TOWN OF MORNINGSIDE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Bennard Cann.

Vice Mayor Wade led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Vice Mayor Wade – Present
Councilman Anthony - Present
Council Member Fowler – Present
Council Member Mullins – Present
Admin– Regina Foster – Present
Public Works – Michael Johnson – Present
Code Enforcement – Regina Foster – Present
Fire Department – Chief McKinght - Present

Motion was made by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Council Member Fowler to excuse Mayor Bennard Cann from the Regular Meeting of November 19, 2024, No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION/ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

None

INTRODUCTIONS

None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion was made by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Council Member Fowler to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of October 15, 2024, Public Hearing of November 12, 2024, and the Work Session of November 12, 2024. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS/OPEN FORUM

Vice Mayor Wade opened the floor to the public.

- Ms. Kamenicky – expressed concerns with the gentleman walking on Allentown Rd. at the Suitland Rd. intersection. She thinks with him weaving through cars is not only dangerous but distracts drivers.

- Ms. Kamenicky – would like to see the town do something about the political sign at the 495 and Suitland Rd. on ramp. It blocks the driver's view.

REPORT OF OFFICERS/BOARDS/COMMITTEES

- **Public Works** –Public Works Mr. Johnson provided an oral & written report.
- **Code** – Code Enforcement Mrs. Foster provided an oral report.
- **Police Department** – Chief Franklin provided an oral & written report.
- **Fire Department** – Oral Report
- **Admin** – Mrs. Foster gave an oral report.
- **Councilman Anthony** – No report
- **Council Member Mullins** – Oral report
- **Vice Mayor Wade** – No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING

Vice Mayor Wade opened the floor to any additional comments and/or feedback on the proposed changes to the Town of Morningside Ordinance, Article 2 Moving Violations, Section 16-201. No speakers or correspondence was received.
Motion was made by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Councilman Anthony to adopt the amendment changes to the Town of Morningside's Ordinance, Article 2 Moving Violations, Section 16-201 and to officially close the Public Hearing. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

RENTAL AGREEMENT AND PD PAY

The current rental contract requires a Morningside Police Officer to be present whenever alcohol is being served on the property. Chief Franklin suggests that we explore other options regarding the payment being made to the officers for their services. Councilman Anthony and Chief Franklin will review the contract, and we will seek advice from the Town Attorney.
Tabled until December Work Session

DUAL WHEEL EXEMPTIONS

The Vice Mayor and Council reviewed renewal applications for 6702 Boxwood Dr. and 6608 Woodland Rd.
Motion was made by Councilman Anthony, seconded by Council Member Fowler to approve the renewals. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The Vice Mayor and Council reviewed a renewal application for 6715 Larkspur Rd.
Motion was made by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Councilman Anthony to approve the Dual Wheel renewal. This approval only applies to the Dual Wheel status. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

NTI

NTI discovered a bad Unifi24-Port Switch that needs to be replaced. The Vice Mayor and Council discussed the quote and decided to move forward with the repair.
Motion was made by Councilman Anthony, seconded by Council Member Fowler to approve the replacement of the Unifi 24-Port Switch for $879.00. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

WOODLAND ROAD PROJECT

The town has not received any new or additional information on the Woodland Road project. It was discussed to reach out to the Town Attorney for a legal opinion.
Table until December.

ETHICS

Councilman Anthony has several issues and would like to have the changes that were made identified.
Tabled until December.

BUDGET AMENDMETS

Vice Mayor was not present at the work session and asked to table so he will have time to review.
Tabled until December.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNICATION CALENDAR

Reviewed by Vice Mayor and Council.

NEW TRASH CARTS

Admin advised that the new carts will be delivered Monday, November 25, 2024.

DIRT WORKS

Councilman Anthony updated council on the need for the ramp for the Rec Building.

Tabled Until Spring

OLD CRUISER(S) SALE

Chief Franklin advised Council that the Marlow Heights Special Police Department has made an offer of $5500.00 to purchase the 3 old cruisers that are going to be replaced in January/February 2025. We will strip all equipment from them before any sales are completed.

Motion was made by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Councilman Anthony to approve the sale of our 3 old cruisers for the sum of $5500.00. Discussion: Councilman Anthony wants to make sure the cars are not sold until the new ones arrive. He suggests they should be kept for now as backups, everyone agreed. All voted aye. Motion carried.

SALARY PROPOSAL & NEW PAY SCHEDULE

Chief Franklin presented a written proposal to increase the salaries of the Morningside Police Officers to stay competitive with other departments in our area. He says we are good with the current equipment but feels salaries are lacking. His proposal will increase the remainder of the 2024/2025 budget by $8600.00. He asks that the change be effective with the first full pay period in January 2025.

Motion was made by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Councilman Anthony to approve and adopt the new Salary Proposal presented by Chief Franklin effective with the first full pay period in January 2025. Discussion: Councilman Anthony wants to make sure the changes are made to the current Budget. Council Member Fowler asked if this was run by the Treasurer to find out where the additional funding will come from and wanted to emphasize the need for additional officers. All voted aye. Motion carried.

GUN SHOP

The Police Department needs additional ammunition and has a quote from The Gun Shop to cover their needs. The estimated cost will be $1360.71.

Motion was made by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Council Member Fowler to approve the purchase of the needed ammunition for $1360.71. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS

Motion by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Councilman Anthony to pay the bills for October 16th through November 12, 2024, in the amount of $92,216.97. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM – None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Regina Foster.

Regina Foster
Admin Associate

Under Roll Call -
Add Police Chief Franklin

Under New Business
Add Police Chief Franklin giving awards to the Officers

approved 12/17/24