

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

The regular meeting of the Smithsburg Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, June 4, 2013, with Mayor Myers and Councilmembers Abbott, Fritsch, Jernigan, Lushbaugh and Souders present.

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

Mayor Myers introduced Kevin Wilson and Nick Unger from Boy Scout Troop 108 who were attending tonight's meeting as a requirement for their Citizenship in the Community Badge.

Chief Knight presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Rachel Morrell as a donation to Children's Village. This money came out of speed camera funds. Mrs. Morrell thanked the town for the donation and for allowing the town's police officers to teach classes at Children's Village.

On a motion by Councilman Souders, Council unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

On a motion by Councilman Fritsch the minutes of the May 7th meeting of the Mayor and Council were approved as presented. On a motion by Councilman Souders, the minutes of the May 14 Work Session were approved by a majority vote. The minutes of the May 28th Work Session were approved on a motion by Councilman Abbott.

Councilmember Jernigan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Myers reported on the following: (1) Attended and participated in all the Town's 200th Birthday Pride Days celebration events. Many thanks go out to the numerous persons, organizations, businesses, town employees who assisted in making this a huge success. Special thanks go out to the coordinator, Tina Stephens. (2) Continued the work on the codification of our Town Ordinances. (3) Attended the Historical Society Board of Director's meeting. (4) Met with Town Attorney on several legal issues. (4) Read a note from County Commissioner and friend, Jeff Cline, who expressed his appreciation to share in the celebration of 200 years of Smithsburg Pride. He stated that the parade was fantastic and extended his thanks for the invitation. (6) Participated in the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony. Thanks to all the Park Commission members who worked to make this event a moving and great honor to those who gave their all for our freedom.

REPORTS -- DEPARTMENT HEADS

Betsy Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/Manager reported the following: (1) Met with Councilman Fritsch to go over the budget. (2) Received check in the amount of \$811.80 for metal collected at Spring Clean Up Day. Cost for rental of dumpsters and tipping fees for this event was \$1,442.50. (3) Mailed out 66 disconnect notices for water and sewer accounts. Of those 18 properties were posted. Public Works ended up turning off 4 meters. (4) Finalized the copies of the General Fund Budget. Worked with the town's accountant to prepare the water/sewer budget for presentation to Council. (5) The Town Office staff spent a lot of time working with Pride Days. Thanks are extended to the entire Pride Days Committee for all their work and dedication to making this year's event a huge success. The Committee will be meeting on June 6th to go over comments/concerns about the event. (6) Worked, along with the Mayor and Randy Dick, on the Town Code codification. (7) Auditor's were here to begin work on the audit for the year ending June 30, 2013. (8) Met with representative from Rural Development for review of the loan for the water storage tanks. (9) Submitted a request from Girls Inc. for a waiver for the rental of a park pavilion at Veterans Park to be used on August 7th as part of their summer camp program. On a motion by

Councilman Lushbaugh, Council unanimously approved this fee waiver. (10) Informed all present that pictures from this year's Memorial Day Ceremony can be viewed on Heidi Geraci's website, The Picture Escape.

Chief Knight presented the following report: (1) There were 77 calls for service during the month of May with no arrests. (2) The department patrolled a total of 2,320 miles this month and did 23 hours and 25 minutes of foot patrol. (3) A total of 9 premise checks were conducted during the month. (4) Corporal Witmer and Officers Hudson and Munson attended Active Shooter Training at Washington County's Sheriff's Office. (4) To date, there have been a total of 1,076 speed camera violations recorded with this month's total being 210 of which 3 were rejected. A total of \$14,064 has been sent to the Town as their share of the funds.

Jeff Long, Public Works Director, presented the following report: (1) Streets were swept on May 13th and 14th. (2) Pressure washed the pavilions in both Parks. (3) Hagerstown Water Department did their yearly flow test on the town's master meter. (4) Delivered water disconnect notices. (5) Pressure washed the Memorial Gardens for the Memorial Day Ceremony. (6) Participated in the Town's annual spring cleanup. (7) Completed the first weed spraying of the year. (8) Disconnected a total of four water services. (9) Backfilled and seeded an underground water leak at the Lions Community Park. (10) Met with homeowner at 55 N. Main Street regarding a dead tree that has since been removed. (11) Began painting curbs and fire hydrants. (12) Met with Brandi Burrell of USDA who inspected the water storage tanks and the generator which were purchased with a loan from their agency. Upcoming events and projects are: 2nd quarter water meter readings. Average daily water consumption for the month was 233,605 gallons.

REPORTS -- COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

Appeals Board – Randy Dick reported that the Board met on May 30th and granted a Special Exception for a Home Occupation (Taxidermy Business) to Andy Kaetzel at his residence at 146 Railroad Lane.

Smithsburg Community Activities Commission – Heath Abbott stated that SCAC met on Monday, June 3rd. Topics of discussion were: (1) Pride Days. (2) Status of electrical upgrades at Veterans Park. (3) Application for membership submitted.

Parks and Improvement Commission - Councilman Fritsch reported the following: (1) Discussed electrical upgrades. (2) Trees are to be removed from Veterans Park on Monday, June 10th. (3) Community Parks and Playground grant request is due by August 1st. (4) The Commission will be meeting on Monday, June 10th, at which time they will discuss plans for the 2.5 acres in Veterans Park.

Planning Commission – Randy Dick reported that the Planning Commission will meet on June 20th at 6:30.

Library Advisory Board – Mayor Myers reported that the Library Board participated in Pride Days. Representatives from the Library Board will be attending the July Mayor and Council Work Session to discuss their landscape plan.

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

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

James Ulrich of Smithsburg Emergency Medical Services reported the following: (1) Reported that SEMS has a new website (SEMS79.org). (2) They had 89 calls for service during the month of May. (3) Replaced their support vehicle. (4) Participated in Pride Days. (5) Did stand by for Boonsboro Carnival. (6) Attended 2 events held at Ft. Ritchie. (7) Attended the Memorial Day Ceremony.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OR MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS/CONCERNS

Paul Gyurisin of 13 W. Water Street voiced his concerns about the property located at 20 W. Water Street. Chief Knight and Randy Dick will check to see if this property is in violation of any Town codes. He also voiced numerous concerns about the use of the speed camera. Council will discuss his concerns at a future work session.

OLD BUSINESS

WIP Program – No meetings held.

Randy Dick, Jeff Long and Councilman Abbott will be preparing the bid documents for the Sara Circle Swale project.

NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Councilman Souders, Council unanimously approved the General Fund Budget as presented at tonight's Public Hearing.

Councilman Fritsch made a motion to approve the Water and Sewer Budgets as presented at tonight's Public Hearing. Councilmen Abbott, Fritsch, Lushbaugh and Souders voted in favor of the motion, Councilman Jernigan voted in opposition. Motion carried by a majority vote.

Councilman Souders made a motion to adopt the current tax rate of \$.35 per hundred as presented. Motion passed by a unanimous vote of Council.

Councilman Fritsch made a motion to approve the proposed increase of 3% for the town's water/sewer rate. Councilmen Abbott, Fritsch, Lushbaugh and Souders voted in favor of the motion, Councilman Jernigan voted in opposition. Motion carried by a majority vote.

Betsy Martin presented to Council copies of the 2013-2014 Budget Ordinance which is for the General, Water and Sewer Fund Budget, tax rate and water and sewer rates. On a motion by Councilman Souders, Council passed by a majority vote the Budget Ordinance with the proposed amendments to the General Fund Budget as presented. Councilmen Abbott, Fritsch, Lushbaugh and Souders voted in favor of the motion, Councilman Jernigan voted in opposition. Motion carried by a majority vote.

Council was presented with a letter from The Smithsburg Lions Club requesting that the fees be waived for the use of Veterans Park for "Riding for Kids" fundraiser on September 7th. On a motion by Councilman Souders, Council unanimously approved the fee waiver request.

Chief Knight went over the change he proposed in the original Speed Camera Enforcement Ordinance. Chief Knight recommended to Council that, in Section C of the Ordinance Authorizing the Use of An Automated Speed Enforcement System, the words "while school is in session" be removed. Councilman Fritsch made a motion to introduce "The Ordinance to Amend the Code of the Town of Smithsburg to Revise the Times of Speed Camera Operation per Ordinance No. 2012-06, Section C."

Councilmen Abbott, Fritsch, Lushbaugh and Souders voted in favor of the motion, Councilman Jernigan voted in opposition. Motion carried by a majority vote. A Public Hearing will be held at 7 PM on July 2nd to hear Public Comments on this Ordinance.

Council gave the consensus by e-mail to Chief Knight to proceed with purchasing replacement cameras and repairing existing cameras at Lions Community Park at a price of \$2,755.97.

Mayor Myers announced that there will be a special work session held on Tuesday, June 11th to meet with the Town Attorney and members of the Historical Society to discuss possible property transfers.

Per a vote via e-mail, Council gave Chief Knight permission to upgrade and add additional cameras at Lions Community Park at an estimated cost of \$2,756. This expense would come out of the speed camera revenue.

On the agenda for the June 18th work session will be: (1) Speed Camera Fund Usage – Chief Knight. (2) Commission/Board Vacancies.

COUNCILMEMBER REMARKS

Councilman Lushbaugh stated that he attended some of the Pride Days events. He said that it was a great display of fireworks. He thanked everyone who helped with Pride Days. He also thanked the rest of the Council for bringing together the budget. Councilman Lushbaugh reminded everyone that pictures from the Memorial Day Ceremony are on The Picture Escape website.

Councilman Abbott said that he appreciated the scouts attending tonight's meeting. He attended and participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony and Pride Days activities. He congratulated SEMS on their new web site.

Councilman Souders also thanked everyone who help and or participated in the Pride Days activities. He thanked Norman Potter for his dedication to his job during the six months he has been working for the town.

Councilman Jernigan thanked everyone who helped with Pride Days. He thanked Chief Knight and the Police Department for representing the Town at Children's Village. He urged citizens to give their input on the speed cameras. Councilman Jernigan thanked Mr. Gyurisin for his input at tonight's meeting. He encouraged everyone to sign up for the website alerts.

Councilman Fritsch also thanked everyone who helped with Pride Days. He extended his thanks to Tina Stephens, Coordinator, for all her work. He stated that the parade was very good. Councilman Fritsch attended the Memorial Day Ceremony and presented the wreath in honor of the Vietnam War Veterans. He commented on how beautiful Veterans Park is.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Martin,
Clerk/Treasurer/Manager