

REGULAR MEETING

August 19, 2019

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner President Ross Benincasa at 7:33pm. Attending the meeting were Commissioners Ross Benincasa, Steve Higdon, Sandra Higdon; Circuit Rider Jennifer Shull; town clerk Michael Garrett; Chelsea Benincasa from Planning and Zoning; Jane Fitzgerald from Planning and Zoning; town residents Jimmy Knotts, Sharon Thomas, Warren Thomas, Chester Lowery, Ronald A Stafford and Dave Bullock.

Pledge of Allegiance

- The proposal of Ordinance 74, An ordinance regulating open air burning within the town limits of Hillsboro, was read by the clerk and the floor was open for public comments.
- Some of the public comment on record:
 - Resident Ronnie Stafford voiced concerns that Environmental Health will not allow limitations on open air burning, that if it is banned, then all burning will be banned including grills, fire pits and burning barrels. He also voiced concerns about how the ordinance would be enforced.
 - Resident Dave Bullock voiced concerns that burning be done at reasonable hours and not left unattended. He also raised concern about the smoke from burning causing health issues for his family and the material content of what was being burned.
 - Resident Sharon Thomas commented that the burning ordinance would be fine if they could still do recreational burning using their grill, fire pit, smoker and burning of leaves. She would feel more comfortable seeing something in writing from Environmental Health saying it is okay to burn recreationally.
 - Resident Jimmy Knotts says he will continue to use his burning barrel no matter what the ordinance says.
 - Resident Warren Thomas echoed resident Sharon Thomas' sentiment that they just want to be able to continue to enjoy their fire pit and using the smoker in their rear yard.
 - A motion was made to close the public comment at 8:01pm by Commissioner Steve Higdon, 2nd by Commissioner Sandra Higdon.
 - A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2019 meeting by Commissioner Steve Higdon, 2nd by Commissioner Sandra Higdon.
 - Financial Statement read. Motion to approve by Commissioner Steve Higdon, 2nd by Commissioner Sandra Higdon.

OLD BUSINESS

- In regards to the Speeding Survey update, SHA will survey Main Street for the next 30-90 days to monitor the general speed of motorists. SHA cannot do anything until after the survey is completed, at which time they will make recommendations based on their findings.
- In regard to the playground mulch and upkeep, the Caroline County Recreation and Parks will come out and take a look to see how much mulch we need. Our grasscutter is okay with keeping a pathway cut through the meadow.
- In regards to the renaming of a portion of Maryland Route 404 in memory of Danny Lister, a letter in support of the renaming by the Town of Hillsboro was sent to Queen Anne Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Company.
- In regards to the CD rates for the Queenstown Bank CD maturing 09/16/2019, It looks like Provident State Bank has the best rate with a rate of 3.03% for 55 months.

NEW BUSINESS

- There is an Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Plan created every ten years that the town adopts via resolution. The town needs an Equipment Readiness Area at the Hillsboro Town Hall that emergency crews can access should flooding occur that would make Hillsboro inaccessible from the Queen Anne Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Company in Queen Anne. This will be part of Resolution FY 20-3 to join the Hazard Mitigation Plan. A motion was made by Commissioner Steve Higson to adopt the resolution and seconded by Commissioner Sandra Higdon.
- The Commissioners will contact Delmarva Power to see if they will trim trees away from the power lines.
- In consideration of Ordinance 74, the commissioners decided they would need to make some updates to the definitions and the prohibition language to be more specific about what would be allowed. Motion was made by Commissioner Steve Higdon to table the ordinance as amended until the September town meeting. Commissioner Sandra Higdon seconded the motion.
- Regular meeting public comments:
- Resident Jane Fitzgerald was concerned about combustible materials not being allowed within 15 feet of open air burning as her Adirondack chairs are closer to her fire pit than 15 feet.
- Resident Dave Bullock commented that he was not trying to infringe on the rights of other residents to burn, he just wanted it done in a safe and considerate manner.

A motion was made by Commissioner Steve Higdon and seconded by Commissioner Sandra Higdon to draft a letter to support a proposal for Caroline County's Watershed Assistance Grant Program.

Motion to approve bills to be paid, Commissioner Steve Higdon, 2nd by Commissioner Sandra Higdon:

Michael Garrett Clerk Fee --\$250.00

Infinity Recycling --\$125.00

APG Media of the Chesapeake--\$36.00 Times Record Ad for Ordinance 74

APG Media of the Chesapeake--\$52.20 Star Democrat Ad for Ordinance 74

Chesapeake Waste--\$745.50

Delmarva Power Street Lights--\$433.99

Delmarva Power Town Hall Electric--\$49.40

Joey's Lawncare Grass Cutting--\$180.00

Sandra Higdon Reimbursement--\$200.00 Pest Control and Gift Card

Ross Benincasa Reimbursement--\$736.42 Laptop

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:36pm by Commissioner Steve Higdon, 2nd by Commissioner Sandra Higdon