



Town of Rising Sun
Town Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2016

Let it be remembered that the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Town of Rising Sun, held a Town Meeting on the 3rd floor of the Town Hall on Tuesday evening, December 13, 2016 at 7:00 PM. For the record the meeting place and time were duly posted as required.

Meeting Minutes are hereby provided due to absence of videographer.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Travis Marion, Commissioner Dave Warnick, Commissioners Allen Authenreath, Commissioner Augie Pierson.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF/CONSULTANTS PRESENT: Town Administrator Calvin A. Bonenberger, Jr., Chief Francis Peterson

IN THE MATTER OF CALLING THE MEETING TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Marion and followed by the roll call, pledge of allegiance, and a moment of silence.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Marion presented a Citizens Citation to Lisa Tome for her efforts in raising funds & securing gifts for needy kids and families during the Christmas season. She secured wonderful blessing for 79 children during this season of giving.

IN THE MATTER OF BUSINESS –

None.

IN THE MATTER OF CITIZENS' INPUT

No citizens comments

IN THE MATTER OF STAFF REPORTS:

The Chief provided his monthly activity report and gave a general break down of the 308 calls for service over the preceding 21 day period, to include a break-down of man-hours involved. He provided specific details on the target areas of Valley View, Main Street to include 41 vehicle stops, to include possession of illegal narcotics. He also provided a breakdown of the overall criminal activity in the Town. He gave an overview of a new drug issue involving marijuana wax. He also gave an report on the success of the Shop with a Cop program and a special thanks to Commissioner Authenreath and Mayor Marion for their participation in the program.

Town Administrator gave an update on the status of the line stripping at Valley View as a result of the water main break. The Town also performed some crack sealing in the municipal parking lot to help ensure more longevity of the municipal lot. The cost of replacing the lot is very expensive and the town has not been successful on securing grant funds to help pay for the cost. The Town also repaired the depressions in the police parking lot. He gave an overview of the status of securing black top in the County due to concerns raised regarding the new owner reserving exclusive access to the plants for their own commercial use. The Town Administrator gave an update on the discount policy that the town has developed to provide a discount to residents that pay their utility bill within 10 days of receipt. There has been some criticism that the discount amount (1%) is not enough. The Town Administrator reminded everyone that previously when the concept was first introduced it was mentioned that the Town was trying to determine the amount of money that would be collected under the late penalty fee program, which was adopted 2 months previously. The objective was to fund the discount program by way of the late penalty program. He again emphasized that instituting the late penalty fee was not about making extra money, it was about establishing accountability for delinquent accounts that are more than 30 days past due, or not paid 50 days after the bill issue date. The Town of Rising Sun is the only Cecil County Community that is providing discounts to our residents on both real estate tax and utility bills. The hope is to get a better understanding of how much money is actually collected under the late penalty program and potentially raise the discount amount at a later date.

Commissioner Authenreath asked a question regarding who was paying for the sidewalk work that was being performed in the 300 block of West Main Street. The Town Administrator advised that the work was being done by the State but that the Town had not received any prior notice that the work was to be performed. The focus of the work was to install handicapped access at the intersections.

IN THE MATTER OF THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR:

Mayor Marion welcomed the boys scouts in attendance. He recognized the Tarri Moore, the outgoing County Executive that finished her term with the County. He reached out to all the newly elected county officials and emphasized that he looked forward to working with all of them. He congratulated Chief Peterson and all Cecil County Law Enforcement for their efforts with the Shop with a Cop program. He commented on how amazing the event was and commended the effort that is put forth to host such a special event for the kids. The Mayor reported on the Rising Sun High Schools winter concert that was being held tonight and wished all participants the best of luck with the event.

IN THE MATTER OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Authenreath:

Commissioner Authenreath also spoke highly of the shop with a cop event and how special it was for him to be able to participate. He detailed the incredible efforts behind the scenes of the many volunteers that set up tables, donate money, wrap gifts and really make a difference in the lives of kids. He recognized Lisa Tome for her efforts with the children and needed families with the annual drive for school supplies. He congratulated the newly County officials and emphasized the Mayor's sentiments about looking forward to working with those officials. He gave an overview of his attendance at the County Inauguration of newly elected officials. He reported on attending the annual Rising Sun Lion's Club awards banquet. He mentioned that Dawn Deckman received a citizen of the year award from the club and spoke very highly of the wonderful contributions that Dawn and her husband make to the community.

Commissioner Pierson

Commissioner Pierson highlighted some questions that have been asked of him regarding the merits of having our own Police Department. He spoke of how our Police Department provides a valuable service to not only the Town of Rising Sun but the immediate surrounding areas of Rising Sun. The point being that there are times that the County cannot provide timely response to the Town of Rising Sun. He spoke about how expensive it would be to have the County cover the Town. He referenced the fact that Port Deposit just recently dissolved their police department and pays the County for a much smaller coverage area for their residents. He also welcomed residents to come to town meetings to express their concerns and ask questions. He wanted to dispel a recent notion being posted on facebook that residents would be arrested if they came to Town meetings and expressed their views. Mayor Marion emphasized that there are some who are hiding behind a key board expressing their views, but are not willing to come to a town meeting to have a discussion and work to resolve the issues.

Commissioner Warnick:

Commissioner Warnick recognized Vince Sammons who also received a citizen of the Town award from the Rising Sun Lions Club. He spoke of all the contributions Vince makes to help local businesses and the community with his work with the annual health fair, Sunfest and Rising Sun Chamber.

IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS:

None

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:

None

In closing, the Mayor announced the holiday schedule and announced, with the consent of the board to close the Town Hall on Friday December 23, Monday December 26, Friday December 30th and Monday January 2, 2017.

The Commissioner's and Mayor commented on how successful the annual Christmas Tree lighting was and thanked the Chief for his bravery in plugging in the tree while it was raining.

With no other business to come before the Mayor & Commissioners, a motion was made by Commissioner Authenreath and seconded by Commissioner Warnick to adjourn at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Calvin A. Bonenberger Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Calvin A Bonenberger Jr
Town Administrator – Acting Town Clerk