

Town of Cheverly  
Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 2019

Call to order

Meeting called to order at 8:01 pm in the Cheverly Community Center

In attendance: Mayor Riazi, Council Members Radloff, Watson, Bryner, Munyeneh, Gracia, Fry.  
Staff: Town Administrator, Dylan Galloway, Police Chief Towers, Director of Public of Works, Mr. Brayman

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to approve of the Agenda: CM Bryner, Seconded by CM Fry. Approved unanimously.

Motion to approve August 8, 2019 Town Meeting minutes: CM Radloff, Seconded by CM Munyeneh. Approved unanimously.

**Proclamation:** Elizabeth Seton High School

**Proclamation:** Cheverly Wolverines 10 and under Baseball team Championship. The Mayor and Council have dedicated the third Saturday of April as the Cheverly Boys and Girls Club Baseball Opening Day.

Motion to adopt Chief Towers contract: CM Fry, Seconded CM Bryner. Approved unanimously.

**Swearing in of Chief Jarod J. Towers**

**Chief of Police Report**

Our number one crime is theft from auto. We've developed a slogan that we've put out on social media. ROAR: R=remove from plan view, O=opt to park in well-lit areas, A=always locking your doors and R=report, report, report. We need to know if someone has been in your vehicle so we can track crime trends.

Public Safety Day is next Thursday night 5:30-8:30. Almost every agency in the County is coming, we'll have State Police, Homeland Security, Md State Police helicopter, paramedic helicopter, multiple k-9 demonstrations, motorcycle demonstrations, fire dept. vehicle extraction, moon bounce, free dinner from Mission Bar-b-que and a bake sale. The proceeds go to C.O.P.S, Concerns of Police Survivors.

Wednesday, Coffee with the Chief. CEMAS, (Cheverly Emergency Messaging Alert System) Cheverly's alert system, we signed up for 7,000 licenses to start and we're not even have way there. You can sign up at Public Safety Day, Coffee with the Chief and on Monday and Thursdays 5-7. Please sign up.

Recruiting: we have an open Lieutenants position. I'm looking for the right person and I'm not going to fill it just to fill it. Supervisory positions, we have three positions and multiple Officer positions. We will fill them when we find the right person. If anyone (Town Employee or Resident) knows of an applicant that may be a good fit and the applicant gets hired, that individual will get \$500. If they are already certified by the Maryland Police Training Commission. If you know anyone, please get the word out.

## **Resident Input**

**Katie Zaft**, Ward 3, President of the Police Chief's Advisory Board. I just wanted to thank Mayor and Council you for allowing PCAB to be part of the process of hiring the Chief of Police. We look forward to working with Chief Towers.

**David Deutsch**, former Town Administrator. First, I want to congratulate the Cheverly community for their strong support and engagement with the Police Department. Secondly, I want to congratulate the Mayor and Council for devising and carrying out a thorough selection process. Finally, I want to congratulate Chief Towers on his selection as Chief. He embodies the best of a dedicated public servant; Cheverly is very lucky to have him.

## **Committee Reports**

Recreation Council Barbara Pejokovich: On the first Saturday of October is the Cheverly Flea Market. The Halloween party will be the first Saturday in November. Please donate bake goods for the Bake Table at Safety Night. The proceeds go to the Police Department.

Green Infrastructure Committee Mayor: first date to review Pepco vegetation plan and we had a few questions which we went through with Pepco representative Cody Helsetine. We reviewed next step of Air Quality monitoring program that I will draft a letter for and Water Woes Workshop in November.

Cheverly Day Megan Daly: Cheverly Day next year will be on May 16, 2020. May 15, 2021 is the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town of Cheverly and we're going to do it up big. Parade and the cicadas will be back. Thank everyone who came to Franklins in June for the fundraiser to support Cheverly Day. The next meeting is on September 25 at 7:30 in the large Conference room you are welcome to join us. New marketing updates on social media. We'll also be starting several new features so be sure to follow us on Facebook.

Motion to move Item 17 PEPCO Representative with Q&A up before Item 12 Town Administrator Report on the Agenda CM Radloff, Seconded by CM Munyeneh. Unanimously approved.

**Pepco** Cody Hesletine and Tami Watkins: We're here to address any questions or concerns regarding our proposed Vegetation Management plan with the town. This is part of our RM 43 requirement.

**Mayor** Green Infrastructure Committee reviewed a list of trees and we will have that list before us at the September Worksession. We looked at about 90 trees throughout the Public Right of Ways and Town owned property. It is not structured with Pepco for us to review trees on private property. If you receive a door hanger, please reach out to Pepco before they begin to trim or cut your trees. Where are you in the private property Vegetation Management process. Do you have the number of trees involved on private property? Can you please get that number back to us?

**Pepco** Cody Hesletine, 80% to 85% to reaching out to the residents. No, I do not have that number. We're hoping to get started in October.

**CM Bryner** If someone receives a door hanger, does it provide information about the timeline for the trimming?

**Pepco** No timeline but were hoping to start in October if the Town approves.

**CM Munyeneh** Who do people reach out to about the debris left on their property?

**PEPCO** They can reach out to me. We clean up everything when we do routine maintenance. If there's a storm, we just cut the tree off the line and the debris that is left is the owners' responsibility.

**CM Watson** How do we request the trimming of a street tree?

**Mayor** if there is an issue with a tree on a specific street, I'd advise the Council Member to reach out to the Town Administrator, Mr. Galloway. We we'll look at the situation on that street and reach out to Pepco if appropriate. How often do you come into town? Why do some trees get trimmed more than others? Please do everything possible to extend the communication with us as we are concerned about our trees and maintaining our Tree Canopy.

**Pepco** we're on a four-year schedule which is set by the Maryland Public Service Commission. We will come through and do routine maintenance at that time. We trim trees based on their growth rate.

**CM Munyeneh** the growth of bamboo on a right of way that caught on fire. Pepco has cut it down, but bamboo grows much faster than trees. Can give me you me instructions that I can share with my constituent about what she can do to prevent a fire in her backyard. She would need maintenance on more than a four-year schedule.

**Pepco** Pilot Program to remove bamboo and keep it from growing in the alley. We're going to remove the bamboo and apply an herbicide and install a barrier to eliminate the bamboo that's growing under the lines. That's scheduled to start in October as well.

**Steve Brayman**, Director of Public Works regarding the Pilot Program, I've written letters to the three residents who are affected by the bamboo in the alleyway. I've heard back from one and waiting for the other two. Cody of Pepco said that my letter sufficed.

**Patricia Washington** I'm not sure how you get on the list. Mine is a grave concern as I can't use my backyard and want to put this on your radar.

**Pepco** we will remove and treat vines and any hazardous trees then we will do pruning to remove any hazardous limbs that may grow or fall onto the lines. We will not go through and eradicate all the vines that are coming up.

**Mayor** we would like to know about the health and fate of our tree canopy. We are losing ground with our tree canopy. We need to plan for preservation and replacement.

#### **Town Administrator Report**

**Audit:** Bridget & Mock Associates will begin the Town audit on September 18-20. We should receive a report in 30 days if they get everything they need on site.

**Website:** the current website is only temporary and does show some of the changes that the permanent website will have. Please contact Town Hall if you're having problems navigating the website.

**Pet Waste Stations:** all six new stations have been installed around town. Public Works is working with staff to develop reporting information regarding usage.

**Pavilion status:** Mr. Brayman, their moving away from an aluminum and back to zinc coated steel. There isn't a horizontal option. We will need a building and electrical permit for the structure and the conduit. We can't remove and replace the roof until we get those permits.

**Joseph and Son testimony:** Mayor, on behalf of the Town I submitted testimony compiling the input from the Green Infrastructure Committee, from Council and the Planning Board stating our opposition to granting the application for an Air Quality permit to construct.

Landover Logistics: Mayor, known as the Smithfield plant. We met to review a feasibility proposal for that site, one option is a warehouse. Projected entrance and exit on Columbia Park Road, not a good idea and we propose Cabin Branch. We made clear our transportation concerns that are ongoing for that area. We're just in step one. We'll be looking to have presentations with the Planning Board.

Special Worksession on Thursday, September 19 at 7:30 pm. We will be briefed by the Green Infrastructure and the Planning Board on the history, roll and current issues and the need to appoint Council liaisons.

Consultant Arborist services: Feather and Associates. Dr. Tolbert Feather's assessment will be used for contracted tree services for recommended tree work.

Rain Barrels: we have received the rain barrels for the Water Woes Workshop in November. If you would like to purchase a rain barrel early, please contact Public Works.

No Parking Signs: Public Works will be installing five "No Parking" along Forest Road. The signs will be in front of the Methodist Church. It's a matter of safety and efficiency along that road. I

**CM Bryner** have the residents closest to the signs been notified?

**Steve Brayman** the signs are along Forest near Legion Park on the church side.

Prince George's County Planning Board of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission have scheduled two public forums on the budget for the planning of parks and recreation in PG County for the next fiscal year which begins July 1, 2020. The dates of those hearings are Monday, September 16, 2019 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Dept. of Parks and Rec Administration Building in Riverdale and the second one is on Monday, October 7, 2019 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Harmony Hall in Fort Washington.

**Mayor** I have been asked to serve on the Maryland Municipal League's Legislative Committee. Two legislative priorities: The first is Highway User Revenue and the second is 5G.

### **Arlington Crematorium**

Mayor people have stepped forward expressing their concerns about the air quality and particulates. I have requested an extension of the comment period and we were granted an automatic 60 day extension. We will have an opportunity at the October televised meeting for residents to come forward with questions and concerns on camera. We will bring this forward to the Green Infrastructure Committee and Planning Board to advise, submit testimony for or against. I have Arlington Crematorium to come speak and meet the new Council.

### **Noxious Odor**

The News and Announcement was delayed because of an issue with the Town's website. Cheverly was notified of the odor on August 21, 2019. We contacted and reported the issue to Maryland Department of the Environment and Emergency Pollutant Hotline, Washington Gas, WSSC and Pepco. Field representatives from those organizations inspected their own infrastructure to ensure that the odor was not coming from them. Collaborated with PG Fire Dept. Hazmat Unit and no hazardous gases were detected. Once the source of the odor is identified, we will notify the public. Thank you for your patience during our research phase. If you hear or see anything, please email [Tips@cheverly-md.gov](mailto:Tips@cheverly-md.gov).

### **Adoption of the Flag ordinance**

Motion for to adopt Administrative Regulation 2019-03 CM Radloff, Seconded by CM Garcia.

Unanimously approved.

**CM Watson** do we have an administrative regulation on the books for flying the flag on the books? 20-H is underlined. Is this all new regulation?

**Mayor** this is entirely new administrative regulation. "H" is the language that was added but deemed not substantive change.

### **Council Updates**

**CM Watson** Community Market is this Saturday, September 14. Valley Way Annual block party will be Saturday, October 5. The Haunted Hike will be on October 26 and it starts around sunset. Advertising for the Veteran's Day Ceremony. It will be on November 11 at 10:00 am in Legion Park. We're looking for participation from youth musicians.

**CM Munyeneh** 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Civic Association meets the third Monday of every month. Belleview block party on September 21 at 5:00 pm.

**CM Fry** excited to have a new team with Mr. Galloway, Mr. Brayman and Chief Towers. Thank the Mayor for the work on Smith and Sons. Thank Mr. Galloway and Mr. Brayman for their work on the noxious odor on Labor Day weekend. Legion open their date for membership and the auxiliary opened membership for spouses as well.

**CM Garcia** thank PCAB and Chief Towers and the Police Department for Movie Night.

**CM Bryner** there's a new bakery Mi Pueblito on Landover Road and it's awesome.

**CM Radloff** Cheverly Village is hosting a home modifications seminar Tuesday, September 17 from 5:30-8:00 pm in the Community Center. Thelma Boyd Nash of Ward 4 will have a portrait unveiled on September 28 at Joe's Emporium.

**Mayor** Mr. Galloway is engaging us in team building activities and strategic planning process. We're working on value-based budgeting, further training in Open Meetings Act. Thinking about the budget early so we fully understand the questions before us so that we use our taxes wisely.

Motion to Adjourn CM Bryner, Seconded by CM Garcia. Unanimously approved.