

# PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 4, 2010

City of Havre de Grace, Maryland

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was called to order on January 4, 2010 at 7:02 pm with Mayor Wayne H. Dougherty presiding and the following members present: Council President Craig, Councilmember's Cullum, Martin, Shank, and Miller. Councilmember Guldenzopf was absent from the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Dougherty and the opening prayer was performed by Nick McDonald from Upper Chesapeake Health.

Councilmember Cullum and Councilmember Miller recused themselves on Resolution and Ordinance agenda items due to their involvement with the fire company.

A motion by Council President Craig and seconded by Councilmember Martin to amend the agenda to include Item 6 A; add Old City Hall Progress Report to Council. Motion carries 5-0.

On motion by Councilmember Cullum and seconded by Councilmember Martin and on five affirmative votes, the minutes of December 21, 2009 were approved.

## RECOGNITIONS-NONE

Steven Young, Marina Manager was introduced by the Mayor to the Council.

**PRESENTATIONS:** Councilmember Bill Martin presented Old City Hall Progress Report to Mayor Dougherty and City Council. The report was read into the record as a status update and not as a final report.

**APPOINTMENTS:** A motion was made by Council President Craig and seconded by Councilmember Shank to appoint June Gangel to the Revitalization and Development Loan Committee. Motion carries 5-0.

**OATH OF OFFICE:** June Gangel took Oath of Office for the Revitalization and Development Loan Committee. June Gangel was sworn in by Mayor Wayne Dougherty.

## COMMENTS FROM THE CITIZENS ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

**RESOLUTIONS:** A motion was made by Council President Craig and seconded by Councilmember Shank to introduce Charter Resolution No. 271. AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER SECTION 60 TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR THE APPROVED MEMBERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMBULANCE CORPS. Motion carries 3-0 voice vote and two abstentions. A public hearing is scheduled for February 1, 2010 at 7pm.

**ORDINANCES:** A motion was made by Council President Craig and seconded by Councilmember Martin to introduce Ordinance No. 911. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 177 TAXATION BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE V TAX CREDITS FOR APPROVED FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMBULANCE CORPS MEMBERS. After explaining the rationale of the

Ordinance a motion was made by Councilmember Shank and seconded by Councilmember Martin to adopt Ordinance 911 on First Reading. Motion carries 3-0 voice vote with two abstentions. Public Hearing is scheduled for February 1, 2010 at 7pm.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Cullum and seconded by Council President Craig to approve the following special events: April 25<sup>th</sup> 8:30am Women's Five K by the Bay @ Tydings Park, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 6pm-9pm, May 1<sup>st</sup> 9am-7pm, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 10-4pm 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Decoy and Wildlife Art Festival @ HDG Middle School, Activity Center and Harris Stadium, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 7pm-6am, Relay for Life; HDG Middle School, Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, 9-4pm 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Duck Fair @HDG Decoy Museum; Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 5pm-9pm Halloween Costume Parade @ Congress Ave and Washington St. Motion carries voice vote 5-0.

A motion was made by Council President Craig and seconded by Councilmember Shank to approve the current special event application for the June 29<sup>th</sup>- July 4<sup>th</sup>. This is the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July carnival, parade, fireworks and concert. Charlie Mike will attend the next admin meeting and request an amendment to the current application. Motion carries 5-0.

**BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR:**

1. Young at Heart has many upcoming activities planned. Jan 6<sup>th</sup> will be the election of new officers followed by installation of newly elected officers. Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> Fitness Orientation and bingo. Jan 13<sup>th</sup> Janet Wright Health Insurance Program Coordinator will give health insurance update. Jan 18<sup>th</sup> the Activity Center will be closed. Jan 20<sup>th</sup> Roger Sexton, Brothers in Christ Quartet. Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, Mark Angelini Band will entertain Young at Heart.
2. Mayor Dougherty states the New Years Eve Duck Drop was flawless and spectacular. Thanked Ed Granger and all the volunteers of the Susquehanna Hose Company.
3. Director's Reports:
  - A. Carol Mathis, Director of Administration- Will defer due to the many special events presented today.
  - B. Neal Mills, Director of Planning- The State now offers an online mandatory course by July 1<sup>st</sup> for any participant that sits on the Board of Appeals or Planning Commission. This course is free and is open to anyone. Contact Neal Mills for more information. Greenway Farms Phase II and III Public Works agreement have been signed. Royal Farms development plans are being reviewed.
  - C. George DeHority, Director of Finance- Dec 31<sup>st</sup> is the due date for the taxes that are being paid semi annually. Budget preparation has been a highlight since the last meeting.
  - D. Larry Parks, Director of DPW- 100 block of Wilson Street will be closed 9am-12 on January 5<sup>th</sup> due to a water main break. Water will be shut off and this will affect Bloomsbury Ave and Deaver Street. An update on trash collection, the contractor is having a terrible time keeping up with trash collection. This started three weeks ago and has worsened since the snow. The contractor worked this past weekend and should be caught up. Regular schedule should begin Tuesday January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010. City employees have been assisting by picking up Christmas Trees. Larry has been in constant contact with Bayview

estates regarding there concerns. Outcome report of snow removal was read into the record. This report was dated December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

E. Chief Teresa Walter, Police Department- Reports that the holiday patrol went well.

#### **BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

##### **Council President Craig:**

- A. Addressed Larry Parks, Director of DPW. Council President is interested in how our budget stands and how well the equipment is working. Is the equipment up to par? Should we consider amending the budget or moving forward to make sure we are prepared for the upcoming winter months?
- B. A Public Works Session is scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Council Chambers to discuss Citizens Care Center.
- C. Marina Yacht Basin Report is now available and he strongly urges the Council to review and schedule a possible Public Work Session in the near future.
- D. Happy New Year to everyone and is looking forward to a great 2010.

##### **Councilmember Cullum:**

- A. Wished Happy Birthday to Councilmember Miller.
- B. Commented that the Duck Drop and Fireworks was one of the best displays he has seen.
- C. The Water/Sewer Commission has a citizen opening. If there is an interest we welcome an application.

##### **Councilmember Shank:**

- A. Compliments the Mayor on snow removal report.
- B. The next Public Safety meeting is January 14<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at City Hall.
- C. Extends sympathy to James "Peanut" Jenkins family. Mr. Jenkins was a good friend and recently passed away. Would have been 55 years old.
- D. Wished Chad Tate Happy 45<sup>th</sup> Birthday.
- E. The next Ellsworth B Shank Lecture will be held at Van Cherries Restaurant on January 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm. The title of the first lecture is "Journey on the Canal" by Tom Fitzpatrick.
- F. Havre de Grace is becoming known for Weddings and Engagements. Barbara Porcelli and George Wagner were married, Debbie Cunningham got engaged, Bill Watson and Gia Wilhelm got engaged on Christmas Day as well. Congratulations to them all.
- G. The second annual "Murals of Grace" will be this Saturday at 7pm at Arts by the Bay Gallery. All donations are tax deductible.
- H. Commented about a letter to the editor in Fridays Record. Feels that himself, Councilmember Cullum and Miller were attacked. Comments that he finds the pay raises unacceptable during this time.

##### **Councilmember Miller:**

- A. Groundbreaking for pier will be at Roger's Tavern Saturday at 1pm in Perryville.
- B. The paper stated that Harford County is introducing legislation to eliminate the fee that is charged to the County residents that pay there taxes on a bi annual payment.

- C. Good ideas for the Directors to report at the Council Meeting, maybe as a rotating schedule.**
- D. Would like to have a copy of the Yacht Basin Report.**

**Councilmember Martin:**

- A. Welcomes Steve Young and the Marina Manager.**
- B. Commented on the Yacht Basin Marina Report- would like to have a Works Session between now and March 4<sup>th</sup>. A date was not determined. Council President Craig commented that we will announce a meeting date at the February 1<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting.**

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~~Comments from the Citizens: NONE~~

**A motion was made by Councilmember Miller and seconded by Councilmember Martin to adjourn at 8:32 pm.**