

City of Brunswick
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

The August 25, 2020 City of Brunswick Mayor and Council Meeting was convened at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Nathan Brown. The following members and staff were present: Nathan Brown, Mayor; John Dayton, Vaughn Ripley, Andy St. John, Chris Vigliotti, and Angel White, Council Members; Dave Dunn, City Administrator; Carrie Myers, City Clerk; John Gerstner, Public Works Director; Milt Frech, Chief of Police; Matt Campbell, Water Superintendent; and Bruce Dell, Planning and Zoning Administrator.

Mayor's Remarks

- Mayor Brown read the following statement:

The Brunswick City Council met in closed session on August 13th and August 25th at City Hall to discuss personnel actions. The authority to close this meeting is found in Article 10-508 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Mayor Brown, Council Members Dayton, St. John, Ripley, Vigliotti, and White were present. Also present at the August 25th meeting were staff members Dave Dunn and Carrie Myers. All members present voted to close the meeting.

- Mayor Brown swore in new Police Officer Darrick Scott.
- Mayor Brown stated he met with Railroad Square Developers recently and they provided a brief update of the status of the project. They will be applying for tax credits again this September.
- Mayor Brown presented the list of City Liaison Appointments.
- Mayor Brown stated Danny Pendergraft would temporarily fill in as Acting Waste Water Superintendent while an effort was made to fill that vacancy.
- Mayor Brown stated Dave Dunn expressed a desire to retire within the next year, but had continued to serve as City Administrator until 60 days after a replacement could be found. Mr. St. John made a motion to appoint Mr. Dunn as City Administrator. Ms. White seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.
- Mr. Ripley made a motion to appoint Matt Campbell as Water Superintendent. Ms. White seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.
- Mr. St. John made a motion to appoint Milt Frech as Chief of Police. Ms. White seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.
- Mr. Ripley made a motion to appoint John Gerstner as Director of Public Works. Ms. White seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.
- Ms. White made a motion to appoint Bruce Dell as Planning and Zoning Administrator. Mr. Ripley seconded the motion, which passed 3-1-1, with Mr. Vigliotti abstaining and Mr. St. John opposing.
- Mr. St. John made a motion to appoint Dave Servern with Offit Kurman as the City Attorney. Ms. White seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.
- Ms. White made a motion to appoint John Strong with Clark Azar as the City Engineer. Mr. Ripley seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.
- Ms. White made a motion to appoint Michele Mills and DeLeon and Stang as the City Auditor. Mr. Dayton seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Citizens' Forum

- Dan Roe, Moore Spring Court – offered comments opposing the potential Rutters Annexation.
- Jaclyn McBride, Seventh Avenue – offered comments opposing the potential Rutters Annexation and water consumption rates and education.
- Cynthia Haggerty, East F Street – offered comments regarding downtown renovation.

Consent Agenda

- Purchase Order Approval – PW4865 – Clark Azar - \$22,000

Mr. Dunn discussed the consent agenda items. Mr. Ripley made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items. Mr. St. John seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Unfinished Business

- Special Election

Ms. Myers explained this item. She presented the timeline of events that will lead up to a Special Election on December 15, 2020. This date was selected in conjunction with Frederick County Board of Elections to allow for the National Election to be completed prior to the City's Special Election.

Ms. White mentioned she would like to offer in-person voting and absentee voting at this election. After a lengthy discussion regarding the logistics of holding an in-person election during COVID verses the success of the all-absentee ballot election just held in August, the consensus of the entire Council was to hold an election in a similar manner to the August Council election.

Mr. Ripley made a motion to hold a Special Election on December 15, 2020 in a manner similar to the August 2020 all-absentee ballot election. Mr. St. John seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

- Potential Rutters Annexation Workshop Discussion

Mayor Brown explained that prior to COVID, the Council wished to hold a workshop with Rutters to begin discussions on potential proffers surrounding a possible annexation. He asked the Council if this was still their desire. The full Council consented to holding said workshop in order to ask questions and discuss potential proffers.

New Business

- Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Brown asked for a motion to appoint John Dayton as Mayor Pro Tem. Mr. Ripley made such a motion. Mr. Vigliotti seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

- 2020 Downtown Halloween Party

Ms. Myers discussed the challenges to holding this well-attended party during COVID. Mr. St. John brought up the possibility of having a Halloween house decorating contest.

Mr. Dayton made a motion to cancel the downtown Halloween party and look into holding the decorating contest. Ms. White seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

- Potential Charter Changes Process Discussion

Mayor Brown expressed the need to update the City Charter. He circulated a copy with suggested changes and asked Council Members to review the document for a future workshop. Mr. Dunn stated these changes would be mostly clean-up of outdated things and Ms. Myers discussed the process for charter amendments.


- Ordinance/Resolution Changes – Commissions and Committees Discussion

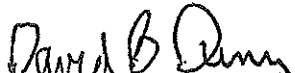
Mayor Brown expressed his desire to amend and clean up the Code as it pertains to City meetings and Commissions and Committees. He stated the changes were necessary for consistency. He presented the proposed changes and stated the ordinance changes would be introduced and discussed during the September Council meetings.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

Submitted by: Carrie Myers

Approved By:  9/9/2020
Mayor Date

Witnessed By:  9/10/2020
City Administrator Date