

July 26, 2022, Work Session, 7:01 pm
(held by Zoom Video Conferencing)

Mayor Furman, Council Members Bartram, Crimmins, Engle, Lichter, Town Manager Hoffman, Assistant to the Town Manager Marini, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present.

GIGS Courtyard Concert Proposal

Town Manager Hoffman stated that he reached out to Stan Edwards with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding the enforcement of noise violations in the Town. Mr. Edwards consulted with the County Attorney, who stated the Town can waive its right to enforce the County regulation, but the County still has primary jurisdiction. If DEP receives a complaint, they can enforce the regulation and require the event to shut down at 9:00pm.

Town Manager Hoffman mentioned a bill drafted by DEP in 2014 that would help alleviate some of these issues; however, they are having trouble finding a County Councilmember to sponsor the bill.

The Mayor and Council discussed the Town's past and future role regarding enforcement of noise from events; the challenges of enforcement and of increasing mixed-use zoning without updating the noise ordinance; weighing the competing interests of residents and local businesses; and potentially inviting the County Council to a concert to demonstrate these problems.

Sean Gaiser stated future concerts would end at 9:00 pm, although he might consider having more concerts on different days, such as Fridays, instead of only Saturdays.

The Council concurred they would draft a letter to the County Council, which would explain DEP's draft bill and invite them to attend one of the GIGS concerts to demonstrate the issues the proposal is trying to address. The letter will be discussed at the August Council Meeting to give the public an opportunity to comment.

County Bill 18-22, Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment

The Mayor and Council discussed and reviewed the Town's options regarding proposed County Bill 18-22 to prohibit the sale and use of combustion engine-powered leaf blowers and leaf vacuums. The County will have a public hearing on Bill 18-22 on September 20.

The Council discussed the areas of the County's bill that did not address whether there are replacements for combustion vacuums, the effects on municipal leaf collection; and equity considerations; and noted the importance of receiving comments from Residents.

Council Member Bartram will draft a document outlining the County's proposed bill for discussion at the August Town Meeting along with information for a potential survey.

Labor Day Parade and Festival

Town Manager Hoffman stated he confirmed with Montgomery County Police that they will provide coverage for the parade; noted the Town's policy of not requiring full uniform attire for marching bands if the temperature is 85 degrees or above; a new policy of requiring participants to walk in the parade without animals if the asphalt is above a certain temperature; and noted there was not a policy regarding cancellation of the parade.

The Council concurred to support any staff decisions if the parade needs to be cancelled due to unsafe conditions.

The Work Session ended at 8:40 pm.