



**Minutes of Meeting of
Three Members of
Colonial Beach Town Council
Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.**

Colonial Beach Town Center
22 Washington Avenue

Present

Eddie Blunt, Mayor
Patrick Ey, Council Member
Vicki Roberson, Council Member

Absent

Vice Mayor Robin Schick, Councilmen Frank Alger, Steve Cirbee and Dallas Leamon were absent. There was no quorum of Council Members.

Also Present

Town Manager, Quinn Robertson
Deputy Town Manager, Rob Murphy
Town Attorney, Jim Cornwell
Town Clerk, Kathleen Flanagan
Zoning Administrator, Richard Douglas

Call to Order – NO QUORUM

Mayor Blunt was not able to call the meeting to order due to a lack of a quorum of Council Members.

Mayor Blunt noted that the Public Hearings that were scheduled to take place on this date would be re-scheduled, also due to a lack of quorum of Council Members.

The three Council Members present remained and invited the citizens who were in attendance to stay for an informal “town hall” type of exchange.

Public Comment

Susan Mack, 1451 Irving Avenue, spoke to the proposed water rate increase and suggested information be placed on bills letting people know of any community resources available to help them pay the bill. Ms. Mack stated that there are people in the community who would be willing to pay extra so that those extra funds could be made available to others in the community who are in need.

Mayor Blunt said there is a program in place for seniors and disabled persons that provides discounts on both the utility bills and real estate taxes. Currently there are approximately 17-20 people that are enrolled in that program.

Walter Kern, The Meadows, talked about what brings people to Colonial Beach and stated a lot of people come here because of the fireworks.

Mr. Kern asked why the Colonial Beach flag was no longer flying at the Welcome Sign at Washington and Colonial Avenue.

Mr. Kern thanked Public Works for putting trash receptacles on the golf cart path.

Mr. Kern noted there is a need for benches at Eleanor Trailer Park and the golf cart paths.

Mr. Kern thanked New Zion Baptist Church for their support at the opening of the Torrey Smith park.

Mayor Blunt talked about the lack of recreation in the north part of town, which includes the area where the golf cart paths are located.

Mayor Blunt also noted that lighting needs to be installed on the golf cart paths.

Pat Fitzgerald, speaking on behalf of the Colonial Beach Humane Society talked about the feral cat population in town. There are about six colonies of feral cats and last year 161 cats were spayed. To make a tax-deductible donation, the address is P.O. Box 393, Colonial Beach 22443.

Jay Jarvis, 225 Boundary Street spoke about parking and the traffic flow on the 4th of July and said it was awful for residents, tourists and businesses.

Mr. Jarvis asked about the grant funding from VDOT.

Mayor Blunt responded saying that visitors coming to town on the 4th of July were directed to park, first, at Town Hill and then to the high school.

Mayor Blunt further noted this is the first year the town did not receive a ton of calls from residents about their driveways being blocked by visitors.

Mr. Robertson said there were about 20,000 people in town for the 4th of July. Next year there is opportunity to improve.

Mayor Blunt noted there is always a crush of people around 7:00-7:30 p.m. of people coming into town. The traffic patterns are set ahead of time between our local PD, Westmoreland County and the State Police. Safety is paramount, especially making sure emergency vehicles can get through the all the streets in town.

Mr. Murphy spoke to the grant funding from VDOT saying the town is reviewing bids and anticipates a Notice to Proceed will be issued next week.

Steve Kennedy, suggested the town look to Urbanna for best practices in parking policies.

Mayor Blunt then spoke to the VDOT grant, saying that the project has been scaled back and maybe the statues will end up there.

Susan Mack said the Chamber has been in touch with the local PD, Westmoreland County and the State Police and will hold an after-action meeting that will include certain businesses that had concerns and agreed that improvements can always be made.

Jean Connaty, 207 Monroe spoke on behalf of the car club and also asked what happens if someone turns off their water for the winter.

Mr. Robertson said utilities are billed and due each quarter much like your mortgage payment is billed and due each month.

Mayor Blunt noted the rates are going to increase from \$235 per quarter to \$305 per quarter.

Mr. Robertson said the town is looking at monthly billing for utility accounts.

Marty Long, 15 Virginia Avenue asked Council to take care of the weeds at between Colonial and Maryland.

Robert Christianson, Washington Avenue thanked Mayor Blunt for his comments at the Torrey Smith Park ribbon cutting.

Mayor Blunt said it's always been the actions of the citizens who have stepped up and made the things that are out of financial reach happen.

Mayor Blunt said it takes a village and we are moving forward, and it will happen.

Ms. Roberson recalled that in 1988 the town opened a new high school. Then we recently built a new elementary school. Now, we have the Torrey Smith Park. Having lived here for over four decades, it's been an awesome process to be a part of.

Joyce Reihmerr, representing Downtown Colonial Beach spoke to Historic District Certification.

Susan French Genace, FlackShack reminded everyone that Saturday the World War I Commemoration Event will take place.

Mayor Blunt thanked everyone for staying.

At 7:05 p.m. Mayor Blunt recessed the meeting.

Kathleen Flanagan, Town Clerk