

Tuesday, April 2, 2013

The regular meeting of the Smithsburg Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2013, with Mayor Myers and Councilmembers Abbott, Fritsch, Jernigan, Lushbaugh and Souders present.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Fritsch.

On a motion by Councilman Fritsch, Council unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

On a motion by Councilman Souders the minutes of the March 5th meeting of the Mayor and Council were approved as presented. On a motion by Councilman Lushbaugh, the minutes of the March 26th Work Session were approved.

Councilmember Souders made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Myers reported on the following: (1) Attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Benjamin Connelly. The Mayor presented him a certificate on his becoming an Eagle Scout from the Mayor and Council. (2) Attended Historical Society Directors meeting. (3) Along with the Clerk/Treasurer, met with Town accountant to review the town's financial report to bring the Council up to date. (4) Met with Pride Days Coordinator and Town Staff at Veterans Park to review plans for the event. (5) Attended Washington County Chapter of Maryland Municipal League held at Funkstown. Topics discussed were Highway User Fund, County Excise Tax and other municipal updates.

REPORTS -- DEPARTMENT HEADS

Betsy Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/ Manager reported the following: (1) Reviewed water meter readings. (2) Prepared and mailed out water/sewer bills. (3) Met with Rodney Saunders of McGladrey, Town Auditors, to discuss financial matters. (4) Started working on budget. (5) Attended meeting with members of the Park Commission, Public Works Director and Randy Dick regarding the electric upgrades at Veterans Park. (6) Worked on Pride Days vendor applications, program book ads, posters, etc. The next meeting will be held on April 4th. Opening Ceremony will be held at 6 PM on Friday night, followed by a Karaoke Contest. We are still accepting vendors. (7) OptoTraffic has worked with the office to set up our account with PNC bank to allow access to review receipts. Chief Knight will give a complete accounting of tickets and amount collected in his report tonight. (8) Washington County Commissioners will be holding their evening meeting at Town Hall on April 30th at 7 PM. Anyone wishing to speak to the Commissioners for a specific item should either contact the Commissioner's office or Betsy Martin prior to the meeting.

Chief Knight presented the following report: (1) There were 101 calls for service during the month of March with one adult arrest. (2) The department patrolled a total of 3,100 miles this month and did 4 hours and 25 minutes of foot patrol. (3) A total of 4 premise checks were conducted during the month. (4) Chief Knight, Corporal Witmer, Officer Hudson and Officer Munson attended in service training at Police Activity League in Hagerstown. (5) Chief Knight attended the House of Delegates Hearing regarding the Special Deputy Bill in Annapolis. (6) Chief Knight reported that since the speed cameras have been in operation, there have been a total of 485 tickets issued.

Jeff Long, Public Works Director, presented the following report: (1) Completed 1st quarter water meter readings and re-reads. (2) Dealt with snow events on the 7th and 25th. (3) Installed all plumbing from winterization and turned on the water in both parks. (4) Potomac Edison trimmed along the electric

lines in Veterans Park. (5) Began placing tree chips throughout the wooded areas in Veterans Park. (6) Installed signs for Pride Days. (7) Installed directional signs for the Lions Park. (8) Attended a meeting with the Parks Commission pertaining to electric upgrades at Veterans Park. (9) Attended an eight hour course offered by Texas A&M University on the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act. (10) Cleaned and stored all snow removal equipment. (11) Trimmed all trees in Lions Community Park. (12) Repaired a large sink hole in Lions Community Park. (13) Changed out ten water meters for testing. Upcoming events and projects are: (1) Conduct semi-annual hydrant flushing. (2) Paint restrooms at Lions Community Park. (3) Mulch play areas at Lions Community Park. (4) Finish installing chicken wire at Pavilion #2 in Veterans Park. Average daily water consumption for the month was 222,642 gallons.

REPORTS -- COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

Appeals Board – No Hearings.

Smithsburg Community Activities Commission – The Commission met on April 1st and finalized their budget for submittal to the Mayor.

Parks and Improvement Commission – Dave Muldoon of the Parks Commission reported the following: (1) They are currently working on having the design done for the electrical upgrades to the Park. (2) New signs for Lions Community Park were made by the County and have been installed. (3) They are working on the Memorial Day Ceremony and Veterans Day Ceremony. (4) Will be getting bids for the repair to Veterans Park Walking Trail. (5) The Commission is accepting ideas for the next phase of Veterans Park (2.5 acres).

Planning Commission – Randy Dick reported that the Planning Commission will meet on April 25th to continue their work on the ordinances.

Library Advisory Board – Councilman Fritsch reported that the Library Board will be participating in Pride Days.

On a motion by Councilman Souders, Council unanimously voted to accept all reports as presented.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Patrick Baker, Deputy Chief of the Smithsburg Fire Dept., reported the following: (1) They had 39 calls for service with an average of 6 volunteers per call. (2) They have the permit for the fireworks for Pride Days. (3) The Fire Dept. is still offering free smoke detectors.

James Ulrich, Chief of Smithsburg Emergency Medical Services, reported the following: (1) SEMS is currently assisting with Emergency services in the Fairplay area. (2) He reported that Councilman Fritsch did a ride-a-long. (3) They are currently conducting their fund drive. (4) There were 104 calls for service during the month of March with a year to date total of 305.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OR MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS/CONCERNS

No Comments.

OLD BUSINESS

WIP Program – No meetings held.

NEW BUSINESS

Betsy Martin read a letter from Mark Mills of the Washington County Public Schools requesting a building permit fee waiver for the installation of a storage shed at the Smithsburg Middle School. Total cost for the permit is \$118.00. On a motion by Councilman Souders, Council unanimously approved the fee waiver.

On the Agenda for the April 16th financial work session will be (1) Meet with Town Auditor to discuss financial matters. (2) General Fund Budget.

On the Agenda for the April 23rd work session will be: (1) General Fund Budget. (2) Time Management. (3) Pride Days – Mayor and Council Participation.

COUNCILMEMBER REMARKS

Councilman Fritsch reported that he had toured Smithsburg Emergency Medical Services and did a ride-a-long. He has requested more information on the recycling program and I and I repair program.

Councilman Jernigan encouraged everyone to use the town's website.

Councilman Souders reminded everyone to start collecting items for the Spring Clean up Day on May 4th. He also reminded everyone to slow down at the school intersection.

Councilman Abbott stated that outdoor athletics have started in the area and he encouraged everyone to support the youth in these athletics.

Councilman Lushbaugh stated that it is time for Council to start work on the budget. He also encouraged everyone to use the website and to participate in Spring Clean Up.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Martin,
Clerk/Treasurer/Manager