

COUNCIL OF TRAPPE
TRAPPE TOWN HALL
January 4, 2017

Public Hearing – 6:45 pm

President Fegel opened the public hearing for Ordinance 14-2016 at 6:45 pm. President Fegel read Ordinance 14-2016 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe amending the Trappe Zoning Ordinance, Title III and Section 2 to add a definition of “Farm Animal”; and to amend Title IV, Section 12 to prohibit the keeping of farm animals in all zoning districts other than the Agricultural (“A”) zoning district and to prohibit the keeping and maintaining of any exotic animals as described and regulated by State Law; to amend Article IV, Section 7 to permit an animal shelter or animal sanctuary in the “A” Agricultural district by special exception; and to permit the keeping of chickens in the R-1, R-2 and R-3 districts by special exception. President Fegel opened for public comment. Mike Sullivan stated that he supports this Ordinance and would like to see the Council adopt it. With no further public comment the public hearing was closed at 6:48 pm.

Council of Trappe Meeting: President Fegel called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Council members Don English, Tonya Pritchett, Rose Potter and RD Diefenderfer were present. Other attendees: Nancy Dunn, Mr. & Mrs. Adams, Mike Sullivan, Bob Quidas, Nick Newnam, Dale Brown, Planner Shull, Chief Ball, Attorney Booth and Clerk Braband.

Amendments to the Agenda: Attorney Booth requested an executive session to give legal opinion and Commissioner Potter stated that she had something that she wanted to add later. Commissioner English made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Diefenderfer seconded the motion. All approved.

Presentation of Minutes: Commissioner Potter made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner English seconded the motion. All approved.

Clerk’s Report: Clerk Braband presented the Clerk’s report that is filed in the records. Clerk Braband also presented the current budgets for both the general and the enterprise funds.

COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Safety – Chief Ball read his report that is filed in the records.

Public Works – President Fegel read Superintendent Callahan’s report that is filed in the records.

Planning & Zoning – Planner Shull stated that the rental licensing program has been completed for 2016 with 174 rental inspections. Notices will be sent out in April for renewals that are due July 1st. There will be roughly 8-10 units that will need to be inspected at that time. Planner Shull stated that the Planning Commission met and discussed the commercial chicken operation moratorium and discussions will continue at their January meeting. Planner Shull stated that the community group had an event with Santa which was coordinated by Flo Adams.

Parks and Recreation – As Commissioner of Parks, Commissioner Potter stated that she has reached out to Barker’s Landing who is the contractor for Nace’s Park and they will meet Friday morning. Commissioner Potter stated that she will get a timeframe for the beginning of this project at that meeting.

Economic Development – Commissioner Pritchett stated that she did not have a report. Planner Shull stated that there was a meeting on December 15th to introduce the new department of Tourism and Economic Development. These two departments have merged. This new department will be coming around to visit each town in the near future. Planner Shull stated that companies that are looking for a place to open their businesses are using the Town’s websites to see if they would like to open there. Planner Shull stated that it was requested to lobby the Talbot County Council to support the broadband initiative. This is very important for businesses and could be the determining factor for many business owners.

Communications – None

Attorney Updates – Attorney Booth requested an executive session for legal advice on a contract matter.

Executive Session – An executive session was held on December 7, 2016 to discuss a personnel issue and to obtain legal advice.

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Ordinance 14-2016 - An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe amending the Trappe Zoning Ordinance, Title III and Section 2 to add a definition of “Farm Animal”; and to amend Title IV, Section 12 to prohibit the keeping of farm animals in all zoning districts other than the Agricultural (“A”) zoning district and to prohibit the keeping and maintaining of any exotic animals as described and regulated by State Law; to amend Article IV, Section 7 to permit an animal shelter or animal sanctuary in the “A” Agricultural district by special exception; and to permit the keeping of chickens in the R-1, R-2 and R-3 districts by special exception was read by President Fegel. Commissioner Diefenderfer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 14-2016. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion. Attorney Booth stated there is a typographical error and llama is spelled incorrectly so that will be fixed. Attorney Booth also stated that this would allow poultry by special exception only, not by right, other than the chickens that were already in existence prior to December 7, 2016 when this Ordinance was introduced. Attorney Booth stated that if you want to have chickens then you will need to meet at all the conditions as well as request a Board of Appeals hearing to be held which has a \$300 fee.

Vote:

Potter – Y Fegel – Y Pritchett – Y Diefenderfer – Y English – Y

All approved, motion carried.

Ordinance 1-2017 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe to amend Section 14 of the Trappe Town Code titled “Water and Sewer”, Table 1 titled “Fees and Charges” to increase the basic monthly water service fee to \$15.00 per month and the basic monthly sewer service fee to \$50.00 per month; to amend Section 14.8 of the Trappe Town Code to authorize the Council to establish water and sewer rates for properties located out of the town in an amount not to exceed twice the amount charged to users located within the Town; and to amend Section 14.19 of the Town Code to clarify responsibility for maintenance and repairs of water and sewer lines located on private property was read by President Fegel. Commissioner Potter made a motion to introduce Ordinance 1-2017. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion. A public hearing will be held on February 1, 2017 at 6:45 pm.

VOTE:

Potter – Y Fegel – Y Pritchett – Y Diefenderfer – Y English – Y

All approved, motion carried.

Other Business:

Commissioner Potter stated that for 2017 she thought it would be a good idea for the Council to set some goals that can be achieved in 1 year, 5 years, 10 years, etc. Commissioner Potter stated that she felt a good 1-2 year goal would be to install brick crosswalks at a few locations around Town. Possible locations would be at the corner of Main Street and Maple Ave, Powell Ave crossing over to the post office and another by Scott’s Church. Commissioner Potter stated that she felt the brick crosswalks would add to the décor of the Town which would improve the appearance of the Town which could possibly attract future businesses. Commissioner Potter stated that she asked Clerk Braband to research available grants. Clerk Braband was able to find a possible grant opportunity with DHCD under their Community Legacy funding. If a grant is awarded for this project funding would not be until 2018. Commissioner Potter presented pictures of brick crosswalks in Cambridge on Maryland Avenue. Chief Ball stated that a couple of years ago the Town met with SHA regarding crosswalks and SHA said it wasn’t possible due to the existing sidewalks not meeting ADA requirements and no curb cuts. Planner Shull suggested looking into different intersections because the proposed locations are State owned and unless SHA is on board the project won’t happen. Planner Shull also suggested looking into doing stamped concrete instead of brick as it is cheaper to install and maintain and it also has a bumpy texture which gives awareness of entering into Town. The Council gave Commissioner Potter permission to gather information and continue to explore the options.

Announcements – President Fegel read the announcements.

Executive Session – President Fegel stated that Attorney Booth requested an executive session to give legal opinion on a contract issue.

Commissioner English made a motion to recess into executive session at 7:33 pm which was seconded by Commissioner Pritchett and unanimously approved.

At the conclusion of the closed session at 8:09 pm, Commissioner Potter made a motion to reconvene the open meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Diefenderfer and unanimously approved.

Attorney Booth stated that the Council is in agreeance with the terms of the contract between the Town and PE Moore for Shelby Acres. Attorney Booth will contact Eddie Moore to get the contract signed.

Attorney Booth stated that she gave her legal opinion regarding term limits at the request of Commissioner Potter.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner English made a motion at 8:10 pm to conclude the meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Diefenderfer and unanimously approved.

Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk

Norm Fegel, Council President