, if you have any questions.
- Mayor Grant stated a resident has requested for Councilmember Love to provide all legislation that she approved to raise the taxes. Councilmember Love informed the resident that taxes had not been raised and that her taxes will not increase.
- Mayor Grant stated that some people are upset because the City Council and the Mayor are getting along.
- The City had the meeting with USDA for the Pre-Construction Meeting with DPIE last week and they said everything is in order. USDA must approve every expenditure pertaining to the construction project. Mayor Grant stated that we may not be perfect on the Administration side, but where it counts everything is in order. They approved the General Contractor and we are waiting on USDA to provide us with the notice to proceed. They have a conference call with USDA every Friday with the City of Seat Pleasant. This information is to arm the Council with facts regarding the project. The County has approved the permits for the Construction project.
- Mayor Grant stated that things are in-order for the project. SPICE and the non-profit had a meeting while he was out of town. He is reviewing the meeting minutes of the meeting. He stated that Rita Powell is reviewing and managing the funds.
- The Opportunity Zone funds must be obligated by June 30, 2019 to invest the money in distress communities and lock it in for ten years and they do not pay taxes on the money.
- The Public Engagement Department has been passing out flyers and we will have residents that will be working on City Hall. We are getting compliments on the cleanliness of the city. We had a resident call to compliment and thank the Public Works Department for cleaning the fallen tree limbs up.

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- Mayor Grant stated that he had finally seen a Councilmember use the Council car. Mayor Grant stated that the Public Works schedule has been changed to seven (7) days a week and two teams of six. They are working ten hour shifts to include Police, NCC and Public Works. The NCC Inspector has not issued tickets to everyone. They're knocking on the doors to see if they can work with them, if not then they will receive the citation.
- We have a certified truck inspector to be able to pull over and address the concerns. The towing fee for the trucks are $1,500 per tow. The person will be going away from training. We have a new employee in the Police Department. The City of Seat Pleasant had to deploy our Emergency Center early because the County system went down for 30 minutes. This means that they could only communicate by radio. We have a three-year process for our dispatching services. We will make this a subscription base service. There are two towns that have the 24-hour dispatching services, which is Bladensburg, Bowie, Laurel and the largest municipalities have their own.
- We are not doing anything outside of the budget, and if it is anything that has not been approved, we will come back to the City Council. We have two crime scene investigators within the Police Department. Some crimes cannot be solved due to the lack of evidence and crime scene personnel.
- We are preparing for the County Executive to come this week. We need to ensure that we have our presentation in place and prepare for MML at the same time. Things are moving in a forward direction at a turtle pace, we do not want to go to fast.
- Councilmember McCarthy stated that in the Economic Development report has the Housing Trust and she's very happy to see it. She wanted to know what we are doing to protect ourselves. There is a situation going on in Baltimore City and she wants to ensure that there is no breach in our system.
- Mayor Grant stated that their systems were not in secure clouds and we must be careful how we open e-mails on our systems. They are looking into a cyber security certification program for Seat Pleasant.
- Mayor Grant stated that we will have a training for the staff and elected officials on cyber security.
- Councilmember Jones stated that she had taken a training for Red Seal and they trained you on vulnerability.
- Council President Yeargin suggested that the Mayor and Councilmember Jones partner to provide an article in the Newsletter on vulnerability and securing your e-mail and social media.
- Mayor Grant stated that it is Mr. Smith that the tips can be provided for the next newsletter.

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- Mayor Grant stated that he will be speaking next month at the Global Challenge Training.
- Councilmember Sistrunk stated that there is a lot of dumping taking place at City Hall and it is not the employees.
- Mayor Grant requested for Councilmember Sistrunk to provide the time and date of the dumping. He encouraged her to continue to call. We have active cameras that can pull the video.

3.2. Chief Operating Officer

- Mrs. Wallace stated that the reporting period will be for the month of April. The department worked on a variance request that was not in Seat Pleasant jurisdiction.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the variance request for Greig Street has not brought back the engineer.
- We had a lot of meetings in April in preparation of the budget. She met with Grants Department, worked with LGIT to retrieve credit.
- The demolition of the gaskin property was completed in the month of April.

3.3. City Council Committee Reports

- The City Council did not have any reports for the month of May.

4. LEGISLATION

4.1. Resolution R-19-09 Approval of Application and Receipt of Financing for Community Legacy Demolition Grant. Resolution R-19-09 was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Council on Monday, June 3, 2019. It was motioned by Councilmember McCarthy and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve Resolution R-19-09. The motion carried was unanimously approved by the City Council.

4.2. Resolution R-19-10 Approval of Application and Receipt of Financing for Community Legacy Demolition Grant. Resolution R-19-10 was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Council on Monday, June 3, 2019. It was motioned by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Love to approve Resolution R-19-10. The motion carried was unanimously approved by the City Council.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. None

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6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Strategic Plan Meeting Date

- Ms. Plater stated the meeting date for the Strategic Plan dates have not been received for July. We had dates provided for August 16 & 17 and September 13 & 14, 2019.
- The City Council agreed to August 16 and 17 for the Strategic Plan Meeting.

6.2. Charter Review Commission Recommendation

- Councilmember McCarthy stated that she suggested that the Charter Review Commission/Committee. We may know what we want within our city and to have the residents, attorney and dedicated body of people to be involved.
- Councilmember Jones wanted to know if the Charter Review Commission could be included in the Strategic Plan Meeting. It was mentioned during the retreat to make it a priority for the City of Seat Pleasant.
- Mayor Grant stated that it is a viable approach. Mayor Grant stated that the theory is correct, but the practice will be the challenge.
- Mayor Grant stated that he will suggest a hybrid of this by having a charrette to ask the residents how they want the government to look.
- Mayor Grant stated that we can have one of the schools of the university of Maryland or Howard to walk the city through the process and have the students to draw up what the residents stated. We can have one in Ward 3/4 area at Carmody Hill Baptist Church, Seat Pleasant Activity for Ward 2/3, Reverend Flowers for Ward 1 and City Hall for Ward 5 and we can have the professional facilitators and we can show them pros and cons of the government based upon the research. We start with the residents and the legal review will be done at the schools. The process can take two to three years. The city does not have a recall procedure in place.
- Mayor Grant stated that we have been trying to get residents to serve on the Ethics Commission for a long time.
- Ms. Lanham stated it has been about 4 years to get residents to serve.
- The City Council has requested for the Charter Review Commission to be added to the Strategic Plan Meeting.

6.3. Audit Report for FY2017-2018

- Mrs. Wallace stated that the draft report of the FY2017-2018 is attached in Board Docs. The auditor will be here on Monday, June 10, 2019 to present the final audit report.

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- Mrs. Wallace read the page 1, 3 and 4, and 21 of the report. It will be a clean audit. We are pushing a heavy schedule to get the RFP out by June 30, 2019.
- We will be submitting some recommendations to the City Council for the auditing firm for FY2018-2019.
- Councilmember Love inquired if the City will be having a Ward Clean-up. Mayor Grant stated that we are not having the City-Wide Ward Clean-Up as it is not affordable.
- Mayor Grant stated that we will be paying twice, as Bates provides the service. They can call Bates once a week to have the items removed. They need to utilize the service that we are paying for every week. It is unlimited on the number of items that can be put out each week.

7 ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1. Community Fish Fry, Saturday, June 8, 2019, Goodwin Park, 311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD from 12:30pm-7:00pm
Councilmember Porter stated that the event is open to all with activities for the children, music, etc.
7.2. Public Session, Monday, June 10, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD at 7:00pm
7.3. Ward V Monthly Meeting, Monday, June 10, 2019, Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD from 9:30am-11:30am
7.4 Regular Work Session, Monday, July 1, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD at 6:00pm
7.5. Public Session, Monday, July 8, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD at 7:00pm

ADJOURN-The meeting was adjourned at 8:40p.m.

Submitted by,

Dashaun N. Lanham, CMC
City Clerk

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