

TOWN OF SUDLERSVILLE

Commissioners Minutes

May 6, 2020

Present: President Ronald Ford
Commissioner Dave Ruffner via Speaker Phone
Commissioner Carrie Comegys
Commissioner Larry Leonard
Commissioner Charles Leager

Town Clerk: Crissy Talty

Attendance: Crissy Talty, Tom Yeager town lawyer, and Viewers by Go to meeting

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

President Ford announced a copy of what they were voting on would be on the website for the public to read.

Minutes from April 1, 2020 meeting: Charlie Leager entered a motion to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2020 meeting, Ruffner seconded the motion, a vote of 5-0 was entered.

Fire Company Report: Chief Chris Stant reports that they are at the firehouse more since the pandemic, and that the tops are rusted tight on the fire hydrants and need to be checked by MES. President Ford states he will make the call to see that happens

Sheriff: No one present

Library Report: Closed due to Pandemic

MES Report: Included in the packet.

Engineering Report: None given

Planning Commission: No new business

Town Clerk Report: Included in packet

Old Business:

- Introduction of a noise ordinance- The Pastrana project state that they have an ongoing noise study for the prospective project they are building. It would only add amendments and exemptions to the noise ordinance. Ron Ford introduced the noise ordinance and there will be amendments and a public hearing and vote later. He directed Crissy to schedule it for a hearing.
- Offer on the surplus property- E.T. Kimble has put a bid of \$60,000.00 since putting in that bid, he has offered \$850.00 an acre more for a total amount of \$66,188. The Pastrana Racing LLC

group put in a bid of \$125,000. The commissioners discussed this, a motion was made by Carrie Comegys to accept the Pastrana Racing LLC offer, Larry Leonard seconded, a vote of 4-0 was recorded, motion passed to accept the Pastrana offer Charles Leager abstained from the vote.

- Postponement of the Town election- Currently the state Of Maryland is under a state of emergency due to COVID-19, the charter does not provide for any mechanism to postpone an election. Therefore, a charter amendment resolution is required. Tom Yeager the town lawyer has created an amendment resolution for this in the event of a public health emergency of any kind, this also provides for amendments and revisions to procedures of elections. All candidates are still considered and do not need to remit another nomination. A motion was made to amend the charter by Charles Leager to amend the Charter a second by Carrie Comegys a vote of 5-0 was recorded motion passed and made effective tonight. The election will be postponed. A motion was made for a resolution to postpone the May 2020 election until July 2020 by Charles Leager seconded by Carrie Comegys a vote of 5-0 recorded, the election will be postponed until the fourth Monday in July a sixty-day postponement of this also postpones all other election process dates. Tom Yeager drafted a letter to Governor Hogan providing notice to him about the election changes.

New Business:

Public Hearing for Noise Ordinance 2020-02

Public Hearing for Ordinance 2019-05

Public Hearing for Noise Ordinance 2020-02 brought to order by Ron Ford at 7:04 pm -

SECTION 1. That item Section 1-04 of the Sudlersville Noise Ordinance be Repealed and Re-Enacted as Amended to add a subsection H to read as follows: H. AUTO (AND MOTORIZED VEHICLE) RACING FACILITIES AND EVENTS OCCURRING BETWEEN 7:00 A.M. AND MIDNIGHT. Commissioner Ford read the amendment out.

Public Comment: Many residents voiced the approval of this ordinance and support to Pastrana Racing.

Bill Faust states the Fire Company supports it.

Suzanne Harris- wanted clarification on if this ordinance applies to everyone or just the track, Tom Yeager explains this was to clarify that under the previous ordinance it was allowed.

Billy Faust- Supports Pastrana, did not hear anything negative about this.

Jay Falstad- opposes

Faye Williams- Supports this ordinance, and Pastrana coming to town.

A motion by Carrie Comegys is made to accept Ordinance 2020-02 a second by Larry Leonard called to vote a vote of 4-0 motion carried vote entered Charles Leager abstained from the vote.

Public Hearing concluded.

Public Hearing for Ordinance 2019-05 brought to order by Ron Ford at 7:45 pm - AN ORDINANCE concerning Amendments to the Town's Zoning Ordinance

Title of Ordinance – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SUDLERSVILLE TO AMEND THE SUDLERSVILLE ZONING ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR SAFETY AND DETENTION SERVICES AS A PERMITTED AND PERMITTED WITH CONDITIONS USE WITHIN THE TOWN’S ZONING DISTRICTS.FOR the purpose of repealing and re-enacting with amendments portions of Article IV of the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Sudlersville, Maryland (the “Town) to include provisions for safety and civil detention services as a permitted and permitted with conditions within the Town’s zoning districts.

Public Comment: Many viewers voiced opposition to this ordinance and asked the commissioners to do the right thang and vote as the town residents asked them to.

Suzanne Harris is opposed and states that even though they tell you it is only civil infraction it cannot be guaranteed.

Jay Falstad- opposes and his association represents the part of the town that opposes and hopes the commissioners vote favorably.

Faye Williams-opposes the ordinance, behooves the commissioners to listen to what the people want.

Andrew Mutchler- Opposes, believes 90% of the town opposes and asks the commissioners to vote with their conscience.

Lauren McMullen- Opposes, asks the commissioners to vote what the people want, believes this vote is a moot point if there is no growth expected from ICA.

Laura Atwood-Opposes represents Md against ICE Detention.

Keith Griffith-Opposes, Questions when someone is released from the detention center where are they released to?

Faye Williams- What do the 5 commissioners know that the public does not? Why do they so strongly believe in passing this ordinance?

Commissioner Leager answers, this will be a job creator, no criminal offenses, opens the town for business without the addition of a detention center.

Brenda Stant- Opposes this ordinance, she has experience in correctional facilities, and they are not clean and safe as they state. The town will not see a dollar from this.

Jerry Stricklen- opposes

Sergio Gespano- state rep of ACLU opposes this ordinance.

Lauren Taylor- From Sanctuary DMV opposes asks commissioners to vote nay.

Tim Rothumel-states from Progressive Caucus opposes

Chris Stant- Opposes, states this will cost the town hundreds of thousands of dollars, states the commissioners have had the blinders pulled over their eyes asks them to go against this ordinance.

Public Comment closed

Commissioner Leager explains that with this ordinance we could bring in a lot of allocation monies, it would generate 240 to 275 jobs for the town at the rate of at least \$52000 a year, right now to earn that rate people have to travel to jobs farther away and believes we as a town need to entertain the economic boost this ordinance could bring. The town needs the money Sudlersville is slowly dying and everything that has been brought to the town has been opposed. We need to allow for change and progress, this will open the town up to that. There are many processes that have to be gone through for the detention center to break ground, and safeguards in place to prevent criminal jails to be built, however it allows for other private entities to entertain a notion to develop in our town.

Charles Leager makes a motion to approve ordinance 2019-05 Carrie Comegys seconds Larry Leonard is opposed, a vote of 4-1 is entered motion carries and is passed.

Public Comment

Faye Williams- Disgusted with the 4 commissioners

Suzanne Harris- Commissioners actions are reprehensible

Others voiced disdain.

A motion to get into closed session is made by Charles Leager a second made by Carrie Comegys a vote of 5-1 taken motion carried.

Adjournment: With no further issues to discuss a motion was made by Larry Leonard at 9:15 pm to adjourn the meeting, Comegys seconded the motion, and a vote of 5-0 was entered. Respectfully submitted,

Crissy Talty

Town Clerk