

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

The regular meeting of the Smithsburg Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, December 6, 2011, with Mayor Myers and Councilmembers Aurand, Jernigan, Lushbaugh, Martin and Souders present.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Aurand. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Myers asked for a moment of silence in memory of former Councilmember Charles "Bud" Lucassen. The following comments were made by those in attendance about Mr. Lucassen: (1) Councilman Lushbaugh stated that the first time he met Bud was when he was running for Council and Bud stated that he could trust him and that he (Bud) would not run for office. Councilman Lushbaugh stated that Bud was a special guy. (2) Councilman Souders stated that he felt that the highlight of Bud's life was that he was able to serve on the Council. (3) Councilwoman Aurand echoed Councilmember Souders remark. She said that Bud was a special person and attended all meetings. (4) Councilman Martin also echoed the previous remarks and stated that Bud was quite interesting and will be missed. (5) Councilman Jernigan stated that when he did snow removal for the town Bud would always thank him for the good job he did. (6) Randy Dick said that he will always remember Bud for always asking questions. (7) Chief Knight stated that Bud took a liking to the three Police Officers. (8) Nancy Walzl said that she will miss talking to Bud. (9) Kevin Jeter said that Bud will be missed and they will have a hard time filling his spot on the Park Commission. (10) Mayor Myers stated that Bud was always interested in the town from the time that he moved here. She remembers meeting him in the middle of Byron Drive when he first moved here and talked to her about the need to have Byron Drive completed. (11) Betsy Martin said that she will also miss Bud. She stated that if Bud didn't understand something, he would always call her and ask questions.

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously voted to approve the agenda as written.

Councilmember Aurand made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 1st meeting of the Mayor and Council. Motion passed by a majority vote. The minutes of the November 8th special Work Session were approved by a majority vote on a motion by Councilmember Martin. On a motion by Councilmember Lushbaugh, Council unanimously approved the November 29th work session minutes as written.

The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously by the Council on a motion by Councilmember Souders. On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously voted to have a copy of the month's purchase journal added as a supplement to the monthly Treasurer's report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Myers reported on the following: (1) Participated in the annual Veterans Day ceremony held at Veterans Memorial Gardens. She extended her thanks to Carlo Belella and the Parks Commission. She also extended a special thank you to Kevin Jeter for volunteering to chair the Park Commission at this busy time. (2) Attended Park Commission meeting to discuss the Project Open Space request for FY2013 and the 5-year plan. (3) Attended Pride Days meeting. Mayor Myers encouraged more citizens to get involved. (4) Met with our Public Works Director, County Officials, State Officials and our Town Engineer concerning a sewer line issue and the county's road improvement plan. More meetings are forthcoming as the exact plans are finalized. This road improvement is at the corner of Stevenson Road and Smithsburg-Leitersburg Road. (5) Attended the Historical Society's Directors meeting. (6) Attended Washington County Chapter of MML meeting with our legislators held at Clear Spring. The top priorities for MML are the restoring of Highway User Fund in 2012 and to have the Police Aid replenished in 2012. (7) Attended and participated in the Home Town Christmas events. Thanks go out to the Smithsburg Community Activities Commission and all others who worked to make the weekend a very nice event. Mayor Myers stated that this event was a great way to begin the season and she wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

REPORTS -- DEPARTMENT HEADS

Betsy Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/ Manager reported the following: (1) Continued work on the Town's website. (2) Sent out 78 Water Disconnect Notices. 7 properties were posted. Only 2 properties were disconnected. (3) Attended the Veterans Day Ceremony. She extended her thanks to all who participated and to those who attended. (4) Prepared the 2013 Program Open Space application for submittal to Washington County Parks and Recreation Board. (5) Attended the MML dinner at Clear Spring. (6) She reported that the traffic signal improvement project has been finished. The replacement of the air conditioning unit at Town Hall will take place shortly. (7) Thanked Tunya Pack and the members of the SCAC for their work on the Christmas activities (8) She wished Carlo Belella a speedy recovery. (9) Betsy Martin expressed her condolences to Marge Lucassen. She also extended her condolences to the members of the Boonsboro Police Department following the death of Sgt. Richard Poffenberger. (10) Reminded everyone that the next Pride Days meeting will be held on January 19th at 7 PM. (11) Informed Council that the County Commissioners will be having their evening meeting in Smithsburg on June 12, 2012. (12) Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chief George Knight of the Smithsburg Police Department presented the following report: (1) There were 113 calls for service during the month of November with 2 adult arrests. (2) The department patrolled a total of 3,555 miles this month and did 9 hours and 25 minutes of foot patrol. (3) A total of 4,021 patrol checks and 9 premise checks were conducted during the month. (4) Officer Hudson attended Underage Drinking/Party Enforcement training at GOCCP in Sykesville. (5) Chief Knight attended Terminal Agency Coordinator Training at the 911 Center. (6) Office Munson attended Mobil Data Training at the Washington County Sheriff's Office. (7) Chief Knight also noted that the department attended the funeral of Sgt. Richard Poffenberger of the Boonsboro Police Department. He has also offered the department's assistance to Boonsboro PD until they are able to fill the vacancy. (8) He reported that the new vehicle is in service. (9) The Ford Explorer is in service for the winter.

Due to the absence of Jeff Long, Public Works Director, the following written reported was presented: (1) Winterized both parks and all pumping stations. (2) Tested and installed all Christmas decorations. (3) Installed new snow emergency route signs in the areas designated as such. (4) Began 4th quarter water meter readings. (5) Several pothole repairs were completed. (6) LGIT conducted an inspection of all town properties and no violations were found. (7) Installed the town's website address on all Public Works vehicles. (8) Assisted with the Christmas parade. (9) Cleaned up brush and limbs from the Oct.29 storm. (10) Raked and cleaned the Memorial Garden area for the Veterans Day ceremony. (11) Conducted the last mowing for the season. (12) Prepared and performed maintenance on all snow removal equipment. Upcoming Events and Projects: (1) Complete 4th quarter meter readings. (2) Continue clean up from storm damage. Average daily water usage for the month was 209,881 gallons.

REPORTS -- COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

Appeals Board – No cases.

SCAC – SCAC will be meeting on January 11th at 7 PM at the Smithsburg Fire Hall to meet with all who worked with the Christmas activities. SCAC is looking for volunteers to serve on this committee.

Parks and Improvement Commission – Kevin Jeter, Chairman, reported the following: (1) Lions Club Community Park has been closed for the winter. (2) Sani pot has been placed in Veterans Park. (3) The multipurpose field at Veterans Park has been raked and seeded. (4) The parking lot lights at Veterans Park have been turned off during the winter months. (5) Worked on the 2013 POS grant submittal. This request is for money for a concept plan for the 2.5 acres at Veterans Park.

Planning Commission – Randy Dick reported that the Planning Commission will be having a Joint Public Hearing on January 3rd at 7 PM to take public comments on the Comprehensive Plan. The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be January 12, 2012. On the agenda will be the site plan review for Hadley Farms.

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

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Patrick Baker, Assistant Chief of the Smithsburg Fire Dept. reported that the total of calls for the month of November was 27 with an average of 7 volunteers per call. The Fire Department participated in the Christmas events in the town. Mr. Baker reported that he had received a quote of \$19.50 for flags to be placed on fire hydrants in the town. No decision will be made on the town purchasing these flags until more information is obtained.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OR MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS/CONCERNS

No Comments

OLD BUSINESS

Randy Dick reported that the state is still working on the numbers for the WIP program. More information will be forthcoming.

Randy Dick reminded everyone that the Planning Commission, along with the Mayor and Council, will hold a Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan at 7 PM on January 3rd.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Souders made a motion to pass “An Ordinance Enacting a Campaign Finance Law for the Town of Smithsburg”. This ordinance regulates campaign contributions and requires the reporting of contributions and expenditures. Motion passed by a unanimous vote. Ordinance will become effective in twenty (20) days.

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously voted to introduce “An Ordinance Amending the Code to Change the Distance a Vehicle May Park from a Fire Hydrant”. Section 14-2101m in the current ordinance prohibits a person from parking a vehicle within 5 feet of a fire hydrant. The amendment will change the prescribed distance to 15 feet which is State Law. A Public Hearing will be held on January 3rd to take public comments on this Ordinance.

Betsy Martin read into record the “Resolution to Accept Deed for Railroad Lane for the Town of Smithsburg”. Councilmember Souders made a motion to introduce this resolution. Motion passed by a majority vote of Council. Councilmember Aurand, Lushbaugh, Martin and Souders voted in favor, Councilmember Jernigan abstained. A Public Hearing will be held on January 3rd to take public comments on this Ordinance.

Due to the holidays, there will be no work session in December.

COUNCILMEMBER REMARKS

Councilmember Martin encouraged everyone to continue to recycle and those who are not recycling to start doing it. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Jernigan expressed his condolences to the Bud Lucassen family. He stated that the Christmas lights at Veterans Park were very nice. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Councilmember Jernigan stated that he hoped the citizens realize that Council needs their input and support especially regarding the I&I issues. The \$14,600 not in the budget comes off the top and we could use the money to flag fire hydrants, etc.

Councilmember Souders thanked all who helped with the Christmas activities including the Fire Department, Town Employees, the High School and Middle School bands, Show Choir, SCAC members, Smithsburg Branch of Washington County Library and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Smithsburg Fire Dept. He also extended his condolences to the Lucassen family. He thanked Senator Shank for attending the tree lighting ceremony. Councilmember Souders also encouraged more residents to recycle. He noted that January will start the election cycle. (Next election will be held on May 8, 2012). Councilmember Souders wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Councilmember Aurand wished Carlo Belella a speedy recovery. She also extended her condolences to the Lucassen family. She stated that the decorations in the square look nice. Councilmember Aurand wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Lushbaugh wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday and Happy New Year. He stated that we are keeping in our hearts and prayers Bud's family and that he really will be missed as a citizen of this community. He wished Carlo a speedy recovery. He thanked everyone who was involved in the Christmas weekend and the Veterans Day ceremony. He encouraged everyone that hasn't started recycling to make a New Year's resolution and start recycling with the wrapping paper and cardboard.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Martin,
Clerk/Treasurer/Manager