

TOWN OF RISING SUN

BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR
Judith M. Cox

COMMISSIONERS
Deborah Craig
James Majewski
Thomas Mumey
August Pierson

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
vacant

CLERK-TREASURER
Sandra D. Didra

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April 10, 2007

Present: Judy Cox, Tom Mumey, Jim Majewski, Debbie Craig, Augie Pierson

Guests: See Attached List

The regular scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of Rising Sun was held on April 10, 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.

The K-9 demonstration was postponed until the end of the meeting. Denise Thomas, Unit Director, and members of the Rising Sun Unit of the Cecil County Boys & Girls Club presented Ofc. Dominick a check for \$100 toward the K-9 dog. Ms. Thomas advised that the Torch Club (ages 11-13) have taken the K-9 dog on as a project. They have partnered with Staples for the collection of used ink cartridges and the funds raised are being donated.

Miriam Reynolds of the Office of Epidemiology & Emergency Preparedness of the Cecil County Health Department gave a presentation on Pandemic Influenza. Her presentation emphasized the importance of preparedness with 3 basic bullet points, get a kit, make a plan and be informed.

In the absence of Mr. Smith, the Secretary gave a report on the job done by the County Tourism Committee on which she serves. Mayor Cox read a Proclamation by the Mayor and Commissioners declaring May 1-31, 2007 as Rising Sun Tourism month. Each Town in the County is doing the same as are the County Commissioners.

Mary White, band director for the Upper Chesapeake Community Bank, advised the Board and those in attendance of the band's plans for a "full-fledged" patriotic concert to be held on June 28, 2007 at 7 PM in the Town Park. She described the activities from last year and advised they plan more of the same. The Community Development Commission provided refreshments last year and they are being asked to do it again this year. She asked for help getting the word out about this event. She can be reached at 658-4534 or at rmwhite@dol.net.

With no additions or corrections, the minutes of the 3/27/07 meeting was approved as presented.

Mayor Cox read a summary of the Executive Session held on 4/4/07 (a copy of the summary is attached and made a part of these minutes. The purpose of the session was to conduct an employment interview for the position of Town Administrator. A motion was then made by Mr. Pierson that the Town offer Mr. Calvin Bonenberger, the position of Town Administrator. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mumey and carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

Streets & Sidewalks - Mr. Mumey reported that the maintenance department would begin patching potholes next week. He also discussed an email from Don Stephens of Stephen's Preserve with regard to the repairs needed on N. Walnut Street. He will be meeting with the developer to further discuss the matter. There are still 2 lots available for houses.

The proposal, for making E. Cherry & S. Walnut Streets one way from N. Queen to E. Main Streets and making N. Walnut Street from E. Main to N. Queen Streets one way from E. Main Street, was open for discussion:

Bud McFadden spoke in opposition of the one-way streets. He acknowledged that there is a problem with the intersection, but requested that the Board take into consideration, his business and other businesses in the area, before making a decision that will be beneficial to everyone.

Chick Ham, President of Mercantile County Bank spoke for the bank pertaining to the one-way street proposals. He advised that the Rising Sun branch was considered a \$45 million branch which is a major investment in the community. While he understands the situation with the failed intersection, he advised that their customers coming from the north will be very

inconvenienced. The bank has been a good corporate citizen and consideration needs to be given to them concerning the matter.

Bob Foard of R.T. Foard Funeral Home also spoke in opposition of the one-way streets advising that it would force people to use his driveway. This could be very dangerous when there is a service and people are walking to and from the funeral home across the parking lot.

Dee Emsley of Slicers Mill Road spoke in opposition of the one-way streets. She believes that it will cause more congestion in Center Square and oversized vehicles such as her trailer and motor home will not be able to make the necessary turns.

Chris Callahan, stated that at first he had been in favor of the one-way streets, but now believes that the Board should listen to what the business people who will be affected have to say.

Mr. Mumey advised that the reason for the proposed change to one-way traffic is for safety. He reported on the number of traffic accident at the intersection of S. Queen and Cherry Streets over the past few years. The last accident involved 3 vehicles and one accident involved flying a victim to the hospital. He read a letter of complaint to SHA and the 10/13/06 recommendation of Larry Gridland of SHA and his offer to meet with Town officials to discuss the matter further. Mr. Mumey also advised that a side benefit of making these streets one-way is the gaining of additional parking spaces. He does not believe that the businesses will be impacted as much as they think they will be. Walnut Street also has restricted truck traffic.

Mr. Mumey motioned that the Town make E. Cherry one-way going from S. Queen to E. Main Streets and N. Walnut Street one-way going from E. Main Street to N. Queen Street and to have SHA reset the timing of the lights accordingly. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pierson. Mayor Cox called for further discussion.

Mr. Pierson voiced his concerns about a liability issue if the Town knows this is a bad intersection and does nothing to correct it, how liable will the Town be? He advised that every other Town in the County has a one-way street or streets. If it does not work, we can change it back.

Mrs. Craig advised that she was not in support of the change. She felt that the Town should have the situation more thoroughly studied by SHA and the Town Engineer before making a final decision.

Mr. Majewski advised that E. Main Street is backed up as it is without putting additional traffic onto it. He questioned the Chief as to the number of accidents at the N. Walnut and E. Main Streets intersection. The Chief advised about 10 last year mostly due to the blind left turn.

Additional discussion ensued concerning right hand turns, monies for the study and the pros and cons of the one-way traffic. Following the discussion, Mayor Cox called for the vote. The vote was 2 yeas and 2 nays. Mayor Cox exercised her right to vote in a tie and voted in favor of the one-way streets. The final vote was 3 yeas and 2 nays. However, Mayor Cox requested that contact be made with SHA for further discussion with them and thought should be given as to how long a trial period before it is decided as to whether or not it is a viable solution. She further advised that her vote was based on the safety issue only. Mr. Hamm questioned if the Town would consider donations for getting a traffic study done. She advised that the Town would give that consideration. Mayor Cox and Commissioner Mumey will meet further with the business community.

Water & Sewer - Mr. Majewski advised that all but 3 of the broken meters have been repaired.

Public Safety - Mr. Pierson deferred his report to the Chief. Chief Michael advised he had attended a good conference on the management of small police departments in Louisville Kentucky. The department will be issued new Glock weapons. Vanaskey has been trained in the repair of the weapons. The Chief also advised that the cost for the K-9 would be around \$12,000 start rather than the \$55,000 reported in the paper. He also advised that thanks to the article in the paper, he had received a call pledging a donation for the entire cost of the dog.

Parks & Recreation - Mrs. Craig advised that as soon the park dries out enough to get the dump truck in, they will put the sand in the volleyball court. She questioned info on Open Space Grants. The secretary is to look.

Mayor - Mayor Cox advised that the Lions Club would like to hold their yearly Vision Day collection in Center Square. A motion or approval was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mr. Mumey and carried.

Mayor Cox advised that Justin Gainey has volunteered to repaint and update the sports signs on either side of Town.

Diane Ehrhart advised that there will be another Epic's Dance on June 8, 2007 at the Rising Sun Banquet Hall.

No old or new business was covered.

CITIZEN INPUT:

Jim Kyte of Rising Sun Fire Company reported that there would be a safety day on 5/19/07 from 10 am to 4 pm and all are invited to attend. He also advised that the annual carnival would be 7/1 thru 7/14 and that they would be giving away a Dodge Nitro. He also advised that since Streetscape, there are 2 new parking spaces and the corner of S. Queen & Cherry Street which help to hinder vision of the intersection.

Mr. Barr advised that he would be getting with the secretary and Chief on setting up a date for a neighborhood watch meeting for Valley View Village. He questioned the liability of the K-9 and how assistance to other jurisdictions will be handled. Mr. Pierson explained that while they would assist other agencies, their primary purpose is to serve Rising Sun. The Town has mutual aid agreements with other agencies.

Chris Callahan also questioned the liability of the K-9. He was advised that LGIT had been contacted with regard to the liability question and they are ok with the K-9. Ofc Dominick explained the type of training that is required for himself and the dog.

With no further business coming before the Board, a motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Pierson seconded by Mr. Mumey and carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra D. Didra
Secretary