

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

The regular meeting of the Smithsburg Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, August 9, 2011, with Mayor Myers and Councilmembers Aurand, Jernigan, Martin and Souders present. Councilmember Lushbaugh was absent.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Souders.

Councilmember Jernigan asked to have the following items added to New Business on tonight's agenda: (1) Parking Lot Lights at Veterans Park. (2) Fire Hydrant – E. Water St. On a motion by Councilmember Jernigan, Council unanimously approved the agenda as amended.

Councilmember Souders made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7th meeting of the Mayor and Council. Councilmember Aurand, Jernigan and Souders voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Martin abstained from voting due to the fact that he was not present at the meeting. The minutes of the July 5<sup>th</sup> Mayor and Council were presented. Due to Councilmember Aurand being the only Councilmember in attendance at that meeting, she stated that the minutes should be accepted into record. The minutes of the July 26<sup>th</sup> work session were unanimously approved on a motion by Councilmember Souders. On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the June 15<sup>th</sup> Executive Session as presented. The minutes are to remain open.

The June Treasurer's report was presented and accepted by Council on a motion by Councilmember Aurand. The July Treasurer's report was approved unanimously by the Council on a motion by Councilmember Souders.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Myers reported on the following: (1) Met with Town Attorney and Staff Department Heads to review issues and discuss upcoming projects. (2) Prepared grant request for Community Parks and Playground Program. The request is for the walkway extension. (3) Reviewed volunteers interested in serving on the Charter Ad Hoc Review Committee. (4) Attended Washington County Chapter of MML as Williamsport. (5) Attended Historical Society Director's meeting. (6) Attended the blessing ceremony held at the Smithsburg Fire Hall for placing the new engine "71" in service. Chaplain Rev. Julie Brigham held a very impressive service. (7) Assisted with National Night Out. This event was a success, thanks to the many persons who assisted and took part in the presentation. (8) Met with Scout Tim Horning of Troop 108 who is working on his Citizenship in the Community Badge. (9) Wished Bud Lucassen a speedy recovery following his hospital stay and now home recuperating.

## **REPORTS -- DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Betsy Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/ Manager reported the following: (1) Received payments on water and sewer billings and taxes. (2) Continued work on audit. (3) Letters were sent out to area businesses in regards to advertising on the town's new website. (4) Worked on fall sports schedule. (5) Completed application for Community Parks and Playground Grant for extension of walking trail. (6) Completed and mailed Program Open Space Application for roll up doors at Veterans Park Pavilion #1. (7) Granted permission to Breast Cancer Awareness of Cumberland Valley to tie pink ribbons in the square as part of Park in the Pink Awareness Campaign. (8) Helped with National Night Out. (9) Wished former Councilmember Lucassen a speedy recovery.

Chief George Knight of the Smithsburg Police Department presented the following report: (1) There were 134 calls for service during the month of July with 2 adult and 3 juvenile arrests. The juvenile arrests were for destruction of property at Veterans Park. (2) The department patrolled a total of 3,493 miles this month and did 36 hours and 10 minutes of foot patrol. The foot patrol included foot patrol at the Smithsburg Fire Company carnival. (3) A total of 3,533 patrol checks and 27 premise checks were

conducted during the month. (4) Officer Hudson spoke to the children from Washington County Recreation Camp at Veterans Park. (5) Corporal Witmer attended the Community Outreach meeting at the Washington County Sheriff's Dept.

Jeff Long, Public Works Director, gave the following report: (1) Liquid Engineering cleaned and inspected the underground water storage tanks. No problems were found and their report stated that the tanks were in excellent condition. (2) Completed the second weed spraying for the season. (3) Thoroughly cleaned all pumping stations. (4) Repaired areas of vandalism in both parks. (5) Painted the fire escape, rear windows and doors at Town Hall. (6) Replaced several street signs. (7) Serviced the diesel generator at the Smithsburg pump station. Upcoming projects include: (1) Inmates with the D.O.C. will be working at the Lions Community Park the week of August 8<sup>th</sup>. (2) Fiber coat the large pavilion roof at Lions Community Park. Average daily water usage for the month was 235,879 gallons.

## **REPORTS -- COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES**

Appeals Board – Randy Dick reported that the Appeals Board will be meeting on Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> to hear an appeal filed by Linda and James Burns for a variance from the required ten (10) feet rear yard set-back to three (3) feet six (6) inches for the purpose of enlarging and adding stairs to the exiting deck. Property is located at 125 Sentry Ridge in a Planned Residential District.

SCAC – No meeting.

Parks and Improvement Commission – Park Chairman Carlo Beella, gave the following report: This report includes the activities of the Parks and Improvement Commission reported in the minutes of our July and August 2011 meetings. (1) A new FACEBOOK blog as approved by the Council is under construction to cover activities of both parks. (2) Inmates are on board this week to help with clean up and maintenance of both parks. (3) The approved swags to decorate the lamp posts at Christmas have been ordered to take advantage of a 20% summer discount. Additional decorations for the town square planters are being considered. (4) Our member Mark Cline is preparing preliminary sketches for the roll up door installation at the Veterans Park pavilion. The sketches will be used for final engineering drawings before seeking construction bids. Review by our insurance company will be sought. (5) Agreements have been made with the fall football organizations on use of the fields at Veterans Park. They cover parking and turf maintenance. (6) There were discussions on using available lighting to permit use of some park facilities after dusk after both parks are closed per current regulations. The discussion was tabled after considering that the bathrooms are closed at dusk and for other security issues. (7) Two more Eagle Scout candidates have approached us with proposed park projects. The projects will be reviewed and approved and presented to the Mayor and Council for approval before they seek approvals from the Scout organization. (8) We are in contact with the first candidate who has an approved plan to maintain the small pavilions. He hopes to complete that project before fall.

Planning Commission – Randy Dick reported the draft copy of the Comprehensive Plan has been corrected and copy sent to the State. The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

On a motion by Councilmember Aurand, Council unanimously voted to accept all reports.

## **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

Patrick Baker, Assistant Chief of the Smithsburg Volunteer Fire Department, reported that there were 38 calls for service during the month of July. Average personnel per call was 7.9. He stated that the

carnival was very successful and he thanked the Police Department for providing security. The new engine has been placed in service. Mr. Baker noted that the Fire Department will be holding a dedication service on September 11<sup>th</sup> for the new flag pole in front of the building.

James Ulrich, Deputy Chief of SEMS, reported that they had between 90 and 100 calls for service in July. SEMS participated in National Night Out. They will be continuing their Public CPS campaign in September.

#### **CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OR MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS/CONCERNS**

No comments

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Randy Dick reported that he will be attending meetings for the Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP) on August 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

Randy Dick reported Floodplain Map updates are still on hold.

The Comprehensive Plan has been finalized per Randy Dick and sent to the state for their review. The State has 60 days to review and send back their comments.

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously approved Mayor Myers' appointment of Mark Barnhart as the Alternate Member of the Appeals Board.

Councilmember Jernigan made a motion to approve the request by Randy Harshman of Harshman's Automotive to have one parking space in front of his business be marked for one hour parking from 8 AM to 6 PM. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion was held on the Park Commission Social networking. Per discussion held at the July 26<sup>th</sup> work session, consensus of the Council was that no action would be taken by the Council on this issue.

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously approved Mayor Myers' appointments of the following to the Ad Hoc Charter Committee: Jack Wenthe, Kevin Jeter, Dave Muldoon and Melissa Williams. Council unanimously approved Councilmember Souders' motion to appoint Councilmembers Jernigan and Souders to the Ad Hoc Charter Committee.

As a result of a concern expressed by members of the Parks and Improvement Commission, Councilmember Souders made a motion to keep the three lights at Veterans Park parking lot on from dusk to dawn for a trial period of 30 days. Chief Knight is to report back to Council at the September meeting as to whether this is helping to deter vandalism.

Discussion was then held on the need to check on all fire hydrants in the town to make sure that there are no obstructions near them. Councilmember Jernigan stated that one hydrant has a utility pole that is eleven and one half inches from the hydrant, while information from OSHA, supplied by the Mayor to Council, which states that nothing should be closer than 3 feet from any hydrant. Council asked for the Fire Department to go through the Town to check to see if there are any other problems with hydrants in the town.

On the agenda for the August work session will be: (1) Trees in Developments. (2) Ethics Ordinance. (3) Parking Request – Bonnie Winders and Thomas Nussear. (4) Complaint Protocol. (5) Grove Lane Overlay Bids. (6) Drainage Issue.

#### **COUNCILMEMBER REMARKS**

Councilmember Aurand wished Bud Lucassen a speedy recovery.

Councilmember Jernigan also wished Bud Lucassen a speedy recovery. Councilmember Jernigan made the following comment: “He urged citizens to contact Councilman Jernigan or other Council members about their concerns in the town and that they need to know that they will be heard and they will not be squashed unlike Councilman Jernigan when he is trying to talk and Mayor Myers interrupts him.”

Councilmember Souders also wished Bud Lucassen a quick recovery. He echoed the comments by Mayor Myers and Betsy Martin and thanked everyone who helped with National Night Out – SCAC Committee, The Police Department and anyone else who participated. He thanked the members who were appointed to the Ad Hoc Charter Committee for volunteering their time.

Councilmember Martin also wished Bud Lucassen a speedy recovery. He stated that the recycling program is off to a good start. He urged residents to give recycling a try.

Mayor Myers adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Martin,  
Clerk/Treasurer/Manager