

March 6, 2017 4:00pm.

County/City Meeting

Attendance: City Commissioner Donald Sydnor, City Commissioner La-Shon Foster, Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley, County Councilman, Don Satterfield, County Councilman Rick Travers, County Manager Jeremy Goldman, City Manager Sandra Tripp-Jones, Oden Wheeler Director DPW, and Rebecca White Executive Assistant to County Manger.

Solar: Per Mr. Goldman stated that legislation for the County to apply Personal Property Tax to the equipment for solar farms; i.e. solar panels, & framing at the rate of \$2.29 per 100 dollars or the negotiation of a PILOT will be going before County Council Tuesday evening. Ms. Tripp-Jones informed the group there is a meeting between City, State (DNR), developers, and others totaling approx. 25 individuals meeting on Tuesday at the Egypt Rd. site to discuss the solar project for this property. State is looking to make this a model project for the state and/or region.

Allowing Alcohol sales in Grocery Stores: When the bill was presented at the State level it wasn't received very well, so it was floored until next year's session. Hopefully will be a brought up at summer study in hopes to get support prior to be it being introduced next legislative session.

Old Maces Lane School Building: Need to get LaSara to explore Historic funding for rehab to attract someone to develop the property. Concern that this facility may not qualify for Historic funding in that most of the historic part of the building was demolished to make room for the Maces Lane Middle School and access. County has the building; Jeremy Goldman is going to contact Mr. Keith Cornish & Ms. Lorraine Henry from the Alumni. Ms. Sharon Wilson has shown some interest in the facility, however she will need to present a full plan for the use of the facility & grounds, funding source, and approved by the Alumni, and Board of Directors.

509-511 Race St. (Hearn Building): Progress is being made, the water in the basement is being pumped out, loaded onto a tanker truck; they have made a hole in the rear of the building and had begun pulling out debris. It appeared that the metal beams on the structure seemed to be in good condition, and some of the wood beams appeared to be in good condition as well, and they are salvaging as much as possible.

505-507 Race St.: Everything has been worked out on the two facilities, just waiting on settlement which hopefully will occur within the next two weeks.

Regular Gas & Diesel Fuel: Ms. Tripp-Jones presented that she approached Mr. Goldman with an idea about the City utilizing the County's fueling system at the County's DPW to fuel their vehicles. The County would in turn bill the City for the fuel, hopefully resulting into a cost savings for both agencies. With the added volume of the city vehicles with the Counties hopefully would lend itself to cheaper pricing for both. Mr. Goldman is going to get back with Ms. Tripp-Jones with a quote.

Landfill Tipping Fees: Dorchester County will be increasing its tipping fees effective July 1, 2017 by \$2.00 per ton, from \$60 to \$62. The County is looking to establish an allotment of funding in the 2018 budget to reduce the landfill fee by \$1 per ton for special cleanup projects. Examples were street clean up's, demolition debris. There would be a maximum amount per year, once the fund is exhausted, there will not be any funding available until the following years budget. There would be a board established to review the project applications for funding approval.

Central Booking: Ms. Tripp-Jones asked if there had been any consideration to creating a central booking for arrest. County stated that they had 10 vacant positions at the detention center, they have a new individual in charge of the facility and in consideration of these items, they would like to address this later once they are able to get the facility fully staffed, and operating efficiently.

Economic Development: The County has been interviewing individuals to fill their Economic Development Director position. There are 3 really qualified individuals still being considered. The County had considered merging Tourism & Economic Development, however there is so much going on in both divisions, it was felt as though it would be too much for one individual. Concerned with the heavy work load in both departments if they utilized one individual they may get concentrated in one department and may lose focus on the other department. The idea was revisited about having a joint City, County, Hurlock, Economic Development. Some thoughts brought forward was would everyone be willing to fund their portion; everyone would need to work together as a collective group for the betterment of all, not their own personal agendas. Ms. Tripp-Jones asked the group if they would like to see some examples of joint uses agreements for this type of consortium? Everyone agreed.

Packing House (Factory F): Senator Cardin will be in Cambridge to visit/tour the facility on Friday at 11:15am.

DHCD Secretary Holt: will be at the Public Safety Building on Tuesday March 14th, at 11:00am, the meeting is open to the public, topics would be Economic Development ideas for City, & State.

Sailwinds: City has released a Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) at the recommendations of Secretary Holt to see if there are any developers interested. If we don't receive any that may tell us we are too early in the economic process, and that we may need to rethink the process until the hospital property is available or other alternatives. Secretary Holt felt confident that developers would respond.