

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

The regular meeting of the Smithsburg Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, 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 Lushbaugh.

Jared Banzhoff and Mason Beck of Boy Scout Troop 62 were in attendance at tonight's meeting as part of their requirement for the Citizenship in the Community Badge.

Mayor Myers requested that the item of Municipal Infraction Ordinance be removed from Under Old Business. Councilmember Souders requested that Under New Business the item – Additional Work Sessions be added. On a motion by Councilmember Fritsch, Council unanimously approved the agenda with the above addition/deletion.

Councilmember Souders made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2012 meeting of the Mayor and Council as presented.

Councilmember Souders 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) Wished everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year. (2) Extended her sympathy to the family of former Councilman Jerome Martin. (3) She also extended her sympathy and prayers to all those who have been touched by the terrible tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. (4) Appreciation goes out to Pastor Virgil Cain for preparing the service of healing, compassion and remembrance for those touched by the tragedy in Connecticut. (5) She also extended her sympathy to the Larry Kendall family. Larry had served the Town on the Planning Commission and Board of Appeals.

REPORTS -- DEPARTMENT HEADS

Betsy Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/ Manager reported the following: (1) Extended her sympathy to both the Jerome Martin and Larry Kendall families. (2) Went over water meter readings. Prepared and sent out water and sewer bills. (3) Processed second half Real Estate Tax payments. (4) Spoke with representatives from Peachtree about Direct Deposit. More information will be forthcoming at the Work Session. (5) Submitted the 2014 POS paper work to the County Parks and Recreation Board. (6) Along with the Mayor, met with Frank Linn, Town Insurance Agent, regarding renewal of the town employee's health insurance. With the new policy, the town will see a decrease in costs for health insurance. (7) Spoke to Council about the Spring Clean Up Event. Consensus of the Council was to hold Spring Clean up Day on Saturday, May 4th. Information about this will be placed on the town's website. (8) The next meeting of the Pride Days Committee will be held on January 17th at 7 PM at Town Hall.

Chief Knight presented the following report: (1) There were 117 calls for service during the month of December with one adult arrest. (2) The department patrolled a total of 2,536 miles this month and did 10 hours and 50 minutes of foot patrol. (3) A total of 11 premise checks were conducted during the month. (4) Chief Knight attended a SHA Grant meeting at MSP barracks. (5) Speed cameras are ready and all paperwork has been completed. Notices about the speed cameras have been placed on the town's website along with multiple times in the Herald Mail.

Jeff Long, Public Works Director, presented the following report: (1) Completed 4th quarter water meter readings and re-reads. (2) Secured all storm drain covers in Whispering Hills. (3) Repaired all dog waste stations in Veterans Park. (4) All repairs have been completed from smoke testing. (5) Cleaned and cut back the storm swale at Sara Circle. (6) Straightened numerous street signs throughout the Town. (7) Removed several trees blown over from high winds on the 21st of December. He extended his thanks to Brian Semler for donating his time and equipment to help with the tree cleanup and removal. (8) Changed all filters and fluids on the Ford tractor. (9) Dealt with snow events on the 24th, 26th and 29th. (10) Replaced a pump at WWPS #1. They found a mop head in the pump when they removed it. (11) Removed and stored all Christmas lights except for tree lights in Veterans Park. Upcoming events and projects are: Finish taking down Christmas decorations. Average daily water consumption for the month was 231,015 gallons. Councilmember Souders questioned the Public Works Director if there had been any response from the resident of 62 W. Water Street about her tree. To date, no reply has been received from this resident. Council instructed the Public Works Director to send this resident another letter giving her a time limit to have the tree removed. The letter should have a copy of the Town's Tree Ordinance included. Mayor Myers will review the issue with the Town Attorney prior to sending the letter.

REPORTS -- COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

Appeals Board – No Hearings.

Smithsburg Community Activities Commission – No Meeting.

Parks and Improvement Commission – Randy Dick reported that the next meeting of the Parks and Improvement Commission will be held on January 14th at which time they will work on the budget and discuss the electrical upgrade project.

Planning Commission – The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on January 10th. On the agenda will be: (1) Budget; (2) Ordinance Changes; (3) Discussion of Cross Annexation in preparation for the January 29th joint meeting with the Mayor and Council.

Library Advisory Board – No Meeting.

On a motion by Councilmember 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 47 calls during the month of December with a year to date total of 486 calls with a total of 2,297 man hours which are 100% volunteer. The Department maintained zero response failures for the month. (2) Assisted the Cascade American Legion with Operation Santa. (3) Provided Breakfast with Santa, Fire truck rides and numerous other activities in the Town during the Home Town Christmas Event. (4) Assisted Fort Ritchie Community Center with its annual Polar Bear Plunge. (5) Provided stand-by assistance to the Boonsboro Volunteer Fire Department who honored the passing of an extremely dedicated volunteer and officer. (6) In 2013 the Fire Company will be striving to educate the communities they serve in properly marking their properties with approved address markers.

James Ulrich, Chief of Smithsburg Emergency Medical Services, reported the following: (1) SEMS had 38 active volunteers during 2012 for a total of 14,573 hours. (2) SEMS will also continue to work with homeowners to properly place house number on their residence. (3) Participated with the Lending Hands Dinner on Christmas Eve. (4) Provided stand-by for the Polar Plunge at Ft. Ritchie. (5) Showed those in attendance the new logo for Company 79. (6) Chief Ulrich stated that SEMS is looking forward to working with the Town in 2013.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OR MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS/CONCERNS

No Comments.

OLD BUSINESS

No update on the WIP Program.

NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously voted to hold a meeting on January 22nd at 7 PM. All Department Heads are to be present at this meeting.

On a motion by Councilman Souders, Council unanimously voted to remove the discussion on direct deposit from the January 29th Work Session agenda and move it to the January 22nd meeting.

On the Agenda for the January 29th work session will be 6:30 PM – Joint meeting with Council and Planning Commission – Cross Annexation Review Process; 7 PM – Recycling additions and Lions Community Park Signage.

COUNCILMEMBER REMARKS

Councilmember Fritsch wished everyone a Happy New Year. He stated that the decorations at Veterans Park were a “big plus”. Councilmember Fritsch also noted that he had received his reassessment notice with a lower value that will mean that Town will be receiving less Real Estate Tax money.

Councilmember Lushbaugh expressed his sympathy to Terri, Colleen and the Jerome Martin family. He stated that Jerome was not only a friend and neighbor but a mentor to him. Councilmember Lushbaugh wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Abbott extended his sympathy to the Jerome Martin family. He extended his thanks to the Fire Department and SEMS for their work. Councilmember Abbott wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Souders also wished everyone a Happy New Year. He thanked the staff for the great Christmas luncheon. Councilmember Souders welcomed and thanked the scouts who attended tonight’s meeting. He also thanked SEMS for allowing the use of their property for the overflow of vehicles following the memorial service for Jerome Martin. Councilmember Souders also thanked Chief Knight and the Police Department for their presence at the schools following the incident at Sandy Hook Elementary School. He stated that when residents recycle that they should think of Jerome Martin as he was the one on Council who kept working to get recycling in the Town. Councilmember Souders also said that he hoped that the Council has a good and productive year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Martin,
Clerk/Treasurer/Manager