

Tuesday, August 14, 2012

The regular meeting of the Smithsburg Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, with Mayor Myers and Councilmembers Abbott, Fritsch, Lushbaugh and Souders present. Councilmember Jernigan was absent.

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

Mayor Myers requested the following to be added to the agenda for tonight's meeting: Old Business – Door Hangers/Smoke Testing. New Business – Park Commission Resignation and Appointment. On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously approved the agenda as amended.

Councilmember Abbott made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 3, 2012 meeting of the Mayor and Council as presented. Councilmembers Abbott, Fritsch and Lushbaugh voted in favor of the motion, Councilmember Souders abstained. Motion passed by a majority vote. The minutes of the July 24th Work Session were approved on a motion by Councilmember Lushbaugh.

The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved by the Council on a motion by Councilmember Souders.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Myers reported on the following: (1) Attended Historical Society Directors meeting. (2) Attended Smithsburg's 8U All-Star Championship Game at the Little Sluggers Field. It was a great game with the Smithsburg team winning. She extended her congratulations. (3) Attended Washington County Chapter of Maryland Municipal League held at Williamsport. The scholarship winners were recognized. (4) Attended the exhibit entitled "Smithsburg and the Arts" held at the Miller House in Hagerstown. Thanks goes out to the Washington County Historical Society and the Smithsburg Historical Society for the display highlighting Smithsburg's artists and other contemporary works from our local residents. (5) The Mayor and Council has received from the County Department of Planning and Zoning a proposed map amendment to their Zoning Ordinance, Case Number RZ-12-003, for review and comments. (6) Helped out with National Night Out which was a great success. Thanks to all who volunteered and the citizens for attending. (7) Attended Park Commission meeting to review grant requests issues.

REPORTS -- DEPARTMENT HEADS

Betsy Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/ Manager reported the following: (1) Continued preparatory work on Town Audit. Auditors are currently working here gathering information for the report. (2) Processed water and sewer bill payments and tax payments. (3) Prepared and mailed out quarterly tax reports. (4) Received letter from Janet Lung of Breast Cancer Awareness – Cumberland Valley, Inc. asking for permission to hang pink ribbons in the square as part of the Park in the Pink Awareness Campaign the week of October 8th. Permission was granted, as in the past, to hang the ribbons. (5) Continued working with the Energy Grant. (6) Attended the County Council of Governments meeting. Steve Goodrich spoke on the "Plan Maryland". Julie Pippel spoke on the Draft Maryland Offset Policy. Greg Murray, County Administrator, also told those present that the towns can put up banners at the airport to advertise their town. (7) Nancy sent out letters to the businesses who are listed on the town's website to update their information. (8) Follow up letters were sent out to those residents who have not responded to the original letter about the broken or missing sewer clean-out caps. (9) Helped with the National Night Out. She extended thanks to all who helped to make it a success. (10) A reminder was given to all who use the Council room to make sure door is locked and all lights are turned off when leaving the building.

Chief George Knight presented the following report: (1) There were 134 calls for service during the month of July with 2 adult arrests. (2) The department patrolled a total of 3,217 miles this month and did 27 hours and 5 minutes of foot patrol. (3) A total of 13 premise checks were conducted during the month. (4) Chief Knight attended the Community Outreach meeting at Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Jeff Long, Public Works Director, submitted the following report: (1) Met with Rose Cline-Lowe of Maryland Rural Water and coordinated smoke testing of sewer lines. Testing is scheduled to begin on Sept. 10th. (2) Met with Ginny Baylor of Game Time to discuss installation of mulch and playground edging at the Lions Community Park. A minimal amount of mulch was put in to cover any trip or fall hazards. (3) Met with Councilman Fritsch for a tour of the water and sewer facilities as well as the Public Works buildings. (4) Installed a new payment drop box at Town Hall. (5) Completed the second weed spraying of the season. (6) Installed new school zone traffic signs on N. Main St. (7) Removed the old utility poles at Lions Community Park. (8) Mr. ReHab was in town and completed all priority 2 repairs. (9) Installed one hour parking signs in the area of 38-46 S. Main Street. He thanked Councilman Jernigan for having the holes bored. (9) Replaced chain barriers at Lions Community Park. (10) Replaced a meter crock on Stevenson Road. (11) Replaced the springs on the large whale spring toy at Veterans Park. Upcoming events and projects are: (1) Third quarter water meter reading. (2) Distribute door hangars. (3) Smoke Testing. Average daily water consumption for the month was 220,877 gallons.

REPORTS -- COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

Appeals Board – Randy Dick reported that the Appeals Board met on July 26th and granted to Michele Cline of 100 Byron Drive a variance from the required ten feet side and rear yard setback to five feet for the construction of a detached garage.

Smithsburg Community Activities Commission – No report.

Parks and Improvement Commission – Donnie Souders, Council Liaison for the Parks and Improvement Commission reported the following: July meeting – (1) Discussion was held on mulching of Lions Community Park Playground and Fitness Stations at Veterans Park. (2) Reported that Public Works Department had completed the painting of the rest rooms, installation of chicken wire, trees trimmed and spring toys handles fixed. August Meeting – (1) No request will be submitted to Community Parks and Playground for the next fiscal year. Upgrading/replacing the small pavilion at Lions Community Park has been suggested as a possible idea for another grant application. (2) Discussed POS Grant to upgrade utilities at Veterans Park. (3) Obtain bid package for walking trail extension at Veterans Park. (4) Signage for Lions Community Park will be discussed at the September Mayor and Council meeting.

Planning Commission – Randy Dick reported that the Planning Commission will be meeting on August 16. On the agenda will be review of the proposed map amendment to Washington County's Zoning Ordinance, Case Number RZ-12-003.

On a motion by Councilmember Fritsch, Council unanimously voted to accept all reports as presented.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Sari Kilheffer of the Smithsburg Historical Society reported that the Society would be holding their Ice Cream Social on August 15th.

OLD BUSINESS

Randy Dick reported that the next meeting of the WIP committee will be held on September 7th.

Mayor Myers informed Council that the Town of Williamsport is holding a concert on September 15th at River Bottom Park in Williamsport to raise funds to help with their WIP fees. The other towns in the County have been invited to participate. Betsy Martin is to contact the Town of Williamsport to find out more particulars on this event.

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously approved the motion to introduce for adoption the Charter Amendment Resolution to amend Section 31-8 of the Town Charter – President and Vice-President of Council. A Public Hearing will be held on September 4th at 7 PM to take Public Comments on this Charter Amendment Resolution.

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously approved the motion to introduce for adoption the Charter Amendment Resolution to amend Section 31-19 of the Town Charter – Power and Duties of the Mayor. A Public Hearing will be held on September 4th at 7 PM to take Public Comments on this Charter Amendment Resolution.

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously approved the Smoke Testing door hangars as presented with printing to be done by Michael's Printing at a cost not to exceed \$250.00.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Lushbaugh made a motion to adopt the Council Guidelines Policy as presented. Motion passed by an unanimous vote of Council. Council unanimously approved the motion by Councilmember Souders to institute a new Elected Officials' Policy Manual in which the Council Guidelines would be placed.

Mayor Myers read into record a letter of resignation from Jeff Davis from the Parks and Improvement Commission. On a motion by Councilmember Fritsch, Council unanimously approved the Mayor's appointment of Melissa Williams to the Parks and Improvement Commission.

On the agenda for the August 28th Work Session will be: (1) Municipal Infractions Information (2) Drainage Swale – Whispering Hills. (3) Review Resolution – Qualification for Commissions, Boards and Committees. (4) Smoke Testing Update. (5) Speed Cameras Agreement Review.

The Mayor and Council will hold a Work Session on September 11th at 7 PM to discuss the Code review.

COUNCILMEMBER REMARKS

Councilmember Souders expressed his condolences to James Ulrich and his family on the death of James' brother, Alex. He also thanked Jeff Davis for his years of service to the Parks and Improvement Commission. He asked that the items of Capital Improvement Projects Plan and modification of the town's recycling to include businesses and apartments be placed on an upcoming Work Session.

Councilmember Fritsch stated that he had met with the Public Works Director, Jeff Long, and did a tour of the town facilities. He also said that he had enjoyed National Night Out.

Councilmember Lushbaugh thanked the Police Dept., SEMS, Fire Department, Mayor and Council, SCAC and others who help make National Night Out a success. He also invited everyone to attend the Historical Society's Ice Cream Social.

Councilmember Abbott also thanked Jeff Davis for his service to the Parks and Improvement Commission. He stated that Mr. Davis is an asset to the community. Councilmember Abbott also informed everyone that there will be a Candlelight Vigil tomorrow evening in memory of Alex Ulrich. He said that he enjoyed National Night Out and that there was a great turn out.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Martin,
Clerk/Treasurer/Manager