

**PROCEEDINGS OF HARFORD COUNTY COUNCIL, GOVERNMENT, AND MUNICIPAL
WORK SESSION- TOWN OF BEL AIR OF HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND**

April 13, 2021

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER – the Municipal Work Session was called to order at 6:31 PM by Council President Vincenti with all Council Members present (Council Vice President Woods joined the meeting remotely). Other attendees were Amy Chmielewski, Mayor, Kevin Bianca, Vice – Chair Erin Hughes, Commissioner, Donna Kahoe, Commissioner, Jesse Bane, Town Administrator, Charles Moore, Chief of Police, Patti Parker Director, Community and Public Relations, Steve Kline, Director, Department of Public Works, all from the Town of Bel Air and Charlie Kearney, Council Attorney, Billy Boniface, Chief Advisor to County Executive, Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent, and Cornell Brown, HCPS.

OPENING REMARKS --- Council President Vincenti welcomed the other attendees and discussed the history of the Municipal Meetings. Councilman Wagner followed with similar remarks. Brief introductions were made by all who were present. Council President Vincenti invited Commissioner Kevin Bianca to the presentation table to start the discussion items.

TOWN OF BEL AIR---

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY—Commissioner Bianca discussed the Traffic & Safety Task Force. Discussed the need of new safety devices in the Town of Bel Air as well as updated crosswalks. Commissioner Bianca along with Mayor Chmielewski suggested flashing lights for when stopped at crosswalks and offered to repaint roads state roads within the town. She also suggested making a new policy/legislation. Councilman Giangiordano made comments about the speeding issues at the corner of Bond and Route 1 as well as distractive driving in the area. Councilman Shrodes discussed the history and his role with the Traffic Safety Advisory Board and their focus on pedestrian safety. Commissioner Kahoe added onto Councilman Shrodes’ comments. Mr. Boniface included the date for Bike to Work Week 2021 (May 21) and the safety measures the county will be taking. Dr. Bulson questioned if there would be a Bike to School day. Mayor Chmielewski agreed with Dr. Bulson for students to have a Bike Day. Mayor Chmielewski and Commission Bianca asked for Council and Executive support on their traffic and pedestrian safety recommendations to the State.

TOWN HALL AND POLICE STATIONS--- The Town of Bel Air informed Council of their current budget proceedings and their plans to construct a new Town Hall and Police Station. Commissioner Bianca informed the Council of the \$10,000,000 project and how the Town is actively seeking efficiencies during the process. He suggested that the County could waive permitting and licensing fees, the total of which is expected to reach \$65,000. Council President Vincenti commented that Councilman Giangiordano would be his point of contact on the Council regarding this project. Mr. Boniface commented that the waiving of fees is not permitted as per the Harford County Code He stated he would speak with the County Executive to work with the Town on possible cost saving ventures related to the permitting and licensing fees.

LEADS (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program--- Chief Moore provided attendees with an information packet regarding the LEAD Program as well as current data for Bel Air and Harford County

related to Opioid Overdoses from 2016 to 2020. Before discussing LEADS, he commented on the Safety Task Force and wanted to continue to enforce speed limits within the Town. He began to discuss LEADS and the major focus of ending the Opioid Crisis in the County. LEADS stems from other another program, DART (Drug Abatement Response Team) and expanded the program in attempt to intervene with individuals and families prior to an overdose but after a low-level criminal offense. Chief Moore provided data and signs to look for with individuals and families at risk. Partners with this program provide resources for those individuals and families at risk such as Klein Family Harford Crisis Center, Office of Mental Health/ Core Services Agency of Harford County, Harford County Health Department, Department of Social Services, Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy, and Maryland Opioid Commend Center. Other resources such as Harford County States Attorney Office, Youth and Victim Services, and Governor's Office recognized this program as a "Harm Reduction Program". Councilman Giangiordano commented on the homelessness in Bel Air and Chief Moore replied that two individuals have accepted help and one has declined.

Stats from Program:

Nine Clients are connected to permit housing. One Client in MAT (Medical Assistance Treatment). Four Clients in Behavioral Health Services. One Primary Care Position. Helped 26 individuals with cases with intensive case management, 11 social, and two stop referrals.

Councilman Wagner asked if the Council could receive data by age of overdose individuals in 2020. Councilman Shrodes commented on the missing opportunity of education on this matter due to the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN --- Town Administrator Bane commented that he is happy to see Municipal Meetings occurring again. He discussed the pros of the Town, different tourism-related events, the Town's work during the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic, and the different successes through 2020. Mr. Bane then commented on the American Rescue Plan and the guidelines in place for use of funding. He expressed hope that the Council as well as other municipalities could provide ideas and input for how to use the American Rescue Plan funding of \$8,500,000 properly as per the guidelines. Mr. Boniface commented on Harford County's plan to use their share of funds and the County Executive's ideas. Mr. Boniface offered to set up a meeting with Mr. Bane to continue the discussion at a later date. Council President Vincenti questioned the status of the businesses located in Bel Air. Mr. Bane advised that the businesses are doing well in light of the current circumstances and the businesses that closed were already planning to close in the year 2020 prior to the current economic circumstances. Councilman Beulah thanked Mr. Bane as well as the Town for their support of the Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial project. Mayor Chmielewski made a comment on the businesses and the hiring of Patti Parker as their Director of Community and Public Relations and her great work for the Town. Council President Vincenti thanked Mr. Bane for his presentation and his work for the Town.

HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS--- Council President Vincenti commented on the importance of having Dr. Bulson at the meeting this evening. Dr. Bulson discussed his decision to ask Mr. Brown to attend along with him to provide additional information if needed. Dr. Bulson commented on his appreciation for the Town and discussed different legislation that was introduced during the 2021 Maryland Legislative Session. Dr. Bulson stated that he is open for any questions from attendees. Mayor Chmielewski asked about mental health support for students and staff. Dr. Bulson responded that there are approximately 30 different programs for mental health and the team at each school was working to help with those experiencing mental health crises.

EXECUTIVE UPDATE--- Council President Vincenti asked if Mr. Boniface wanted to provide any updates or comments from the County Executive's Office. Mr. Boniface replied with the benefits of municipal meetings and their history. He also discussed the Department of Housing and Community

Development's work with grants for the business community and commented on Councilman Giangiordano work support and advocacy with those. He also discussed the continuation of working with the Town of Bel Air. Council President Vincenti replied with his appreciation of the Executive Branch's support of our local businesses.

CLOSING COMMENTS--- Council President Vincenti and Councilman Wagner made closing comments.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.