

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
TANEYTOWN, MARYLAND
Mayor and Council Combined Meeting
October 9, 2024**

The Mayor and City Council Combined Meeting was held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.

Present: Mayor Miller, Mayor Pro Tem McCarron and Council members Fuller, Foster, Chaney and Tillman. **Also Present:** City Manager Wieprecht and Clerk Kalman. Mayor Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the minutes of the September 4, 2024 and September 9, 2024 regular meetings, the revised minutes of the August 7, 2023 workshop and the September 11, 2024 Special Meeting – Motion to approve all minutes by McCarron, 2nd by Foster – carried 5 – 0.

Reception of Delegation – DeLeon & Stang – Michelle Mills and Addie Blickenstaff presented the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit advising there were no issues of non-compliance, and all transactions were properly stated. Motion to accept audit report by Tillman, 2nd by Foster – carried 5 – 0.

Council member statement regarding conflicts of interest on agenda items: None

Public comment pertaining to agenda and non-agenda items: A resident invited the Council to the 50th anniversary celebration of Northwest Middle School, scheduled for October 24, 2024 from 5 PM – 7 PM.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Agreements:

Adoption:

Ordinance 10 – 2024 – Campaign Finance Code amendment – Motion to adopt by McCarron, 2nd by Chaney – carried 5 – 0.

Resolution 2024 – 13 – Water allocation for October – Motion to adopt by Foster, 2nd by Chaney – carried 5 – 0.

City Manager Report:

- City Manager Wieprecht reviewed his monthly report and advised the Secretary for Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Jay Day and his staff toured various sites earlier in the day. The tour included Taneytown Crossing and “windshield stops” to local businesses that benefited from DHCD funding through Community Legacy and the Building Improvement Program.
- In honor of Cyber Security Awareness month, Wieprecht expressed appreciation to IT Specialist Dan Dennis and IT Assistant Eric Riddle for their diligence in protecting the City from cyber-attacks.
- Responding to concerns from Council member Tillman, Wieprecht advised water and sewer revenue is down from the previous year due to a reduction in consumption, the stagnation of growth and shorter duration of drought situations.

Department Reports:

- Main Street Update – City Manager Wieprecht and Economic Development Director Jay Meashey presented the progress report of the restructuring of Main Street. The research includes interviews with various municipalities which have similar characteristics of the City, site visits and business owner surveys. The desire is for Main Street to focus more on historic preservation and increase engagement with businesses. The Council indicated they would like business owners who did not respond to the survey to be contacted by other means to ensure stakeholders can express their needs and opinions. The Main Street Maryland staff has provided advice and guidance and expressed the Main Street designation is given to local governments, so the municipal government should be in charge of the program. The recommendation is for eighty percent of the framework to be in place from the city perspective before a Main Street board is established. Meashey expressed the Main Street Community must meet the requirements and fulfill the responsibilities enumerated in the DHCD Letter of Agreement. Wieprecht advised recommendations will be brought to the Council next month. Council member Tillman stated he wants stakeholders to have the ability to contribute. Mayor Miller reiterated the business owners who did not respond to the survey should be contacted to determine why they did not wish to provide input. Responding to a comment from Tillman to encourage volunteerism, Council members Fuller and Foster expressed a balance of stakeholders and non-business owners on the Main Street Board would be beneficial. Meashey expressed the presentation is meant to update the Council on progress of the fact finding and the recommendations next month will be based on the requirements of DHCD. Tillman suggested stakeholders should be allowed to attend the interviews between staff members and other municipalities. Mayor Miller cautioned this could cause decisions to be based on the desires of only a few business owners. Responding to Council member Foster, Meashey advised DHCD does not put limits on who can be on the board and it can include people from the larger community. Tillman expressed council representation on boards is beneficial and stated he feels the owners of the various inns and wedding venues in the City should be approached to encourage their involvement. Wieprecht stated the recommendations will be presented based on the information which has been gathered and will align with the requirements of the DHCD Letter of Agreement so the Council can move the process forward.

Old Business:

1. W. F. Delauter and Son claim – motion for Attorney Gullo to pursue a claim against the bond for the project and for the bankruptcy case by McCarron, 2nd by Foster. Responding to Council member Tillman, Wieprecht advised CDM Smith has prepared memorandums regarding the deficits on both projects. - carried 5 – 0.

New Business:

1. Monthly Financial Report – Motion to approve by Chaney, 2nd by McCarron – 5 - 0
2. Accounts Payables – Responding to Mayor Pro Tem McCarron regarding an expense for lumber and a train set, Council member Fuller explained the train set is a playset for Memorial Park obtained from another municipality which was in need of repairs. Motion to approve by Foster, 2nd by Tillman – carried 5 – 0

3. Memorial Park Expansion Engineering Services Amendment – City Manager Wieprecht advised the amendment is the result of State Highway switching reviewers during the expansion project. The original agreement with ARRO covered a certain number of steps to address comments from State Highway Administration but the new reviewer submitted additional comments and the amendment also incorporates the Frederick Street point of ingress and egress. Motion to approve by McCarron, 2nd by Foster – carried 5 – 0.

Council member Reports:

- Council members provided updates for their particular areas of focus.

Adjournment – motion to adjourn at 9:03 PM by Foster, 2nd by Tillman – carried 5 - 0

Respectfully Submitted by: Clara Kalman, City Clerk