

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

The regular meeting of the Smithsburg Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, with Mayor Myers and Councilmembers Aurand, Jernigan, Lushbaugh and Souders present. Councilmember Martin was absent.

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

Mayor Myers welcomed Washington County Commissioners Terry Baker and Jeff Cline to tonight's meeting

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

Councilmember Lushbaugh made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 6th meeting of the Mayor and Council as presented. Motion passed by a majority vote.

The 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) Participated as a guest speaker for Leadership Washington County held at Hagerstown City Hall. (2) Welcomed new business, Smithsburg Christian Bookstore, located at 9 N. Main Street. (3) She noted that she has a copy of the Washington County Public Schools 2010-2016 Bridge to Excellence Master Plan for Council review. (4) Mayor Myers then gave her annual report and recommendations to Council as required by Charter 31-19C. The report stated the following: "1) 2011 financial audit shows the Town in good financial shape. 2) Most critical issue town is facing is the continuation of the current economy and the reduction of State Revenues. The Town responsibilities must be budgeted out of our regular income with the addition of what we get from State on Highway User Fund and Police Aid. 3) Project Open Space and Community Parks & Playground grant money is still limited thus significantly reducing the pace of further Park improvements unless we totally pay for any improvements approved for POS land usage. 4) Town does have some surplus funds, which can only be used to supplement a one-time expense, not any ongoing expenses. The good fiduciary use of these surplus funds is important so as to not have the Town placed in a financial crisis with unexpected emergency expense. (Example - A complete emergency breakdown of the main water transmission line or major infrastructure breakdowns where money from the general fund would have to be used.) 5) Sewer fund is in good shape. However, the Town needs to actively continue the program to locate I & I (Infiltration and Inflow) for immediate repairs, thus abiding by the agreement with Washington County and keeping our costs for treatment down. 6) Water fund is in fair shape but the continuing of the outlined several years' increases from Hagerstown puts the town in the position of raising water rates to keep up. 7) All pump stations are currently in excellent shape. The Mayor's recommendations to Council were: 1) All spending needs to be reviewed fully and carefully. Priority spending should focus on the safety and welfare of our citizens. Taxpayers should have more input into the direction of town spending and more information should be disseminated to the citizens prior to any issues being voted on. 2) Mayor will present to Council a balanced budget after carefully reviewing expected income and necessary expenses. 3) Surplus funds should only be used when absolutely necessary. 4) Salaries will be reviewed so as to encompass any changes, individual requests and the need to be fair to all employees based on their responsibilities. 5) Only absolutely necessary new budget items should be included. 6) Taxes have been increased for the first time in 40 years to get back some of the money from the County's reduction. We should focus on finding ways not to increase taxes again. 7) The present amount of employees is adequate at this time and except for minor items, all departments are well equipped. The Main Capital Projects for 2012-2013 are: 1) Continue to seek funding for replacement of aging transmission line leading from the Water Storage Tank into Town. 2) Continue the Capital Improvement Overlay Program started in 1995, as

funds are available. The remaining streets to be done are Grove Lane, Phase 2 and Clopper Ave. 3) Address other roadway problems with major, more permanent repairs. 4) Continue with the program of identifying I & I by using camera information to identify and doing the needed repairs. This is necessary to keep treatment cost affordable. This is a constant ongoing project. 5) Continue to provide community activities for all ages, support local businesses and provide a safe atmosphere for all our citizens.

REPORTS -- DEPARTMENT HEADS

Betsy Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/ Manager reported the following: (1) Prepared and sent out water and sewer bills. (2) Extended her thanks again to SCAC for the great job they did on the Christmas activities. (3) Processed 2nd installment payments on tax bills. (4) Informed Council that the next meeting of the Washington County MML will be held on January 23rd in Boonsboro.

Chief George Knight of the Smithsburg Police Department presented the following report: (1) There were 114 calls for service during the month of December with 1 adult and 1 juvenile arrest. (2) The department patrolled a total of 3,643 miles this month and did 8 hours and 15 minutes of foot patrol. (3) A total of 3,643 patrol checks and 7 premise checks were conducted during the month. (4) Chief Knight, Corporal Witmer and Officer Hudson attended Mobile Data Training at the Washington County Sheriff's Dept. (5) Corporal Witmer and Officers Hudson and Munson attended F.A.T.S training at Kaplan College. (6) Chief Knight reported that he is obtaining quotes for in car camera systems. (7) Chief Knight also noted that the "In Car Report Writing" should be instituted within the next several months.

Jeff Long, Public Works Director, gave the following report: (1) Completed 4th quarter water meter readings. (2) Repaired a water line break on N. Main Street. (3) Replaced the front tires on the Ford Tractor. (4) Performed maintenance on trash pumps and all power tools. (5) Continued clean up of fallen leaves. (6) Completed equipment inventories of both shops. (6) Began repair and or replacement of bent or crooked street signs. (7) Repaired sewer line on Douglas Court. Upcoming Events and Projects: (1) Remove and store all holiday decorations. (2) Elevate the fire hydrant at Amanda Drive and Gabriel court. Average daily water usage for the month was 214,100 gallons. Councilmember Jernigan noted that December's flow at the sewer plant was 11.355 MGD for the month of December up from 8.951 MGD for November. Councilmember Jernigan stated that this cost the town \$41,700 to treat inflow. Jeff Long stated that he had been in contact with C. R. Semler to have the sewer line checked in the Whispering Hills Storm Water Pond. He had also been in contact with the Maryland Rural Water about smoke testing the sewer lines. The truck needed for this would not be available for at least 30 days. After much discussion, it was decided to have the Public Works Director meet with representative of Mr. Rehab and go over their report from 2005 to see what the other areas are in the sewer system that should be repaired.

REPORTS -- COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

Appeals Board – No cases.

SCAC – SCAC next meeting will be held on January 11th at 7 PM at the Smithsburg Fire Hall to meet with all who worked with the Christmas activities.

Parks and Improvement Commission – No meeting held in December. Mayor Myers informed Council that she had received a proposal from Antietam Design to furnish the structural design and drawings to enclose the pavilion at Veterans Park. The fee for this would be \$1,000. The Park Commission is to discuss this at their next meeting on Monday, January 9th.

Planning Commission – Randy Dick reported that the Planning Commission will be meeting on January 12, 2012. On the agenda will be the site plan review for Hadley Farms and the Comprehensive Plan.

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 December was 28 with an average of 8.5 volunteers per call. They had a total of 490 calls for service during the year. The Fire Department participated in the Christmas events in the town and at Cascade Elementary School. Assistant Chief Baker thanked the town for their support and stated that they are looking forward to working with the Town this year.

James Ulrich, Deputy Chief of SEMS, reported that SEMS had 1,150 calls for service during 2011. They assisted Meritus Hospital in transporting meals to the needy on Christmas Eve. SEMS did standby during the Polar Plunge at Ft. Ritchie. Deputy Chief Ulrich thanked the County Commissioners for working for the EMS funding and the Town for their support.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OR MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS/CONCERNS

No Comments

OLD BUSINESS

Randy Dick reported that there were no new updates from the state on the WIP Program.

Councilmember Souders made a motion to adopt "An Ordinance Amending the Code to Change the Distance a Vehicle May Park from a Fire Hydrant." Motion passed by a unanimous vote of Council.

Councilmember Souders made a motion to propose and accept the deed for Railroad Lane. Council approved the passage of "The Resolution to Accept Deed for Railroad Lane for the Town of Smithsburg." Voting in favor of the motion was Councilmembers Souders, Aurand and Lushbaugh. Councilmember Jernigan abstained.

Councilmember Souders made a motion to purchase 144 fire hydrant markers for a cost not to exceed \$3,000. Motion passed by a unanimous vote of Council.

Council unanimously approved the motion made by Councilmember Souders to introduce "An Ordinance Enacting a New Ethics Ordinance for the Town of Smithsburg." A Public Hearing will be held on February 7th at 7 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

On the agenda for the January 24th work session will be: (1) Mowing Contract Review. (2) Trash Contract Review. (3) Fire Hydrant Issue Update.

COUNCILMEMBER REMARKS

Councilmember Lushbaugh wished Jerome Martin a speedy recovery. He also wished everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Councilmember Aurand also wished Jerome Martin a speedy recovery and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Souders also wished Jerome Martin a speedy recovery. He noted that the Election cycle has begun and that it would be nice to see candidates or interested citizens get information and hopefully decide to help continue the direction of the future of the Town. Councilmember Souders also noted that volunteers are needed for various Commissions/Committees.

Councilmember Jernigan thanked the County Commissioners for taking their time to come out to tonight's meeting. He wished everyone a Happy New Year. He urged the people to get involved and let them know where their money is going. He stated that they need to come to the meetings to hear about the I & I problems. He wished Jerome Martin a speedy recovery.

Mayor Myers also wished Jerome Martin a speedy recovery.

Betsy Martin announced that the next meeting of the Pride Days Committee will be held on Thursday, January 19th at 7 PM. Everyone is invited to attend and help out with this committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Martin,
Clerk/Treasurer/Manager