

Kim Hughes – I can briefly touch on this, but I was going to bring it up during correspondence.

Tamara Skis – This is why I was asking about the COOs because the infrastructure cannot support more people using it.

10.3 Discussion of Annexation of properties – Kim Hughes has tasked the Land Use Committee, and the Planning Commission to review the annexation plan aligns with what we are trying to achieve, and the order makes sense. Consider what the deal needs to be?

10.4 Candy Rain: Kim Hughes stated that the Governor’s office has finally given direction about the candy rain and trick-or-treating activities for Halloween. Guidelines have been released classifying activities as low-risk, moderate-risk, and high-risk. They do not want any traditional door-to-door Halloween activities. “Trunk or Treat” events should not be held unless a process is in place to maintain social distancing and enforce wearing non-costume masks. This puts the town in a dilemma of how to handle Halloween this year. Jay Jones is in attendance tonight to speak on our traditional “Candy Rain” event that the town holds. Kim believes that from a liability standpoint, the town cannot hold a “Candy Rain” event, Jay believes that it can be done, but would be more work. Jay Jones said he would go along with whatever the town decides. Tamara Skis asked for what suggestions Jay Jones has in order to conduct the event in a safe manner. Jay Jones spoke on what guidelines he believes the town could utilize in order to hold the event, such as increased social distancing, proper PPE, and smaller groups. He also feels it would be hypocritical to hold an event in the park, but keep the park closed to the public at other times. Tamara Skis stated that another possibility would be the empty lot next to the fire station. Jay Jones has concerns about traffic at that location. Kim Hughes says that even with these suggestions in place, the town would need more help to hold the event, and the town struggles to get the help needed to hold events under normal circumstances. Kim does not want to see this become a liability issue. Jay Jones said that he would be against the “Candy Rain” event without the extra precautions and it may not be possible to hold it this year.

Tamara Skis – What is the normal turnout for this event?

Kim Hughes – When we first started out, we barely saw 50 kids. Last year we had around 160 kids, and that is just the kids.

Tamara Skis – My concern is, are we at a level where we would need to submit a plan to Department of Public Health?

Kim Hughes – I do not think we will be at that level. At the backpack giveaway we had more people show up for flu shots than backpacks.

Jay Jones – It would have to be a longer event, in smaller groups, which would put more of a burden on the town. We would need tables set up with hand sanitizer, PPE, and it cannot be held in the park.

Roxann Moore – Perhaps the event could utilize the two separate entrances to the park, one as an entrance and the other as an exit.

Kim Hughes – What are your thoughts on having the “Candy Rain” event?

Sherita Perry – The idea sounds good.

Virginia Weller – After the lack of help at our last event, I just do not see us having the help necessary to hold it.

Tanya Mann – Halloween is not a holiday that I celebrate, so I will not be attending.

Tamara Skis – I like the idea, but I feel we need more commitment and need more help. We need people to help with traffic, and distancing, and the candy drop, and talking to the parents. As Virginia said, we do not have the people we need to help.

Kim Hughes – We never have the help we need for these events.

Tamara Skis – I think we need to see if we can get the help we need.

Kim Hughes – We can put a vote on the table to hold the event if we get enough help, but not have it if there is a lack of assistance.

Tamara Skis – I think we need to reach out to the fire company and see if they have any resources and have a joint special meeting if they are interested with a quorum of council present. That is the only way we will know if we have enough help.

Kim Hughes – Do we want to make a motion?

Tamara Skis – Motion made that the Town Council reach out to the fire company and request assistance, specifically people, to come and volunteer for this event and then hold a special meeting with them. We can also open this to the public, calling on parents to help if they want this event to take place. If we can get the commitment to resources, it is doable, but we need people. Sherita Perry – Seconded. **Voting in favor of the motion** – Hughes, Perry, Skis. **Voting in opposition** – Weller. **Abstaining** – Mann. Motion Carried.

Virginia Weller – If it does take place, I will be there to help because I feel it is my job.

Kim Hughes – That will all depend on the fire company meeting next Tuesday.

Trick or Treating: Kim Hughes stated the Governor's office does not want it done, so she thought back to something Rowland Moore Jr. stated previously about moving Halloween to the fire station as a drive-thru event. Explained that families would drive into the apparatus bay, pick up their candy, and drive out of the apparatus bay without every getting out of their car. She would like it brought back to the fire company to hold this in lieu of door-to-door Trick or Treat. This would be a safe way to allow kids to still have a Halloween. Chaz Schmitt, President of the Ellendale Fire Co., was present and asked for his feelings and stated he was for holding the drive-thru event. Tamara Skis stated her concern that Halloween is on a Saturday and having both the "Candy Rain" and drive-thru events on the same day. Kim Hughes stated that "Candy Rain" is normally the weekend before Halloween.

Tamara Skis – So what would be the message? Are we saying that in town, we cannot have Trick or Treating?

Kim Hughes – No, I would just say that the Governor is considering door-to-door as “high risk”, so the Town Council’s alternative this year is the drive-thru event. Not saying that you cannot give out candy from your house, these are not laws, just guidelines and recommendations. So no, we could not tell someone that kids cannot go door-to-door if they so choose. But we can show we are promoting something more COVID friendly. From a safety standpoint, this is the Town Council’s alternative.

Tamara Skis – I like the idea and want to point out that October is also Fire Prevention Month. We have not held a fire prevention event yet, so perhaps the fire company can give out fire prevention materials. I know the fire company is normally doing something anyway, so it is just tagging along with them.

Kim Hughes – Right, the Ladies Auxiliary usually does a giveaway at the fire station. Sherita, what are your thoughts?

Sherita Perry – It sounds good.

Kim Hughes – Virginia, what do you think?

Virginia Weller – I like that idea better than the Candy Rain.

Kim Hughes – Tanya, I know you do not participate, but what are your thoughts?

Tanya Mann – It seems like a safer alternative without them having close contact.

Kim Hughes – We can do a similar motion to the Candy Rain event.

Tamara Skis – I would like to amend my previous motion to include these activities.

Kim Hughes – We would do our normal 6 pm to 8 pm time, is that okay?

Tamara Skis – Yes.

Kim Hughes – Okay, Tamara has amended her motion to include trick-or-treating possibly in combination with the fire company.

Tanya Mann – Question on the motion – If you are doing trick-or-treating on October 31st, what time are you thinking about for the Candy Rain?

Kim Hughes – It is normally a 12:00 to 1:00 time, but that would depend because we need to spread it out. We will have to say time to be determined based on what the fire company says, they may have a time that works better for them getting help. With that being said, can Tamara Skis get a second to her amended motion?

Seconded by Virginia Weller. **Voting in favor of the amended motion** – Hughes, Weller, Perry, Mann, Skis. Motion Carried.

11. Correspondence: Received a letter from the Fire Company for their annual fundraiser.

The lawyer also sent advice related to the industrial zoning.

Kim Hughes advised about a safety concern on Shorts Alley where a tree has made the road impassable to box trucks. The tree is on an owned property and is in violation of our own code. A tree expert advised that the tree was a danger and advised that in Georgetown the town would authorize the work and then put a lien against the property to recover the losses. The property owner has already advised that he cannot afford the costs of removing the tree for few more months. Council may have to convene a special meeting depending on the response of the property owner.

Steve Marsh from Insight Homes confirmed that they are in negotiations to buy the first set of properties of Ingram Village. They have allotted 2.5 parking spaces per townhome, along with additional parking on the side. They are in discussions related to a sewer problem, and they will be sending plans to Council. They also intend to build 24 single family homes, but bigger lots than currently planned.

Tamara Skis – Do the lots have to be rezoned?

Kim Hughes – They have to be re-surveyed and have to come to Council for approval. I do not see any reason why that would be a problem.

Not only are they doing the single-family homes, but they also plan to build 48 townhomes.

A complaint was raised about stray cats in Ingram Village. Kim Hughes was not aware of cat issues in the area. Kim spoke to another resident who advised that yes there are cats in the area but the resident didn't complain because they were aware that there wasn't much that could be done, and that they aren't governed like dogs. The resident who filed the complaint was given resources to reach out to, but ultimately decided not to pursue in case it was a neighbor's cat.

Kim Hughes has advised that she has called the county and DelDOT regarding inspections and both parties are advising they do not do that type of inspection. Kim reached out to an ADA Compliance person at DelDOT, and they said they were going to do what they can to assist us. A County member advised that they do the building inspections but not roadways and sidewalks.

A letter was received from Delaware State Housing Authority, stating its time to start looking for CDBG funding. The requirements state that you must have at least 4 targeted houses that need it qualify, and there have been that many identified in town.

Kim Hughes brought a proposed bicycle plan. The starting point is unclear, but it follows Reynolds Pond Rd and follows out to Rte 30

A speed traffic dolly has been acquired through grant funding.

12. Recognition of Visitor's: Recognition of Visitor's was moved forward in the Order of Business to accommodate local politicians who wished to address the community on their campaign platforms. Patti Drago, write-in candidate for Sussex County Council District 3, addressed the room. Greg Fuller, Democratic candidate for the 36th District of the Delaware House of Representatives, addressed the room.