

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

The regular meeting of the Smithsburg Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, March 6, 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 Lushbaugh.

The following Boy Scouts from Troop 62 were in attendance as part of the requirements for their Communication Badge: Mason Beck, Alan Reynolds and Derek Harbaugh.

Councilmember Jernigan requested holding an Executive Session immediately following tonight's Mayor and Council meeting for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue. Mayor Myers requested that it be noted for the record that she was not requesting the Executive Session Councilmember Souders made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of the Executive Session. Councilmembers Lushbaugh, Souders and Jernigan voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Aurand voted in opposition. Councilmember Martin was absent. Motion carried by a majority vote (3-1).

Councilmember Aurand made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2012 meeting of the Mayor and Council as presented. Motion passed by a unanimous 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) Attended Smithsburg Volunteer Fireman's banquet. She received a Certificate of Appreciation for the Mayor and Council from the Fire Dept. Mayor Myers also accepted a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Town's Police Chief and Officers. She also extended her congratulations to Phil Rohrer for being chosen the Firefighter of the Year. (2) Mayor Myers extended her thanks to all the people who sent cards, flowers, made phone calls and visits while she was in the hospital and at home recuperating. She gave a big thanks to all of our very capable staff who kept the Town business running smoothly in her absence. They are all commended for their dedication and loyalty to the Town. (3) She welcomed the new business, Cathy's Closet, at 17 S. Main Street to our town.

REPORTS -- DEPARTMENT HEADS

Betsy Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/ Manager reported the following: (1) Nancy Walzl met with sport groups for field scheduling for spring sports. (2) Attended Pride Days meeting. Next meeting will be held on March 15th at 7 PM. (3) Sent out notices for delinquent water accounts. 4 meters were disconnected for nonpayment. (4) Working with General Code to get price for Codification of Ordinances. As requested by the company, copies of the current Code of Ordinance Book, ordinances that were not in book and a copy of Town Charter were sent to them. (5) Spring Clean up Day will be held on May 5th. Check out the website for all details. (6) Met with Town Attorney, Chief Knight, Randy Dick and Councilmember Souders regarding Code Enforcement/Municipal Infractions. (7) Sent out 23 notices regarding delinquent taxes. (8) Reminded everyone about the upcoming Election on May 8th. Nominations for the position of Council will be accepted until April 2nd at 4 PM. (9) Extended a welcome back to Mayor Myers who had been out of the office for two weeks due to illness. She also expressed get well wishes to Jerome Martin. (10) Informed everyone that a calendar has been added to the website. (11) Welcomed the new business, Cathy's Closet, to the town.

The following written report was given to Council for the Police Department: (1) There were 125 calls for service during the month of February with 1 adult arrest. (2) The department patrolled a total of 2,853 miles this month and did 8 hours and 40 minutes of foot patrol. (3) A total of 7 premise checks were

conducted during the month. (4) Chief Knight, Corporal Witmer, Officer Hudson and Munson had In Service Training at WCSD. (5) Chief Knight attended the State Highway Grant meeting at WCSD. (6) Chief Knight, Corporal Witmer, Officer Munson and Officer Hudson attended NCIC recertification at the Emergency Communications Center. (7) Chief Knight attended the Communications meeting at the Emergency Communications Center.

Jeff Long, Public Works Director presented the following report: (1) Ongoing waste water infrastructure inspection, repairs and mapping upgrades. (2) The Town hosted a MRWA class on February 2nd. (3) The Fire Company has completed the installation of hydrant markers on all of the town's fire hydrants. (4) DLLR re-inspected the chair lifts at Town Hall and no problems were found. (5) Hydrant #61A has had an extension added to it to raise its height. (6) Continued clean up of downed brush at Lions Community Park. Upcoming projects include: (1) Continue sewer infrastructure work. (2) 1st Quarter water meter reading. Average daily water consumption for the month of February was 212,271 gallons. Jeff Long and Brian Semler then gave Council an update on the work that they have completed on the sewer lines due to I & I problems. They have inspected 348 manholes which included 31 manholes that were not identified on previous maps. 23 repairs have been completed on areas where I & I have been found. 67 water tight dishes have been installed. Found one manhole that has been paved over. Three manholes need to be excavated and repaired. Sewer prints have been upgraded. There are 2 manholes that need drop connections repaired. New tops need to be installed on 12 manholes in the Grove Creek area. A total of 36 cleanouts were found with either broken, cracked or missing caps.

REPORTS -- COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

Appeals Board – No cases.

Smithsburg Community Activities Commission – SCAC next meeting will be held on March 7th at 7 PM.

Parks and Improvement Commission – Betsy Martin reported the following per information from the Park Chair Person: (1) The plans for the Memorial Day Ceremony are set. (2) Received a check in the amount of \$214 from Smithsburg Middle School for the 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament. (3) Met with Antietam Cable regarding improvements to the camera system. (4) Received application for membership from Cassandra Weaver. (5) Austin Lane will be working on his Eagle Scout project this weekend.

Planning Commission – Randy Dick reported that the Planning Commission will be meeting on March 16, 2012. On the agenda will be the site plan review for Hadley Farms and ordinance review.

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously voted to accept all reports.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Acting Chief Ulrich of SEMS reported that they had a total of 1137 calls for service in 2011 with a total of 13,440 volunteer hours. He reported that they will soon have 2 new advance life support vehicles.

Betsy Martin read the following report from Assistant Chief Patrick Baker: (1) The department ran 12 calls for service at an average of 6.5 volunteers per call. (2) They installed hydrant markers throughout the town. The Fire Department thanked the Mayor and Council for purchasing these markers. (3) Participated in welcoming back the Smithsburg High School Boys Indoor Track Team after winning the school's first ever Indoor Track State Championship. (4) Held Annual Banquet. He thanked those who attended and shared in the Celebration of 80 years of volunteer service to Smithsburg and the surrounding communities. Awards were presented to Phil Rohrer – Fire Fighter of the Year, Chris Quick – Rookie of the Year, Danny Gibson – Line Office of the Year, Debra Scott – Training Award, David Yankey and Sean

Scott – Unsung Heroes, Kevin Trevey, Phil Rohrer, David Yankey and Kenny Smith – Fire Prevention. (5) Mr. Baker thanked the Mayor for presenting him with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Town.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OR MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS/CONCERNS

No Comments

OLD BUSINESS

Randy Dick reported that the next WIP meeting will be held on March 9th.

Discussion was held on the revised by-laws for the Park Commission. Mayor Myers suggested that in Article 3 the sentence stating that the Chairperson shall have no vote except to break a tie should be removed. On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously voted to accept the by-laws of the Smithsburg Parks Commission with the amendment to remove the sentence “The Chairperson shall have no vote except to break a tie”.

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously voted to renew the contract with Allied Wasted for continued trash service for the fiscal year 2012 to 2013 as is.

NEW BUSINESS

Betsy Martin presented to Council a list of groups who have requested the fee to be waived for the rental of the park for various activities. Those requesting fees are: Trinity Lutheran Church for Egg Hunt (Veterans), Smithsburg Lions Club for Egg Hunt (Lions Community), 7th Tennessee Company A for Boot Camp (Veterans), Smithsburg Community Church Association for the Dean Mouk Walk (Lions) and Cystic Fibrosis Walk and Fund Raiser (Veterans). Councilmember Jernigan made a motion to waive the park rental fees for the above mentioned groups and in the future to allow the Lions Club automatic fee waivers. Councilmember Aurand seconded the motion. Motion died for a lack of vote by Council. Councilmember Souders made a motion to amend Councilmember Jernigan motion to add that the Mayor and/or the Town Manager has the opportunity to add to that list via communication with Council prior to granting approval. Motion carried by a majority vote. Park Commission is to be notified of any fee waiver request.

On the agenda for the March 27th work session will be: (1) Speed Camera – School Zone. (2) Parks Commission Application Review. (3) Tree Ordinance Review. (4) Mowing Bid Review. (5) Ordinance Codification Quote.

COUNCILMEMBER REMARKS

Councilmember Lushbaugh noted that the calendar is up on the town’s website. He encouraged everyone to visit the website. He wished Jerome Martin a speedy recovery. He welcomed Cathy’s Closet to the town. Councilmember Lushbaugh thanked the Fire Department for installing the hydrant markers. He also congratulated the Boys Indoor Track Team.

Councilmember Aurand welcomed the Mayor back and stated that she was glad that she was feeling better. She also hopes that Jerome Martin continues to improve. Councilmember Aurand welcomed Cathy’s Closet to the town.

Councilmember Souders welcomed the Mayor back and stated that he was glad that she was feeling better. He thanked the Mayor and Potomac Edison for their work on getting the electric poles fixed. Councilmember Souders also thanked the Fire Department for installing the hydrant markers. He thanked

the Scouts for attending tonight's meeting and encouraged them to interact with Pride Days. He encouraged residents to participate in the town election. Councilmember Souders congratulated and commended the athletes from Smithsburg High School's Boys Indoor Track, Girls Volleyball Team and Boys Basketball team.

Councilmember Jernigan thanked the Chief on saving the town \$1,044 per year on the town's cell phone bill. He thanked the Fire Department for their work on installing the hydrant markers. He welcomed Cathy's Closet and congratulated the boys track team, girls volleyball team and boys basketball team. He thanked the Scouts for coming to tonight's meeting. Councilmember Jernigan urged citizens to consider running for office. Councilmember Jernigan said that until something is done to clean up the waste, he will not be voting for an increase in water and sewer rates. He thanked the Public Works Department for everything they have done to date on I&I repairs, but pointed out that \$13,953 has been spent with only 2.96 inches of rain this month. There have been improvements, but there are still places that need to be tightened up.

Mayor Myers welcomed the Scouts to tonight's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Martin,
Clerk/Treasurer/Manager