

**TOWN OF MORNINGSIDE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023**

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00pm pm by Mayor Bennard Cann.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Cann – Present
Vice Mayor Wade – Present
Council Member Anthony - Present
Council Member Fowler – Present
Council Member Mullins – Present
Police Dept – Chief Stevenson – Present
Town Admin – Karen Rooker – Present
Public Works – Absent
Code Enforcement- Regina Foster - Present
MVFD – Absent

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Wade.

INTRODUCTION/ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Council Member Anthony spoke regarding the registered voters throughout the Ordinances & the Charter.

Ordinance 2023 – 003 VOTERS

WHEREAS, Morningside, Maryland (the “Town”) is a municipal corporation of the State of Maryland, organized and operating under a Charter, in accordance with Article XI-E of the Constitution of Maryland and the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland;
and

WHEREAS, The Town desires to include the Prince George’s County Board of Election voter rolls to those eligible to vote in Town elections; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council of Morningside believes that this would be in the best interest of the citizens of the Town of Morningside, and hereby amends Chapter 3 of the Town Ordinance and adds a new Section 3-103, as follows;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF MORNINGSIDE
THAT:

SECTION 3-103: Additional Voter Registration – The voter registration rolls of the Town of Morningside shall include by reference all voters on the Prince George’s County voter rolls residing within the Town of Morningside. If a Town of Morningside voter is registered on the Prince George’s County voter rolls as living in the Town, then they are permitted to vote in Town elections without the need to register again with the Town.

Motion by Council Member Mullins, 2nd by Council Member Fowler to adopt the Ordinance 2023-003. No further discussion. Roll call: Fowler – yea, Wade – yea, Mullins – yea, Anthony – nay. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS –

- Swearing-In of Election Judge Dorothy Stevenson.
 - Andrew Larson from iCivil presented plans for the Woodland Rd Project.
 - Would fix the immediate problem with modular blocks with sand or cement footers/tiered for safety.
 - We need to check with the Town Attorney for easement issues.
 - There should not be any issues with current fences or stairs.
 - Once the Town decides what to use for construction materials, iCivil can recommend contractors for this job and the Town can also send out the RFP for bids.
 - Whatever company is chosen is responsible for obtaining all permits.
 - The plans presented today will be left with the Town.
 - Once a cost estimate is presented a decision will be made.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Wade, seconded by Council Member Mullins to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of February 21 2023 and the Work Session of March 14, 2023. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS/OPEN FORUM - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RECREATION COMMITTEE

- Sr Winter Bingo was held on March 18th at Noon, 7 Seniors attended.
- Total spent was \$176.78
- The Bingo Bunny Breakfast for April 8 is sold out.
- Getting ready for the Spring Yard Sale at the MVFD on April 14.
- Tables/spaces are \$15 each; additional tables/spaces are \$10 each. So far 5 tables have been sold.
- The Council would like to see the Rec Comm bank statements quarterly with breakdown for each event.

DUAL WHEEL EXEMPTIONS

- 4601 Morgan Rd – the Council discussed this at the work session. *Motion by Council Member Fowler, second by Council Member Mullins to grant a 1-year parking exemption for this address. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.*

- Pg 3 – 2/21/23

- 6704 Pine Grove Dr – This is a renewal with no problems. *Motion by Council Member Mullins, second by Council Member Fowler to renew the parking exemption. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.*

SPEED CAMERA RPFS

- Mayor Cann spoke with Pete from MVFD.
- Permits are moving forward (slowly).
- He is checking with Upper Marlboro because they might have an idea of what documents we are missing since they just went through this process.
- Discussion ensued regarding the G.I. Liquors accident and the accident in front of the VFW.

POLICE GRANTS

- License Plate Reader grant has been submitted. Waiting for the check to be cashed.
- Other grants were presented at the end of the 3/14/23 work session for info purposes only.

ARPA FUND SPENDING PLAN

- The Mayor and Council reviewed the ARPA Spending Plan presented by Thomas Himler of Thomas | Michael.
- It covers all of the projects that the Council is looking for with a contingency fund if something else should arise.

Motion by Vice mayor Wade, second by Council Member Mullins to accept the ARPA spending plan proposed by Thomas | Michael. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

SUMMER MML REGISTRATION

- It will cost \$700.00 per person to register for the 2023 Summer MML Conference in Ocean City.
- There is an additional cost to bring a guest. Each person would be responsible for reimbursing the Town for the guest's cost.
- After further discussion, no one will be bringing a guest to the Conference functions.

At this time Mayor Cann recognized Mary McHale in the audience and reminded everyone she turned 94 on March 12. She would like to speak with the Mayor after the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS CALENDAR – FYI. The Mayor mentioned that Regina Foster’s birthday is March 26th.

NEW BUSINESS

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

- The new Council chairs have arrived and have been assembled by Chip from Public Works. The old ones will be dispersed throughout the building if they are still usable, otherwise they will be disposed of.
- The new tips for the building key fobs are working great. Some keys still need updating.

BOMB THREAT POLICY

- The new policy was presented by the Chief to the Council.
- The last page needs to be updated.
- The Council will need to approve before implementation.

REPORT OF OFFICERS/BOARDS/COMMITTEES

- **Code Enforcement** – Regina Foster gave an oral & written report.
- **Admin** – Karen Rooker gave an oral & written report.
- **Police Dept** – Chief Stevenson gave a written & oral report.
- **Council Member Fowler** – No report
- **Vice Mayor Wade** – Warned everyone to be vigilant about carjackings. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- **Council Member Mullins** – Still upset that we can’t do more about the speeding on Suitland Road. Talked about the G.I. Liquor crash and the accident in front of the VFW, both on Friday night. Reminded all to leave your valuables at home or lock them in your trunk to prevent thefts.
- **Council Member Anthony** – He is concerned with personally owned sump pumps that are emptying onto the sidewalks and into the curb. The parking lot project might be done on 3/25/23. He would like to get a printer for the Squad Room so they can scan & print sensitive documents. The attic fan seems to be missing. Really need one to help with heating/AC bills and to keep equipment working. Also would like to get estimates for new heating & AC units.
- **Mayor Cann** – Reported that he attended the County Executive’s budget review meeting. He also attended the PGCMA luncheon with legislators. Has a meeting on May 30 with the Commander of JBA.

BODY CAMERAS GENERAL ORDERS

- The Body Camera General Orders were sent to the Town Attorney for review.
- Council Member Anthony requested a copy of the complete General Orders.

STATE HIGHWAY MOU

- The mayor presented information regarding an MOU for State maintained rds in Morningside (Allentown & Suitland Rds).
- It will take about 3-6 months to come to fruition.
- If we see something that needs to be done, we take care of it and the State pays us for doing the job.

WEBSITE & EMAILS

- Clerk-Treasurer Rooker is gathering information regarding our website and emails.
- So far, she has information from 3 companies and will present it at the 4/11/23 work session meeting.

BURCH TRASH CONTRACT

- The Council is to provide feedback & questions for the contract to the Mayor ASAP.
- The contract was given to the Town Attorney to review, but the Council still needs to have input with their questions/concerns.
- The Council requested contracts from the last couple of trash collection providers.

PAY BILLS

Motion by Vice Mayor Wade, seconded by Council Member Fowler to pay the bills for February 22, 2023 through March 21, 2023 in the amount of \$112,904.99. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

OPEN FOURM – No one signed up to speak.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen D Rooker
Clerk-Treasurer