

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
TANEYTOWN, MARYLAND
Mayor and Council Special Meeting
Restructuring of Main Street
January 29, 2025**

The Mayor and City Council Special Main Street meeting was held at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. **Presiding Officer:** Mayor Miller **Present:** Mayor Pro Tem McCarron and Council members, Foster, Chaney and Tillman. Council member Fuller arrived at 7:24 PM. **Also Present:** City Manager Wieprecht and Clerk Kalman. Mayor Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance

Public comment pertaining to agenda and non-agenda items:

Business owners addressed the Council recommending the assurance of autonomy, private funding, clear and concise bylaws and to be mindful a new Main Street Manager is not overwhelmed by the Department of Housing and Community Development Letter of Agreement.

New Business:

1. **EDC Position** – Mayor Miller stated he intends to nominate an individual to the role of Economic Development Director. Several members of the Council stated they feel the position should be posted, but Mayor Miller advised he is seeking a qualified individual with vision for the City and will put forth a qualified individual for nomination.
2. **Restructuring of the Main Street Program**
 - a. **Commitment to the Main Street Program** – City Manager Wieprecht advised DHCD recommends a commitment of at least 30 hours per week for Main Street Managers and the State is pushing for stronger compliance. The consensus of the Council is to make the commitment to the program.
 - b. **City's role in the Program** – The consensus of the Council is to stay with the framework set forth in the DHCD Letter of Agreement, which is for the City to have 80% of the framework in place to establish guidelines before appointing a committee. Council member Tillman indicated it was not made clear to the previous committee what their roles were, which was the source of confusion. The Council discussed separating EDC and Main Street into separate positions, but Mayor Miller stated there currently is not a mandate to do so and there are not enough hours to fill two positions.

Following discussion, the consensus of the Council is to retain the EDC position and dedicate hours to Main Street. A sub-section for Main Street will be created within the EDC department budget. The funds will be sent to the Community Foundation for allocation.

- c. **Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Main Street Agreement**
City Manager Wieprecht stated the Letter of Agreement is lengthy and sets forth several obligations for the City. Discussion followed about State compliance and updating the job description for the Economic Development Director.

Public comment:

Stakeholders encouraged more funding, more recruitment, oversight and accountability.

Mayor Pro Tem McCarron assured business owners the council is committed to enhancing Main Street and encouraged stakeholders to contact Council members with their ideas and needs.

Council member Tillman emphasized the need to determine the scope of the board and set clear goals to make sure the mission is clear.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM by McCarron, second by Tillman – carried 5 - 0

Respectfully Submitted by: Clara Kalman, City Clerk