

MINUTES

BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS TELECONFERENCE

February 22, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Town Commissioners was called to order on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin M. Bianca, Chair
Paula S. Etting
Erin S. Hughes
Donna L. Kahoe, Vice-Chair

ABSENT: Mary F. Chance

STAFF PRESENT: L. Jesse Bane, Town Administrator
Rowan Glidden, Senior Planner
Trish Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development
Stephen Kline, Director of Public Works
Michael Krantz, Director of Administration
Lisa Moody, Director of Finance
Charles Moore, Chief of Police
Patti Parker, Community & Public Relations Manager
Joan Suitt, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Charles Keenan, Town Counsel
Kevin Small, Director of Planning

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting Etiquette/Protocol

Chair Bianca advised the objective of the teleconference is to conduct normal business of the Town of Bel Air during the COVID-19 pandemic and to allow for social distancing.

Chair Bianca reviewed the protocol for the meeting and reminded everyone to identify themselves before speaking.

Roll Call

Chair Bianca conducted the roll call. Those present are listed above. Joining the teleconference was OFC Nicholas Rhodes, Ed McCann, Vice Commander of the American Legion, and Julia Potler, Town of Bel Air Events Manager. There were no others who identified themselves.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Kahoe moved and Commissioner Etting seconded the motion to approve the Agenda as written.

Ayes: Commissioners Etting, Hughes, Kahoe and Bianca

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Chance

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Kahoe moved and Commissioner Etting seconded the motion that the minutes of the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners' meetings held on February 7, 2022 and February 15, 2022, be approved as submitted.

Commissioner Etting requested corrections on the February 15, 2022 minutes:

- Page 2 - correct the Town Board meeting date from January to February.
- Page 8 (3rd paragraph) - correct spelling of March.

Ayes: Commissioners Etting, Hughes, Kahoe and Bianca

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Chance

The motion carried with the above corrections.

PRESENTATION:

Award for OFC Nicholas Rhodes from the American Legion

Ed McCann, Vice Commander of District 3 of the American Legion, presented a plaque to Officer First Class Nicholas T. Rhodes for Law Officer of the Year nominee. The Central Northern District Region awarded OFC Rhodes for his dedication and professional services to the Bel Air Police Department and the community he serves.

Mr. McCann advised this is a highlight for him every year and he is proud of the quality of Officers in Harford County, the Municipalities and State. Chief Moore stated Mr. McCann is instrumental in making sure we get this honor and that we receive the respect of the American Legion. Chief Moore notified Mr. McCann is one of the Fire Police who often helps with events in Town; especially the 4th of July and Christmas Parades.

Chief Moore informed our officers are out there protecting and making sure the job is done right. Chief Moore advised OFC Rhodes is very dedicated, reliable, has been in the Marine Corps Reserve for seven years and recently signed up for another Tour of Duty. OFC Rhodes is the School Resource Officer at Bel Air Middle School, a mentor to children in the community, and advisor to Bel Air Police Explorer Post 9010.

Chief Moore reported in May, 2020, OFC Rhodes monitored a call given to the Harford County Fire Dispatch for an unknown medical emergency at the Bel Air Bypass. OFC Rhodes responded to the location just outside Bel Air's jurisdiction to assist. The call was updated to indicate a CPR assist. OFC Rhodes located the vehicle and victim on the shoulder of the road and began CPR while EMS made assessments. As a result of the actions of OFC Rhodes and EMS personnel, the victim survived. It was discovered the victim suffered a severe heart attack.

Chief Moore advised on January 25, 2021, a veteran Police Officer inside the Bel Air Police Department experienced a medical crisis and collapsed. OFC Rhodes recognized this was a cardiac arrest, summoned help and began CPR. The Officer regained consciousness and is doing fine today. The quick actions by OFC Rhodes saved the life of the Officer.

Chief Moore congratulated OFC Rhodes and commented the Town of Bel Air is fortunate to have him here as an Officer.

Chair Bianca stated the word fortunate is the best word to describe OFC Rhodes and for all the men and women who serve our citizens. Chair Bianca expressed appreciation to OFC Rhodes for his service to the Town.

Senior Officer Zach Miller congratulated OFC Rhodes on receiving the award that is greatly deserved. Senior Officer Miller added on a personal note he was the victim of the medical emergency. He stated the right people were in the right place and time. Officer Miller advised this is something he will never forget and OFC Rhodes is an example of the type of men and women in the Bel Air Police Department.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance 807-22 Amending Town Code Chapter 397. Sewers Article I. Sewers and Sewage Disposal § 397-18. Sewer Service Rate Determination Adding Sewer Base Meter Sizes

Ms. Moody, Director of Finance, reported the Finance Department recently conducted an audit which compared the meter size on each customer account to the water meter size on the corresponding Maryland American Water Company (MAWC) account.

During the audit, the Town discovered that MAWC had a few accounts with an 8 inch meter size that we were billing as a smaller meter size. The Town is finalizing that verification to make sure those accounts will be billed at the 8-inch size.

The Town Code does not currently include an 8 inch size meter and the recommendation is to amend the Town Code for the section on the sewer service rates. The amendment includes not only the addition of the 8 inch meter size and base charge amounts but also the base charge amounts and usage rate from previous Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases. The user rate and the base charges were last required to be updated in the Code in July, 2015 when the Board approved a rate increase above and beyond the normal automatic COLA increase which does not require a change to the legislation.

Chair Bianca called for public comments. There were none.

Chair Bianca stated we discussed the Town was not billing people at the proper rates but that we would not bill retroactively.

Ms. Moody notified for the 8-inch change that legislation would not permit charging retroactively and that the first billing for the 8-inch meter would occur in April. Ms. Moody stated the Town would not back bill any errors found in the audit.

Chair Bianca called for Commissioner comments. As there were none, Chair Bianca closed the public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance 807-22 Amending Town Code Chapter 397. Sewers Article I. Sewers and Sewage Disposal § 397-18. Sewer service rate determination Adding Sewer Base Meter Sizes

Commissioner Hughes moved and Commissioner Kahoe seconded the motion that Ordinance No. 807-22, which repeals and re-enacts Chapter 397, Article 1, Section 18A pertaining to sewer service rate determination, of the Bel Air Town Code, be approved by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Ayes: Commissioners Etting, Hughes, Kahoe and Bianca

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Chance

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 1180-22 Town of Bel Air Armory Leasing Fee Schedule

Commissioner Etting moved and Commissioner Kahoe seconded the motion that Resolution No. 1180-22, amending the Bel Air Armory's Leasing Fee Schedule, be received by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

Ayes: Commissioner Etting, Hughes, Kahoe and Bianca

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Chance

The motion carried.

A public hearing is schedule March 7, 2022, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Bianca notified:

- Saturday, February 26th - Family Fun at the Armory from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Free tickets can be reserved on-line.
- March 5th - 11th - Bel Air Downtown Alliance is hosting the 2022 Chocolate, Brew & Wine Tour. Tickets can be purchased on-line.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

APPROVED: March 7, 2022

Signature on file
Kevin M. Bianca, Chair
Board of Town Commissioners

Signature on file
Michael L. Krantz, Town Clerk