

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

The regular meeting of the Smithsburg Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, with Mayor Myers and Councilmembers Aurand, Lushbaugh and Souders present. Councilmember Jernigan was absent.

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

Mayor Myers extended her congratulations to Jeff Long, Public Works Director, who was named 2012 Wastewater Operator of the Year by the Maryland Rural Water Association.

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

Councilmember Souders made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2012 meeting of the Mayor and Council as presented. Motion passed by a unanimous vote. On a motion by Councilmember Lushbaugh, the April 17<sup>th</sup> Work Session minutes were approved by a unanimous vote. The minutes of the April 24 Work Session were unanimously approved on a motion by Councilmember Souders.

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

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Myers reported on the following: (1) Met with Blakeley Jackson, Wright Gardner Insurance, and Mario Melfa, Loss Control Consultant, to review IWIF claims. Staff and Council will be hearing more about how the Town can save money by reducing the amount of claims. (2) Met with the Charter Ad Hoc Committee to continue reviewing Charter revisions. (3) Received great news for all the Veterans Park Walking Trail users. Many concerns have been voiced over the fact that trail users feel uncomfortable that part of the path uses the sidewalk next to the pavilions. The concerns have been that walkers using this area may be disturbing those that use the pavilions. For the past several years the Park Commission has been applying for a grant to provide a walkway extension. This year was successful as the town has been informed that the project has finally been included in the state's FY 2013 Capital Budget for the walkway extension. This grant is provided by Community Parks and Playground Program. (4) Attended Historical Society membership meeting. (5) Along with the Washington County Commissioners and Washington County EDC, Mayor Myers attended a tour of Hadley Farms. It was a great experience. Smithsburg is very fortunate to have this well-known facility within our Town. (6) Attended a G8 Summit/Pride Days briefing with Chief Knight, Patrick Baker from Smithsburg Fire Dept. and James Ulrich of SEMS.

#### **REPORTS -- DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Betsy Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/ Manager reported the following: (1) Along with the Mayor, met with Mario Melfa and Blakely Jackson concerning Worker's Comp Insurance and the return to work policy that the town will be implementing. Staff will be meeting tomorrow to go over the policy. (2) Met with Jeff Long and Dee Whitcomb of MDE regarding water supply issues. (3) Continued work on the budgets. (4) Attended Pride Days meeting. Reminded everyone that Pride Days will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. In addition there will be "Music in the Park" on Friday night starting at 8 PM. (5) Obtained fee waiver from the County for the electrical permit for the electrical wiring work for the new air conditioner. Washington County is also granting the town a fee waiver for the disposal of the electronics that will be collected at Spring Clean up Day. (6) Attended Special Town Meeting to collect paper work from candidates who were nominated for Council. (7) Reminded everyone about Spring Clean up Day on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. (8) Encouraged residents to get out and vote in the Town Election on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Voting

is from 7AM to 8 PM. (9) The next meeting of the Washington County Chapter of MML will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> in Williamsport.

Chief George Knight presented the following report: (1) There were 138 calls for service during the month of April with 1 adult arrest. (2) The department patrolled a total of 3,900 miles this month and did 11 hours and 25 minutes of foot patrol. (3) A total of 9 premise checks were conducted during the month. (4) Chief Knight attended Firearms Instructor Training at Hagerstown City Range. (5) Chief Knight attended Maryland Municipal Chief's Association training in Ocean City from April 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. (6) Corporal Witmer spoke with a local Girl Scout troop at the Smithsburg Library. (7) Chief Knight attended a G-8 Summit Planning meeting in Hanover, MD. (8) The Officers worked a total of 16 grant Hours. (9) The Police Department, along with Washington County Sheriff's Office and Washington County Health Department, held a Drug Turn-In Day at SPD on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. (10) Chief Knight also reported that Governor O'Malley is to sign into law the transfer of Officer Nicholson's service weapon over to his family.

Jeff Long, Public Works Director, presented the following report: (1) Ongoing waste water infrastructure repairs. An additional 17 manholes have been completely sealed this month. (2) MDE conducted its annual inspection of the town's water system on April 19<sup>th</sup>. No problems or violations were found. (3) Conducted semiannual hydrant flushing April 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. A total of 218,040 gallons of water was used during flushing. (4) Replaced the heating unit at WWPS #2. (5) Repaired the overhead dusk to dawn lights at Lions Community Park. (6) The town's streets were swept on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of April. An estimated 600 pounds of debris was collected. (7) Currently painting cross walks, parking spaces, stop bars and curbs. (8) Conducted the yearly fire extinguisher inspections. (9) Pressured washed both pavilions at the Lions Community Park. (10) Completed the first weed spraying of the season. Upcoming events and projects are: Continue sewer infrastructure work, spring clean up, finish painting curbs, cross walks and parking spaces, prepare for Pride Days and monthly station readings. Average daily water consumption for the month was 222,570 gallons.

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

Appeals Board – Randy Dick reported that the Appeals Board will be meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> to hear an appeal filed by Selena Turner Kint for a Special Exception to have a Home Occupation at 14 E. Water Street. Property is owned by Roberto Gonzalez.

Smithsburg Community Activities Commission – No meeting.

Parks and Improvement Commission – Kevin Jeter, Chairman, reported that the new Pepsi machine has been installed at Veterans Park. He is working to obtain information on upgrading the electric at Veterans Park.

Planning Commission – Randy Dick reported that the Planning Commission will be meeting on May 19, 2012. On the agenda will be Ordinance review.

Betsy Martin reported that four residents were nominated to the position of Council at the Special Meeting held on April 23, 2012. The nominees are Heath Abbott, James Fritsch, Victor James and John Karroll. They will be on the May 8<sup>th</sup> General Election ballot along with Donnie Souders who had filed his nomination prior to the April 2nd deadline.

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

## **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

No reports.

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

Sari Kilheffer of 26 N. Main Street suggested that information needs to be put out about the candidates for Election. She also questioned whether there would be rides available to the polls. She was informed that bios from all candidates will be on the town's web site. The Mayor also told her that if rides to the polls were needed, someone would be available to pick up the residents.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Randy Dick reported that Julie Pippel has requested a meeting with the Mayor and Council to decide what action Council wants to take on the Watershed Implementation Plan. It was decided that Council would meet with her at the June 19<sup>th</sup> Work Session, if she is available.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously voted to retain the current tax rate of \$.35 on the hundred of assessed value. Councilmember Lushbaugh stated that Council needed to look at the tax rate at future meetings.

Mayor Myers presented the 2012/13 General Fund Budget for Council approval. Chief Knight had submitted a revised budget request. In this request, he is asking for the salaries for Officer Brian Munson and Karen Parks, Administrative Assistant, to be increased over what was proposed in the Mayor's budget. He will reduce various line items in his operating budget to cover these salary increases. Mayor Myers noted that Council or the Chief would have to make up for the additional costs associated with these increases such as additional payroll taxes, worker's compensation insurance and short-term disability premium increases. Betsy Martin is to supply the Chief with the amount needed and he will then determine what line item the increase will come out of.

Mayor Myers presented the 2012/13 Sewer and Water Budgets. As stated in the Public Hearing, the water rates will increase by 6.5%. The money that the Public Works Director has requested in the Sewer budget for a camera has been transferred to Maintenance as Council felt it would be more cost effective to hire someone to camera the lines.

Councilmember Souders made a motion to introduce the 2012/2013 Budget Ordinance as the Council has duly considered the same and has arrived at said General Fund and Water/Sewer budget, tax rate, water and sewer rates and all other matter contained therein in accordance with Town Charter and the Annotated Code of Maryland. The General Fund Budget is with amendments as recommended by Council. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Councilmember Souders made a motion to introduce an Ordinance Repealing and Re-enacting the Town of Smithsburg's Provisions Regarding Tree Maintenance and Removal. The current provisions of the Code, specifically Section 15-3103 entitled "Removal of Hazardous Trees", should be repealed and a more comprehensive Ordinance passed and substituted in its place. That the Town Code is hereby amended by repealing and striking therefrom the existing Section 15-3103 and that a new Section 15-3103 as hereinafter set forth be enacted and substituted in its place. Motion passed by a unanimous vote of Council present. A Public Hearing will be held on June 5th at 7 PM to receive public comment on this ordinance.

On a motion by Councilmember Lushbaugh, Council unanimously passed the Ordinance Establishing School Zones pursuant to Section 21-803 of the Transportation Article. This would increase the school zone to run on N. Main Street from School Lane to Geiser Way.

The May Work Session will be the Organizational Meeting for the new Council.

### **COUNCILMEMBER REMARKS**

Councilmember Souders extended his congratulations to Jeff Long for being named the 2012 Waste Water Operator of the Year. He thanked Jim Fritsch and Heath Abbott for attending tonight's meeting. He wished them Good Luck in the upcoming election. He encouraged the residents to continue to use the recycling services. Councilmember Souders also stated that he appreciated residents coming to tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Aurand also extended her congratulations to Jeff Long on his award.

Councilmember Lushbaugh made the following remarks: (1) Pride Days is this month. This is a great community event for both residents as well as those from outside the community to participate. (2) Spring Clean up Day is a fantastic time to take advantage of a service provided by the town, free of charge. (3) Town Election – Please come out and vote. A great amount of apathy/indifference in the town has been seen. He encouraged citizens to give their input/involvement. (4) He thanked the Smithsburg Police Department as well as the Washington County Sheriff's Office for a successful 1<sup>st</sup> annual drug turn in day. (5) He congratulated Jeff Long on his sewer treatment/Maryland State recognition. He noted that it was well deserved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Martin,  
Clerk/Treasurer/Manager