

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

The regular meeting of the Smithsburg Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, February 5, 2013, with Mayor Myers and Councilmembers Abbott, Fritsch, Jernigan and Lushbaugh present. Councilmember Souders was absent.

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

Mayor Myers requested that the Item Annexation Resolution Introduction be removed from the Agenda under Old Business. Betsy Martin requested that Under New Business the item – Building Permit Fee Waiver - be added. On a motion by Councilman Lushbaugh, Council unanimously approved the agenda with the above addition/deletion.

Councilman Abbott made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8th meeting of the Mayor and Council as presented. On a motion by Councilman Fritsch, the minutes of the January 29th Work Session were approved. Councilmen Fritsch, Abbott and Jernigan voted in favor of the motion, Councilmember Lushbaugh abstained.

Councilmember Lushbaugh 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 Historical Society's Directors meeting. (2) Met with Town employees and insurance provider to review employee coverage. (3) Met with Public Works Department, Police Department and Town Clerk/Manager to review the snow emergency plan. (4) Met with Richard Parks, ARRO Group, to resubmit the annual request for MDE grant money to replace the Town's transmission line from the water storage tanks to Bishop Lane. (5) Attended Washington County Municipal League held at Sharpsburg. The program was employer support of the Guard and Reserve of which our Town already supports. (6) Spoke to Webelo Scouts Pack 108 from the Smithsburg area on the role of Community Leaders. This is a part of their scout program.

REPORTS -- DEPARTMENT HEADS

Betsy Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/ Manager reported the following: (1) Talked to Allison Banzhoff from AC&T about the gasoline tax. As a non-profit, we are not exempt from the state gasoline tax, but are exempt from Federal tax. She is having the necessary information given to their accounting department so that in the future, we should not be billed for federal tax. Per current billings, we are now officially exempt from the Federal Excise tax. (2) Contacted various Mortgage Companies to discuss mowing liens and outstanding water/sewer bills on empty properties in the Town. (3) Letters were sent out to Sports Group pertaining to usage of ball fields. A meeting has been scheduled with the groups to go over the schedules and park rules. (4) Conservit, Goodwill and Freedom Electronics have been notified about Spring Cleanup which will be held on May 4th. Permission has been received from SEMS to use their grounds for placement of the dumpsters. (5) Attended Pride Days Meeting. Plans are progressing. Tonya Meadows submitted her resignation as Coordinator of Pride Days. Help is still needed for this event. The next Pride Days meeting will be held on Thursday, February 21st at 7 PM at Town Hall. (6) Attended the meeting with all Town employees concerning new health insurance. (7) Met with representative from security company to get quote for security at Town Hall.

Chief Knight presented the following report: (1) There were 176 calls for service during the month of January with no arrests. (2) The department patrolled a total of 3,012 miles this month and did 11 hours and 10 minutes of foot patrol. (3) A total of 7 premise checks were conducted during the month. (4) Chief Knight, Corporal Witmer, Officer Hudson and Officer Munson all attended In-Service Training

at Washington County Sheriff's Dept. (5) Chief Knight reported that all the paper work has been completed with all agencies for the Speed Cameras. (6) Reported that 2004 Crown Vic has numerous mechanical problems that will be fixed as soon as the parts arrive.

Jeff Long, Public Works Director, presented the following report: (1) Installed a new snow plow on the 2008 F-350 pickup. (2) Dealt with several snow and ice events throughout the month. (3) Re-marked the walking trail. (4) Met with contractors for quotes on walking trail repairs. (5) Sent out the 2004 F-350 pickup for diagnosis and repair. (6) Installed "No Parking" signs on E. Water St. in the vicinity of Orndorff Drive and Eckstine Court. (7) Installed camera speed zone signs on N. Main St. at the schools. (8) Cut down and removed several trees and limbs damaged by wind and or ice. (9) Pulled the grates and cleaned out storm drains. Upcoming events and projects are: (1) Complete budget request for 2013/14 year. (2) Water testing for THM's and HAA's. Average daily water consumption for the month was 232,449 gallons.

REPORTS -- COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

Appeals Board – No Hearings.

Smithsburg Community Activities Commission – No report. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 6th.

Parks and Improvement Commission – Kevin Jeter, Parks Commission Chairperson, reported that he will be giving the 2014 POS presentation to the County Parks Commission on Thursday, February 7th. The request will be for upgrades to the playgrounds at Lions Community Park. The next meeting will be held on February 11th.

Planning Commission – The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on February 21st.

Library Advisory Board – No Meeting. The next meeting will be held on February 21st.

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

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Glenn Reynolds, Vice-President of the Smithsburg Fire Dept., reported the following: (1) Responded to 43 calls during the month of January with 6.81 volunteers per call. (2) The Fire Department has a smoke detector program in which they will come to any house in their service area and check their smoke detectors and replace them, if needed, at no cost.

James Ulrich, Chief of Smithsburg Emergency Medical Services, reported the following: (1) SEMS responded to calls for both the house fire at Myersville and the building fire in Williamsport. (2) They also covered for Community Rescue Service. (3) SEMS will be conducting their fund drive. (4) Met with the Cub Scouts at the Hall.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OR MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS/CONCERNS

No Comments.

OLD BUSINESS

Due to the absence of Randy Dick there was no update on the WIP Program.

Mayor Myers reported that she had been in contact with the owner of 62 W. Water Street and discussed the removal of her tree. The owner stated that she was currently in the process of obtaining bids for the removal of this tree. Much discussion was then held on what course of action should be taken on this issue. On a motion by Councilman Fritsch, Council unanimously approved having a letter from the Mayor and Council be sent to the property owner notifying them that they have thirty days to have the tree removed or Council will remove it and have a lien placed against the property. This is per the town ordinance. A second letter should be sent to the property owner offering a five year, no interest, loan to have the tree removed, the stump ground out and sidewalk repairs made, if needed.

Councilman Jernigan made a motion to have the Park Commission proceed with the directional signs for the Parks provided there are no costs to the Mayor and Council. A letter will be sent to Delegate Serafini requesting the State to supply and install signs at various location on MD Route 66, 64 and 77.

NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Councilman Jernigan, Council unanimously approved the purchase of a snow plow for the 2008 F350 Truck from Four Seasons Truck Equipment for a price of \$5,601.90.

Discussion was then held on the quote received from Diesel Systems for repairs that need to be done to the 2004 F350 truck. Councilman Lushbaugh made a motion to request a true quote from Diesel Systems Sale and Service as well as a quote for a new truck. In addition a quote should be obtained for a utility bed to be place on this truck. Motion passed by a unanimous vote of Council. When all of this information is obtained, an e-mail is to be sent to Council for a consensus vote on how to proceed.

Betsy Martin gave Council a copy of the proposed change to the Personnel Manual in regards to Holiday Leave. On a motion by Councilman Abbott, discussion on this change will be tabled until the February work session at which time discussion will also be held on the proposed vacation buy out.

Due to personal reasons, Mayor Myers announced that Mark Cline would be stepping down from his membership on the Parks Commission and the Appeals Board. A notice will be put on the town's website asking for volunteers to fill these two vacancies.

The renewal of the Trash Contract was discussed. Councilman Jernigan made a motion to renew the current contract with Allied Waste at the same price if they would get "chips" placed on the recycling containers. Councilmember Abbott, Jernigan and Lushbaugh voted in favor of the motion, Councilman Fritsch voted in opposition. Motion carried by a majority vote.

On a motion by Councilman Lushbaugh, Council unanimously voted to grant a building permit fee waiver to the Corporation for Assistive Technology for the installation of a handicap ramp at 39 N. Main St., Unit B.

On the Agenda for the February 26th work session will be: (1) Time Management – Councilman Souders and Chief Knight. (2) Mowing Contract – Public Works. (3) Capital Improvements – Randy Dick. (4) Personnel Manual – proposed amendments.

COUNCILMEMBER REMARKS

Councilman Lushbaugh encouraged everyone to support both the Fire Department and SEMS during their fund drives.

Councilman Abbott thanked SEMS for taking the time to do a training for Cub Scout Pack 14. He invited everyone to attend the Pinewood Derby to be held this Sunday at the Fire Hall beginning at 12 noon.

Councilman Jernigan dittoed Councilman Lushbaugh's remarks about the Fire and Rescue's fund drives. He also encouraged everyone to sign up for the e-mail alerts.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Martin,
Clerk/Treasurer/Manager