

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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July 08, 2008

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

Town Administrator: Calvin Bonenberger, Jr.

Guests: See Attached List

Prior to the meeting Mayor Cox and Commissioners Majewski and Pierson were sworn into office by Clerk of the Court for Cecil County, William Brueckman.

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of Rising Sun was held on July 8, 2008 at the 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. Mayor Cox advised that there was a lot to be thankful for.

The minutes of the June 17, 2008 meeting were presented. A motion for approval was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mr. Yust and carried.

Mayor Cox read the Record of Closed Meetings for Executive Sessions held on 5/27/08, 6/17/08 and 6/26/08. A motion for approval of all three sessions was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried.

Stephanie Garrity, Health Officer for the Cecil County Health Department as in attendance and addressed the Board. She advised of the different services offered by the health department and importance of forming partnerships. She thanked the Town for allowing meetings to take place at Town Hall for the West Cecil Health Center. She also advised that she enjoyed working with Chief Michael on various committees

Town of Rising Sun Resolution 2008-02 was read by Mr. Bonenberger. This resolution modifies the fee schedule for planning, zoning and sewer and water connection fees with minor clarification of how fees are listed, which repeals and replaces resolution 2008-01. A motion for adoption was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried by a vote of 4 yeas and 0 nays.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor - Mayor Cox congratulated Mrs. Craig on her graduation from the Academy of Excellence in Local Governance. She advised that this involved her taking 9 core classes and 5 elective classes. Mayor Cox also thanked Karen Majewski for carrying the flag at the opening ceremonies of the MML convention. Rising Sun again received recognition as being a Banner City. Mayor Cox had also visited a booth at the convention sponsored by Delmarva Power and obtained a pamphlet about saving energy. Mr. Majewski is to get a supply of the pamphlets for Town Hall.

Mayor Cox asked if any of the Board had any comments on the convention. Mr. Pierson advised that he enjoyed the convention and that there was a huge amount of knowledge to be gained. Mayor Cox advised that it was the first time that the entire Board had attended the convention.

Streets & Sidewalks - Mr. Yust advised that additional parking spaces will be added on Pearl Street this week and that the parking spaces on Main Street and on S. Queen Street had been removed. This was part of the traffic study.

Water & Sewer - Mr. Majewski advised that attention is going to be given to the \$700,000 grant to resolve various I & I issues and defective water meters at the well houses. We will be meeting in the next few weeks to begin formulating a plan to utilize this grant.

Public Safety - Mr. Pierson reported that the police department had been without a Sergeant for roughly 8 months and he made a motion that Francis "Chip" Peterson be appointed to the position of Sergeant effective 7/9/08. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried.

Mr. Pierson advised of receipt of a \$848 matching grant for "bullet proof vests" for the new hires. A motion was made by Mr. Majewski to move toward the purchase 2 vests by completing the necessary paper work.. Mrs. Craig questioned if they were "bullet proof" or bullet resistant". She was advised that they were "bullet resistant". She then seconded the motion which carried.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning press releases. This was the result of the recent article and picture in the Rising Sun Herald with Ofc. Parkinson holding an AK-47 Assault Rifle. Mr. Pierson apologized for the article and the perception that it may have presented to some people. He then made a motion that in order to avoid any future mistakes such as this, with the exception of the elected body, and from this point forward, the Town Administrator shall make all statements, release all stories or answer any inquires, related to any official action, policies, programs or functions of the Town. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Craig.

Mr. Majewski questioned if this could not be done as an in-house policy rather than a motion. Lisa Tome questioned censorship. Mr. Pierson advised that he did not have a problem with the article, but it was the perception that was the issue. Ms. Tome advised that she was approached by Ofc. Parkinson, she did not go looking for the story.

Mr. Bonenberger advised that the issue is the procedure as to how statements should be made and that not just anyone should be allowed to release statements. This helps to be sure that accurate information is being released so as not to misrepresent the image or the policy.

Mr. Majewski asked by way of clarification if this meant that an employee cannot say anything without Calvin's approval. He was advised that was correct. The Board should have prior knowledge of what is going on. Lisa asked if there would be a backup if Calvin was not available.

Jim Majewski again questioned if this could not be an internal directive rather than a motion. The internal controls need to be tightened with no reflection on either Lisa (Herald) or Jane (Cecil Whig). Mrs. Craig advised that she would like to see a policy drawn up.

Mr. Pierson withdrew his motion. Mr. Bonenberger will handle as a policy.

Parks & Recreation - Mrs. Craig advised she had met with a play ground equipment vendor concerning the planning of the park. They are still in search of a Park renovation Committee to begin planning the new Rising Sun Veterans Memorial Park.. Mayor Cox advised that she had spoken with a Boy Scout concerning an Eagle Project which is a proposed fence and landscaping of the pavilion across from Town Hall. He expects to bring the plans in in about 3 weeks

Town Administrator - Financials: Mr. Bonenberger presented the Board with the last quarter financial reports and advised that in all departments except Public Works, expenditures were well under budget. The overage in Public Works was due to the VVV Drainage Project and the Storm Drain on Meadow Valley Drive. He also presented the Accounts Payable for June. He reported on the new cell phones. The Board members were presented with bound copies of the 2008/2009 budget and he advised that he would be working with the departments to reduce electric costs and fuel consumption costs.

At this time Chips Peterson was presented with Sergeant chevrons and congratulated by Mayor Cox and Mr. Pierson.

Town Administrator's cont'd.- Under Planning & Land Development, Mr. Bonenberger updated the Board as to a revision of the underground piping and storm water system at the new Martin's store and plans to build the 3 satellite stores smaller than the original plan. The P & Z Board will be holding a special workshop session on July 26 at 9 am. The next regularly scheduled P & Z meeting is 7/22/08 at 7 pm and the Board may be hearing a case presentation from Janes United Methodist Church.

Under Zoning Hearing Board, Mr. Bonenberger advised that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 2nd week in August. The Board will hear several cases: 301 W. Main St., - Hair Salon; 112 N. Walnut - Physical Therapy Office; and ACE Hardware - New Wall Sign.

Under Code Enforcement, Mr. Bonenberger advised that the building permit applications for the re-building of Dr. Seiter's house at 7 Park Circle had been received. The house had burned in the spring. Dr. Seiter had requested a waiver of the \$1,642.92 in permit fees. A motion was made to deny the request for a waiver by Mr. Majewski, seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried by a vote of 4 yeas and 0 nays. Mr. Pierson explained that the policy to waive fees was for natural disasters not manmade ones.

Mr. Bonenberger advised that 3 permits had been issued for the 3 satellite stores of the Martin's project. The question arose if something could not be done to the appearance so that the old Martin's store does not look vacant. There will be no water & sewer allocation for the vacant store when Martin moves.

Historical Preservation Commission - Karen Majewski reported that they had taken the summer off

Old Business - None

New Business - None.

CITIZEN'S INPUT:

Chris Callahan addressed the Board and asked why, after he had submitted a letter of interest, was he not contacted for an interview for re-appointment to the Planning & Zoning Board. Mayor Cox advised that the Board choose who they were going to interview. He asked if they would notify the candidate if he were not going to be interviewed. He was advised not necessarily. He did not feel that was a good way to do business.

Mayor Cox requested that the Board members remove the pages from their binders and return to Calvin so that he can prepare them for the next meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra D. Didra,
Secretary