

TOWN OF RISING SUN

BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR
Judith M. Cox

COMMISSIONERS
Deborah Craig
James Majewski
August Pierson
Stewart Yust

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Calvin Bonenberger, Jr.

CLERK-TREASURER
Sandra D. Didra

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September 25, 2007

Present: Judy Cox, Skip Yust, Jim Majewski, Debbie Craig, Augie Pierson

Town Administrator: Calvin Bonenberger, Jr.

Guests: See Attached List

The regular scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of Rising Sun was held on September , 2007 at the Rising Sun Town Hall with all members in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Cox, followed by the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

Steve Miller, Executive Director of the Cecil County Boys & Girls Club was in attendance and advised the Board of an upcoming event. On October 6, there will be a motorcycle ride from DC to Ripkins Stadium which would benefit the Boys & Girls Club in Harford County. In addition, there will be a run from Baltimore to Rising Sun. There will be approximately 100 riders that will come to the Boys & Girls Club in Rising Sun with donation for the Cecil County program. They should arrive at the Armstrong parking lot between 11 & 12 on the 6th. Steve invited the Board to come and support this event.

Bill Barr of Valley View Village reported on the progress of the Neighborhood Watch program that he has helped established in Valley View Village. Except for the Neighborhood Watch signs being vandalized, he advised that no cars or houses had been vandalized or broken into. He thanked his volunteers and the Town for their support. Mr. Barr advised that they had developed a good working relationship with the kids and said that many did not know about the curfew.

Mayor Cox expressed the Town appreciation to Mr. Barr and his volunteers for all that they had done.

With one corrections, changing ton to town, a motion was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried to approve the minutes of the 09/11/07 meeting as corrected.

Mayor Cox opened up the Public Hearing portion of the meeting to discuss Ordinance 2007-01 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF RISING SUN, (“TOWN”) CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND, AMENDING AND ADDING LANGUAGE TO CHAPTER 5 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF RISING SUN, IN ORDER TO ADOPT THE INTERNATIONAL CODES AS THE STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATIONS AND REPAIRS OF STRUCTURES AND BUILDINGS LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF RISING SUN. Mr. Bonenberger addressed the Board and audience giving information concerning the legality of the ordinance which had appeared in the newspaper. He advised that the ordinance had been reviewed by the Town solicitor. He explained the State’s performance Code and the International Plumbing Standards. He explained that AA County and Montgomery County are in the process of adopting similar ordinances. Mr. Bonenberger advised that the reason the Board was not voting on the Ordinance tonight was to give the public the opportunity for more input. He advised that the County as well as the President of the Board of County Commissioners were in favor of Rising Sun taking over their inspections. He advised that enforcing codes is not a headache.

Mr. Majewski asked about being on call 24 hours per day. Mr. Bonenberger advised that he was closer to Rising Sun than Elkton was. Mr. Pierson advised that usually the emergency calls for building inspection come after a fire or other type incident and then response time is usually 3 hours or more in Baltimore.

Mrs. Craig advised that she was very much in support of the ordinance as this issue was one of the reasons that she came to this table 3 years ago.

There was public comment from Chris Callahan who voice that he was in favor of the building codes, but was not in favor of the plumbing code

Mrs. Craig advised that the proposed Ordinance was discussed at the Planning and Zoning meeting last night and they were in favor of adopting the International Building Code.

The Public Hearing was closed. A vote will be taken at the next meeting on 10/9/07

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor - Mayor Cox reported that the County Commissioners in conjunction with the University of Maryland will be conducting a discussion on the different forms of government on October 23, 2007 from 7 – 9 PM. This is an issue that will in all probability be on an upcoming ballot and the County Commissioners believe that voters need to have knowledge of the different types of government. She reported that Cecil County holds the record on the number of times they have turned down Charter Government.

Due to that meeting it was the consensus of the Board to postpone their October 23rd meeting until October 30, 2007 @ 7 PM. This would allow Board members and the public to attend the aforementioned meeting.

Town Administrator, Calvin Bonenberger, continued with the Committee Reports, a copy of which is attached:

Finance – Mr. Bonenberger reported on the proposed upgrade for the utility billing system by Northern Data Systems, including the advantages of such an upgrade. (see committee report for details) The upgrades would cost \$29,500 which would be split between the general fund, the water & sewer fund and the trash and refuse fund. A motion to approve the expenditure of \$29,500 for the cost associated with updating the current utility billing system was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried.

Mr. Bonenberger also advised of a P & Z and building permit tracking system also from Northern Data Systems which is linked to the property files associated with the utility billing system. Because of the link to the utility system, this system is only \$4,040 compared to \$10,000 - \$30,000 from companies that would have to create such a data file. A motion was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried to approve the expenditure of \$4,040 for the cost associated with the purchase of the Planning, Zoning, and Building Permit Tracking System.

The Board was also given a current fee schedule that the Town is using. They were requested to review the schedule and get back to Mr. Bonenberger with any suggestions related to same. This would include other subject matter and different fees. He requested that they consider our costs associated with various applications and the needs to build the new sewer plant. Current fees may not be sufficient for today's inflation.. Mr. Majewski asked whether or not the 2 developers now working on projects would be "grandfathered" in. Mr. Bonenberger explained that right now they did not represent 1/3 of the proposed development. He is working with them on the agreements to fund studies for both water and sewer.

Streets & Sidewalks - The traffic study has been completed but has not yet been reviewed by the Board. A Public Hearing will be held on October 30, 2007 to discuss the traffic study. Ken Jenkins asked if he could see a copy and was told not until the Board has had time to review the study.

Mr. Bonenberger reported that there were a couple of areas in the municipal parking lot with depressions (sink holes). We are waiting to have those repaired before beginning the sealing work.

Water & Sewer - Mr. Majewski reported on the strategy meeting to be held this Friday morning. The secretary requested wording for the notice on the upcoming water bills for storm drains and down spouts connected to the sewer system.

Public Safety - Chief Michael reported on the recent Tobacco Task Force meeting he had attended. The department has received a \$1500 grant toward tobacco enforcement.

Mr. Bonenberger reported that he had applied for and received a grant through Homeland Securities for \$10,000. The \$10,000 grant is for the installation of a generator for the police department. In addition, the Town will also receive a slightly used generator. We must decide between a 10 kw, 30 kw or a 60 kw. Mr. Majewski will review the kw hours used by the Town Hall building to determine which size generator meets the Town's needs. Depending on the size of generator chosen, the \$10,000 may not be enough for installation. A discussion ensued concerning fuel and location of the generator.

A motion was made by Mr. Pierson to allow Mr. Bonenberger, based on the recommendation of Mr. Majewski as to size needed, to order the generator. The motion was seconded by Mr. Yust and carried.

Parks & Recreation - Mrs. Craig advised that the millings in Triangle Park were being removed. Arrangements are being made with Ron for pick up. She had looked around Triangle Park and has given some thought to improving the horseshoe pit area and having a walking trail and doggie park. She would like to see pavers used so that the grass can grow between them rather than blacktopped.

There are 2 persons interested in the "Just A Daydream Away" painting. One or the other will be submitting a sample to the Arts Council. The final product will be a mural in the 3rd floor meeting room. She hopes to have a sketch, water color or drawing by the October meeting, for approval by the Board. The art work will then go to the Arts Council for their approval.

Mrs. Craig reported on the Civil War Re-enactment Weekend on October 6 & 7. The Mayor asked that the Board members come and help with dinner.

Town Administrator - Mr. Bonenberger reported that housing ceremony scheduled for October by the Community Fire Company of Rising Sun has been postponed until a later date.

Planning & Zoning - Mr. Bonenberger reported on the Planning & Zoning meeting that took place on 09/24/07. The P & Z Board gave a tentative approval of the re-subdivision request for Lot 4, Maple Heights. Final approval will follow receipt of the engineer's comments at the next meeting

Mr. Bonenberger reported on the requested Zoning Ordinance Amendment for the Data Graphics building on Colonial Way. The P & Z Board voted to recommend approval of Ordinance 2007-02.

Ordinance 2007-02. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF RISING SUN, ("TOWN") CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND, AMENDING AND ADDING LANGUAGE TO CHAPTER 12 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF RISING SUN, IN ORDER TO PERMIT PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES TO OPERATE IN MORE THAN JUST RESIDENTIALLY ZONED AREAS, was introduced. Ordinance 2007-02 will be duly advertised and a public hearing held for adoption on 10/30/07.

Mr. Bonenberger reported that the P & Z Board will be recommending approval for the Special Exception Applications for the day care and arcade/pool hall center. Mrs. Craig advised that there were also to be inspections for fire and safety. Mr. Bonenberger also reported that the P & Z Board had reviewed a concept plan from J & D Builders for the construction of a Pizza Hut and other office and professional buildings. Following a lengthy discussion, the developers were given some general observations and issues that should be addressed prior to submittal of a preliminary plan

Board of Appeals - Mr. Bonenberger advised that there would be an upcoming meeting of the Board of Appeals to hear a request for a Special Exception to increase a home daycare from 6 to 7 children on Thursday, September 27, 2007 at 7:30 PM. He reminded the Board that they had the right to formally support or oppose this application. He asked if the Board would want to be placed on the agenda for that meeting. It was the consensus of the Board that they were in support of this approval

In addition, there will be a public hearing scheduled before the BOA to hear a request for a special exception for a arcade/pool hall center at 2 S. Queen Street. That request was viewed by P & Z on 9/24/07. The Board did not take a stance on this issue.

Community Development - No report

Code Enforcement - No report

Historical Preservation Commission - Mrs. Ehrhart was not in attendance. It was reported that the dance would be held on November 18 at the fire house.

There was no old business.

There was no new business.

CITIZEN'S INPUT:

There was no additional Citizen's Input

With no other business coming before the Board in regular session, a motion was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mr. Yust and carried to enter into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

The regular meeting session adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra D. Didra, Secretary