

**MINUTES  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 2, 2007**

Mayor Margo G. Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. In attendance were Council members Harrison C. Bristoll, Jr., James R. Johnson, Whaland Clark and Mabel Mumford-Pautz, W.S. Ingersoll, Town Manager and Zoning Administrator, Joan Merryman, Stenographer, and guests.

Mayor Bailey asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Mayor and Council meeting of June 18, 2007 or the executive session directly following. **Mr. Clark moved to approve the minutes as submitted, was seconded by Mrs. Mumford-Pautz and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Bailey stated that an executive session was called to order at 8:10 p.m., directly following the Mayor and Council meeting of June 18, 2007 to discuss a personnel issue. All members of the Council were present with the exception of James R. Johnson. W.S. Ingersoll, Town Manager and Zoning Administrator, Chief Walter Coryell and Jennifer Stead, Stenographer, were also present. Chief Coryell discussed two (2) new officers he expected to hire. The Council did not object to the hiring. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Minutes were taken and are part of the record.

Mayor Bailey asked for a moment of silence for Dee Newman, member and chairman of the Planning Commission who passed away.

Chip MacLeod, Esquire was present on behalf of the Chester River Hospital Center to clarify the facts over the discussions the hospital was having with the University of Maryland. Mr. MacLeod stated that he was present as Chairman of the Board to answer any questions that the Council may have concerning the hospital, though had not been sent by the Board.

Mr. MacLeod stated that discussions began in June and the most recent action of the Board was by a majority vote for a term sheet outlining principles about what a relationship with the University of Maryland Hospital might look like. He said that no final decision has been made. The only decision made was to continue discussing the possibility of a merger.

Mr. MacLeod stated that he made a commitment that there would be opportunities for discussions with the public, which the hospital board would set the dates for. He said the hospital was looking for the proper venue to host it.

Mayor Bailey stated that she had heard that the hospital could become a walk-in clinic. Mr. MacLeod stated that there was nobody on the Board that wanted this process to end with anything less than what presently exists. He said that they were trying to insure what was in the community, so far as healthcare, remained and was viable. Mr. MacLeod

stated that they were looking to continue with what they had and make it thrive for the future.

Mr. Marty Stetson was present and asked how it was decided who served on the Board. Mr. MacLeod stated that the Board was self-perpetuating with a governing committee nominating new members when there was a vacancy. He said although the hospital provided a public service, they were not a public institution.

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz stated that this was such a large decision that there should be a member of the Council, a member of the Kent County Commissioner's and someone from Queen Anne's County, who was involved so the Town and County officials were aware of what was happening in the community.

Mr. MacLeod stated that what happened in Easton was about a new hospital being built, but that was not the focal point of this hospital's discussion with University of Maryland.

Ms. Christina Showalter was present and asked Mr. MacLeod to clarify Dr. Benjamin's comments in the newspaper referencing Johns Hopkins University Hospital. Mr. MacLeod stated that there was a petition to affiliate with John Hopkins long ago. He said that in an effort to protect the hospital they became Chester River Health System, which now included the nursing homes, and John Hopkins, in an attempt to affiliate with others to become less vulnerable. He said that the hospital takes advantage of John Hopkins employee benefits program, but other than that, there is nothing substantive about the affiliation.

Mr. Pat Biddle stated what the hospital board was trying to find out was what would be gained by a merger, and what would they have to give up. He said that he thought that patient rooms would be lost. Mr. MacLeod stated that the issue of hospital beds was complex in the State of Maryland because it was regulated by the State. Mr. MacLeod stated that Kent County and part of Queen Anne's County was the service area for the hospital justifying the fifty-eight (58) beds.

Mr. MacLeod stated that whether or not the hospital merged with University of Maryland their service area would not change. Mr. MacLeod stated that people should not have to travel for a service that was now offered at the hospital.

Mr. MacLeod stated that the hospital has been in competition for patients for years and said that Shore Health was a large competitor. He said that marketing took money and patients were discriminating and wanted to go where the best care was available. He said that the hospital wanted to justify a reason for more beds, not less.

Mr. MacLeod stated that the hospital would stay, but there would be a regional hospital in another location someone on the shore. However, they had to plan for the region because patients would be sent out for service, just as they are now.

Mayor Bailey stated that at the last meeting she spoke about the Memorandum of Understanding that the Town of Chestertown, Kent County, and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy entered into. Mayor Bailey stated that her long-term concern about the Clark Farm area was that it was in the eventual growth area for Chestertown. She said that the most successful Towns were those that planned for the future.

Mayor Bailey stated that there would be a management team for the master plan. She said that she, Morgan Ellis of the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, and someone from the County would be members.

Mayor Bailey stated that at this meeting she wanted to introduce to the public the overall timeframe of the process. Mayor Bailey read the Request for Proposal into the record and said that this would be a community driven project.

Mayor Bailey stated that the Agreement was for the Town, County, and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy to work together in a partnership toward the future of the Town and County. Mayor Bailey stated that this agreement provided the opportunity for the residents of Kent County and Chestertown to participate.

Mayor Bailey stated that an Advisory Team would be selected for this project. She said that there would be four (4) members from the Town, four (4) members from the County, and four (4) people from the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy meeting on a regular basis with the consultant hired for the Plan.

Mayor Bailey stated that this area of land in both the Town and County Master Plans is shown as an area for possible future growth. She said that she wanted the community to be ready for the type of development would occur. She said that she wanted to respect the scale, size, and pacing for development. Mayor Bailey stated that the inclusion of the by-pass was an important piece to this property and must be considered as a part of the final master plan.

Mayor Bailey stated that if anyone was interested in knowing further information or wanted to be considered as a member of the panel, there would be a sign-up sheet at the Town Office.

Mayor Bailey introduced Mr. Rob Etgen and Ms. Morgan Ellis of the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. Mr. Etgen stated that the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy conserved land throughout the Eastern Shore through conservation easements. He said this type of project was not their normal project. He said that this issue with this land was the scale of it. He said that other nearby new developments were so out of scale and they did not want to see this happen to Chestertown. He said that the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy's role in this process was to facilitate the Town and County coming to an agreement on how this large parcel of land should be developed.

Mayor Bailey stated that the RFP that was sent to different consultants must be received by July 20<sup>th</sup> at the close of business. A final approval of the master plan must be completed by February 1, 2008.

Mayor Bailey stated that the management team would be responsible for governing the responsibilities set forth in the contract, scheduling a place for all public meetings, preparing public announcements and notices, preparing media and public relation activities, developing and implementing public outreach, providing information to the public via the web, and taping and documenting all meeting minutes.

Ms. Susie Hayman, Kent County Manager, was present and stated that this undertaking was something new and different and she wanted it to be a success, although it would be a lot of work. Mayor Bailey agreed, stating that this was the first time that the Town and County were working together with the citizens of both areas to determine their destiny.

Mr. Kirk Williamson, Planning Commission member, was present and asked if there would be a member of the Planning Commission as a part of the panel. Mayor Bailey stated that there would be a member of the Planning Commission on the panel.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that there were several changes to be made to the Employee Manual. He said that the first change eliminated the section on maternity leave replacing it with a leave of absence/family leave. The second change clarified the payment of medical/life insurance if an employee was absent from work due to workmen's compensation. Mr. Ingersoll stated that page 7 had added language clarifying "enrollment date" and "change to coverage". Page 12 outlined part-time employee benefit provisions, which the IRS informed the Town must be provided. Mr. Ingersoll stated that seasonal employees hired on an hourly basis were for high school employees that worked during the summer.

**Mr. Clark moved to approve the Resolution to adopt the Revision to the Manual of Rules and Regulations for Employees, was seconded by Mrs. Mumford-Pautz and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Ingersoll stated that fireworks would be held on Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at dusk at the lagoon off Rt. 289.

Mr. Johnson requested an executive session for a personnel matter. **Mr. Bristoll moved for an executive session on a personnel matter under section 10.508 of the Annotated Code of the State of Maryland directly following the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mumford-Pautz and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Ingersoll stated that a large Basswood tree was lost on the 100 block of Cannon Street during the storm last Thursday night. He said that the Street Department removed the tree during the night and did a very professional job.

Mayor Bailey stated that there was a new update on the Chestertown webpage which included how to prepare for a storm.

Mayor Bailey stated that at the next meeting she would like to appoint Mr. Doug Gates to the Historic District Commission.

Mayor Bailey stated that Kent County Economic Development would like Chestertown to participate in the Kent County Film Industry inventory. Mayor Bailey stated that the Town's properties would be included in the inventory so if a movie was filmed in the County, they could include it. Mayor Bailey stated that she would like Mr. Ingersoll to review the document. Mr. Ingersoll stated that this document would include the Town's property and parks.

Mayor Bailey stated that this was Mr. Clark's last meeting. Mayor Bailey stated that anyone residing in the second ward that was interested in serving on the Council should forward their resume to the Town by the close of business on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The Council would then schedule interviews. Ms. Merryman stated that the requirements to serve were that residence was held in Chestertown for at least a year, 30 days in the 2<sup>nd</sup> ward, and the individual had to be registered to vote.

Mayor Bailey thanked Mr. Clark for his service and presented him with a book that discussed traveling across the country.

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz stated that she submitted the name of Mr. Phil Wilmer for the Maryland Municipal league's Hall of Fame. She said that the requirements were to have served for over 20-years.

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz stated that Summerfest registration was being held at the Chestertown Middle School this evening.

Mayor Bailey asked if there were any questions or comments. There being none, **Mr. Clark moved for payment of the bills. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bristoll and carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Clark moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m., was seconded by Mr. Bristoll and carried unanimously.**

Submitted by:

Jennifer Stead  
Stenographer

Approved by:

Margo G. Bailey  
Mayor