

Tuesday, July 3, 2012

The regular meeting of the Smithsburg Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, July 3, 2012, 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 Betsy Martin.

Mayor Myers then conducted the swearing in ceremony for the two new Councilmembers, James Fritsch and Heath Abbott. Mayor Myers noted that she had sworn in Councilmember Souders prior to the June work session due to the fact that he was on vacation this week.

On a motion by Councilmember Jernigan, Council unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

The minutes of the Organizational Meeting held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> were approved unanimously as presented on a motion by Councilmember Lushbaugh. Councilmember Lushbaugh made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2012 meeting of the Mayor and Council as presented. Motion passed by a unanimous vote. On a motion by Councilmember Jernigan, the minutes of the Special Meeting held on June 18<sup>th</sup> were approved by Council. Councilmembers Fritsch, Jernigan and Lushbaugh voted in favor of the motion, Councilmember Abbott abstained. The minutes of the June 19<sup>th</sup> Work Session were approved on a motion by Councilmember Jernigan. Councilmembers Fritsch, Jernigan and Lushbaugh voted in favor of the motion, Councilmember Abbott abstained.

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

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Myers reported on the following: (1) Met with structural engineer and Public Works Director to review E. Water Street bridge. (2) Extended a thank you to the County Commissioners for bringing their regular meeting out to the Town. (3) Welcomed the incoming Council and looking forward to a new year of service to our citizens. (4) Extended her thanks and much appreciation to the outgoing Councilmembers Shirley Aurand and Jerome Martin for their dedicated service to their town.

## **REPORTS -- DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Betsy Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/ Manager reported the following: (1) Attended meeting of the County Commissioners held in Council Chambers. Extended a thank you from the Town for all the Commissioners have done for Smithsburg. (2) Reviewed water billing. Prepared and sent out quarterly water bills. (3) Assisted Public Works Director in tracking maintenance expenses on Town Trucks for report to Council. (4) Mailed out tax bills. (5) Continued preparatory work on town audit. (6) Nancy Walzl worked on preparing the Falls Sports schedules for usage of parks. (7) Attended Pride Days meeting. The next meeting of the Pride Days Committee will be held on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Everyone is invited to attend to help plan for the Pride Days event which will include the town's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration. (8) Thanked Shirley Aurand for her years of service to the Town as a Council person. (9) Extended a welcome to the two new Councilmembers.

Chief George Knight presented the following report: (1) There were 107 calls for service during the month of June with 1 juvenile arrest. (2) The department patrolled a total of 2,995 miles this month and did 17 hours and 20 minutes of foot patrol. (3) A total of 11 premise checks were conducted during the month. (4) The Department worked a total of 91 hours at the Firemen's Carnival which included 5 hours overtime. (5) Chief Knight, Corporal Witmer and OFC 1<sup>st</sup> Class Hudson attended firearms qualification. (6) Corporal Witmer attended training for school incidents. (7) The Department worked a

total of 10 hours for the Smooth Operator Grant and 9 hours for the Health Department Alcohol Grant. (8) Reported that all went well at the Firemen's Carnival. Chief Knight listed the following goals for his department: Upgrade Computers, Additional Incident Training for School Incidents, Additional Community Policing, School Speed Zones and Cameras. He also stated that he would like to partner with the Boys and Girls Clubs to have activities in the town.

Jeff Long, Public Works Director, submitted the following report: (1) Ongoing waste water infrastructure repairs. Mr. ReHab is in Town completing all priority 2 repairs. (2) Completed 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter water meter readings and re-reads. (3) Maryland Rural Water Association class was held on June 14<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall. (4) Repaired an 8 inch water main break on June 5<sup>th</sup>. (5) Painted the rest room floors at the Lions Community Park. (6) Installed wire in ceiling at the large pavilion at Lions Community Park. (7) Trimmed trees for visibility at the intersection of Geiser Way and N. Main Street. (8) Began second week spraying of the season. (9) Trimmed trees and shrubs at Veterans Park. (10) Repaired the roof at the Historical Society Building. (11) Cut and removed several broken and down limbs from storms throughout the month. Upcoming events and projects are: Continue sewer infrastructure work and smoke testing. Average daily water consumption for the month was 242,813 gallons.

On a motion by Councilmember Jernigan, Council unanimously voted to spend up to \$3,200 for safety surface at Lions Community Park. This money will be taken from the new park budget - \$1,000 - miscellaneous expenses and \$2,200 for roadway improvement at Veterans Park.

## **REPORTS -- COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES**

Appeals Board – Randy Dick reported that the Appeals Board will be meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup> to hear an appeal by Michele Cline of 100 Byron Drive for 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 – Betsy Martin, in the absence of the Park Commission Chairperson, reported the following: (1) Will be checking with Jeff Long, Public Works Director, for a list of improvements made since last month at Lions Community Park. (2) Moving forward with checking on the electrical upgrades for Veterans Park. (3) Next meeting will be held on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Lions Community Park.

Planning Commission – Randy Dick reported that the Planning Commission will be meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup>. On the agenda will review of the subdivision on Clopper Ave., Zoning Ordinance and Land Subdivision Ordinance.

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

## **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

Chief James Ulrich of SEMS reported that they participated in the procession and memorial service for Bridgette Heller. He reported that they did standbys at the fire works for both the Smithsburg Carnival and the Mountain Heritage Days. He also announced that SEMS fund drive is currently underway.

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OR MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS/CONCERNS**

**No comments.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

On a motion by Councilmember Lushbaugh, Council unanimously approved the letter to Julie Pipple, regarding Council's action on the Watershed Implementation Plan. In the letter it is stated that: "The Mayor and Council of the Town of Smithsburg wishes to inform you that the Town acknowledges that issues exist as documented in the Watershed Implementation Plan, but that the cost to implement them is fiscally irresponsible. The Town will pursue CIP funding, if available, to meet implementation targets and goals as set by EPA."

On a motion by Councilmember Jernigan, Council unanimously voted to table discussion of the Charter Changes until more comments have been received by Council and members of the Charter Ad Hoc Committee.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Fritsch made a motion to approve Mayor Myers' appointment of Victor Lawrence James to the Smithsburg Community Activities Commission. Motion passed a unanimous vote of Council.

Betsy Martin reported that, to date, there is no need to make any line item transfers in the budget that ended June 30<sup>th</sup>. If needed, the auditors can recommend transfers prior to the completion of the audit.

On the agenda for the July 24<sup>th</sup> work session will be: (1) Speed Camera Presentation – Chief Knight. (2) Lutheran Work Camp. (3) Review of Resolution for Commission, Board and Committees Qualification. (4) Review Municipal Infraction Ordinance. (5) Charter Changes. (6) Smoke Testing Update.

## **COUNCILMEMBER REMARKS**

Councilmember Lushbaugh welcomed Jim Fritsch and Heath Abbott to the Council. He thanked Jerome Martin and Shirley Aurand for their years of service to the town. He thanked everyone who was involved with helping with the Carnival. He wished everyone a great holiday.

Councilmember Abbott thanked everyone for welcoming him to the Council. He hopes to do as much work for the town as he can. He is looking forward to the challenge. Councilmember Abbott invited everyone to come to the Little Sluggers Field to watch the games during their tournaments starting Friday night and continuing through the next three weekends.

Councilmember Jernigan also thanked Jerome Martin and Shirley Aurand for their service on the Council. He welcomed Jim Fritsch and Heath Abbott to the Council and welcomed their different backgrounds.

Councilmember Fritsch thanked the Town for putting their confidence and trust in him. He stated that he had big shoes to follow with Jerome Martin and Shirley Aurand. Councilmember Fritsch also said that in the next 30 days he would be meeting with the Mayor and Town Staff.

Mayor Myers noted that she and the department heads would be more than willing to meet with the new councilmembers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Martin,  
Clerk/Treasurer/Manager