

City of Brunswick
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 8, 2015, 7:25 P.M.

The September 8, 2015 City of Brunswick Mayor and Council meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by Mayor Karin Tome at Brunswick City Hall. The following members and staff were present: Karin Tome, Mayor; Angel White, Mayor Pro Tem; Ellis Burruss, Carroll Jones, Jeff Snoots, and Walt Stull, Council Members; Bob McGrory, City Administrator; Milt Frech, Chief of Police; and Carrie Myers, Office Manager.

Mayor's Remarks

- Mayor Tome discussed the River Mural Project at the Kaplon Building.
- Mayor Tome asked for motions to appoint Sandy Wagerman to the Economic Development Commission and Jennifer Knowles to the Ethics Commission. Mr. Snoots made a motion to appoint Ms. Wagerman. Mr. Lashley seconded the motion, which passed 6-0. Mr. Lashley made a motion to appoint Ms. Knowles. Mr. Burruss seconded the motion, which passed 6-0. Mayor Tome swore in Ms. Wagerman and Ms. Knowles.
- Delegate David Vogt offered comments.
- Lisa Berray, Railroad Days Coordination, presented an overview of this year's festival.

Approval of Minutes

- Public Hearing – August 11, 2015
- Mayor & Council – August 11, 2015
- Mayor & Council Special Meeting – August 25, 2015

Ms. White made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Snoots seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Mayor Tome read the following statement: The Brunswick City Council met in closed session on September 8, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall to discuss personnel matters, consider a matter that concerns a proposal for a business to locate, expand, or remain in the state, and to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters related directly thereto. The authority to close this meeting is found in Article 10-508 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Mayor Tome, Mayor Pro Tem White, Council Members Jones, Lashley, Snoots, and Stull, and City Administrator McGrory were present. All members present voted to close the meeting. Council Member Burruss joined the meeting in progress. The Council discussed the following items:

- Personnel matters – discussed employee transitions in the Police and Administration Departments.
- Business matters – discussed businesses interested in locating or expanding in Brunswick.
- Real Property Acquisition – discussed the possible acquisition of several pieces of real property for a public purpose and the means to facilitate such acquisition.

No actions were taken.

Citizens' Forum (Petitions, Remonstrances, and Communications)

Comments were offered from Michael Tuthill, 71 Wenner Drive, and Eric Beasley, 27 East E Street.

Introduction and Adoption of Resolutions and Ordinances

- Ordinance 518 – Vacant Property

Mayor Tome read the proposed ordinance. Mr. McGrory discussed the proposed ordinance and Council Members were given a chance to ask questions. Mr. Burruss made a motion to approve Ordinance 518. Ms. White seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

- Resolution 2015-02 – Proposed Charter Change – section 16-20 Recall of Elected Officers

Council Members were encouraged to voice their positions on this issue. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding taking this issue to referendum or making it a ballot question at the next election. Mr. Jones moved to amend the percentage of voters from 25 to 20. Mr. Stull seconded the motion, which passed 4-2, with Mr. Burruss and Mr. Lashley opposed. Mr. Lashley made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Burruss seconded the motion, which passed 4-2, with Mr. Stull and Mr. Jones opposed.

Report of Officers – Council – Committees

Mr. McGrory spoke briefly regarding staff reports.

Council Members provided updates on their Committee activities, including announcements related to the City of Brunswick Economic Development Commission, Brunswick Family Campground, Brunswick Senior Center, Fire Department, Ambulance Department, Greater Brunswick Area Chamber of Commerce, Brunswick Heritage Museum, Canal Towns, Brunswick Main Street, Park Heights Cemetery, and Sustainable Brunswick.

Unfinished Business

- Plan of Organization and Salary Scale

Mr. McGrory discussed the plan or organization, which was updated to reflect current positions. Mr. Snoots made a motion to accept the plan or organization. Mr. Burruss seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Mr. McGrory discussed the salary scales for both the Police Department and all other City

employees, which was updated to reflect COLA updates and all recent scale updates. Mr. Burruss made a motion to accept the salary scales. Mr. Lashley seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

New Business

- Paving Contract

Mr. McGrory described the background of this issue and stated staff was seeking approval for the paving contract at this time. A discussion ensued regarding when the contractor could begin and how long the project would take to complete. Ms. White made a motion to approve the paving contract, adjusting the allowable timeframe for completion of work to nine months. Mr. Snoots seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

- Sidewalk Restoration Program

Mr. McGrory showed a video of deteriorated sidewalks throughout town. A discussion ensued regarding government verses homeowner expenses. Mr. McGrory indicated he was seeking guidance to develop a proposed sidewalk replacement program for residents. Several options for various plans were discussed. Mr. Lashley made a motion to approve the Sidewalk Restoration Program. Mr. Stull seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

- Real Estate Purchase Contract Discussion

Mr. McGrory gave a brief background of the process previously used by City staff to purchase property. There were no Council objections to using this process in future acquisitions.

- Tax Equity Workgroup Discussion

Mr. McGrory gave a brief description of this issue, as discussed at the Frederick County Maryland Municipal League meeting recently.

Adjournment

Mr. Stull moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Snoots seconded the motion, which passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Carrie Myers

Approved By: Kari Jare
Mayor

16 Nov. 2015
Date

Witnessed By: [Signature]
City Administrator

11/16/15
Date