

Tuesday, November 6, 2012

The regular meeting of the Smithsburg Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, with Mayor Myers and Councilmembers Abbott, Fritsch, Jernigan, Lushbaugh and Souders present.

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

Kory Zeigler and Levi Schindel of Boy Scout Troop 108 were in attendance at tonight's meeting as part of the requirement for their Communication Badge.

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

Councilmember Lushbaugh made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2012 meeting of the Mayor and Council as presented. On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously approved the October 23rd work session minutes. On a motion by Councilmember Fritsch, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the October 9th Executive Session and voted to have them remain open.

Councilmember Jernigan 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) Participated in the Homecoming Parade. (2) Met with Town Attorney, Chief Knight and Randy Dick to review and discuss civil infraction ordinance changes. (3) Thanks go out to the Fire Department and Homer Myers for volunteering to take care of the large brush pile in Veterans Park that had accumulated from the severe storms. (4) Attended the Smithsburg Lions Club Ramp Dedication for a family here in Smithsburg. This was their project for "Make a Difference Day". Each October millions of volunteers around the world unite in a common mission to improve the lives of others. (5) Thanks to the Fire Department, SEMS and our Police Department for keeping our kids safe for Trick or Treat night. (6) The Town has received a copy of the Washington County Maryland 2012 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Information from all municipalities within Washington County is contained in this plan. (7) Mayor Myers stated that Dennis Romance, Public Works Employee, has retired after working for the town for six years. She said that Denny was a dedicated employee whose ultimate desire was always "to serve the citizens of Smithsburg". This he did very well. Best wishes go out to him for a happy and healthy retirement. Jason Elliott, also a Public Works employee, has resigned his position. Jason is quoted as saying "he was grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the citizens of Smithsburg". She extended her best wishes to him.

REPORTS -- DEPARTMENT HEADS

Betsy Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/ Manager reported the following: (1) Filed Uniformed Financial report with Census Bureau and the financial reports were sent to the Dept. of Legislative Reference, County Commissioners and Loan Companies as required. (2) Attended Pride Days meeting. Still need new ideas and more help. The next meeting of the Pride Days Committee will be held on November 15th at 7 PM at Town Hall. (3) Completed necessary documents for the contract with Henson & Son to do the extension to the Veterans Park Walking Trail. (4) Filed necessary paperwork with Department of Legislative Reference regarding the Charter Amendments. (5) Processed water and sewer payments. (6) Received thank you letter from Lions Club for having the permit fee waived for the installation of the handicap ramp. (7) Received thank you letter from St. Paul's Methodist Church for allowing them to block off parking spaces for their Motorcycle Ride for Diabetes. (8) Extended best wishes to Dennis Romance on his retirement from the town. He was a great asset to the town. She also wished Jason Elliott good luck in his new job.

The following written report was submitted by Chief Knight: (1) There were 111 calls for service during the month of October with two adult arrests. (2) The department patrolled a total of 3,163 miles this month and did 17 hours and 45 minutes of foot patrol. (3) A total of 8 premise checks were conducted during the month. (4) Officer First Class Hudson talked to local Cub Scouts and gave them a tour of the Police Department. (5) Chief Knight gave a Community Relations talk to HCC class. (6) Chief Knight attended the Community Outreach meeting at Washington County Sheriff's Dept.

Jeff Long, Public Works Director, presented the following report: (1) Completed semi-annual hydrant flushing. 218,340 gallons of water was used. (2) Winterized all pumping station and the reservoir. (3) Winterized the Lions Community Park. (4) Met with Councilmen Jernigan and Abbott for a tour of the Public Works Buildings and the water and sewer stations. (5) Painted stop bars at all railroad crossings in Town. (6) Inventoried all Public Works vehicles. (7) Replaced the service entrance cable at Town Hall. (8) Repaired a manhole on Schaller Lane. (9) Inspected several sewer repairs that were found during smoke testing. (10) Serviced the 2004 F-350 pickup. (11) Replaced the rear brakes on the 2007 F-150 pickup. (12) Dennis Romance retired as of October 31st and Jason Elliott resigned as of October 23rd from the Public Works Department. He extended his thanks to both of them for their service to the town and wished them good luck in the future. The Town is currently going through the screening process for one replacement at this time. Upcoming events and projects are: (1) Install Christmas decorations. (2) Begin the walking trail extension in Veterans Park. (3) Winterize Veterans Park. (4) Replace the storm drain at Maple Ave. and Bishop Lane. Average daily water consumption for the month was 211,050 gallons.

REPORTS -- COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

Appeals Board – No Hearings

Smithsburg Community Activities Commission – Next meeting will be held on November 8th at Town Hall at which time they will continue with preparations for the Christmas activities.

Parks and Improvement Commission – The next meeting will be held on November 7th at which time they will finalize plans for the Veterans Day Ceremony to be held on November 11th at 2 PM at Veterans Park.

Planning Commission – The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on January 17th. They will be reviewing amendments, revisions and proposed changes to the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance prior to this meeting by e-mail.

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

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

James Ulrich, Chief of Smithsburg Emergency Medical Services, reported that they assisted with one water rescue during Hurricane Sandy and sent crews for standby in Garrett County. They participated in the Homecoming activities and Trick or Treat night.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OR MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS/CONCERNS

No comments.

OLD BUSINESS

The next meeting for the WIP program will be held in January.

Discussion was held on the Speed Camera agreement. In a written report to the Council, Chief Knight reported the following: (1) Showed the placement of the camera. (2) Questioned the split of money from the fines. (3) Questioned the time of the agreement. Chief Knight suggested a two year agreement instead of three years as stated in the company's draft agreement. (4) Also reported that he will be working on setting up a meeting with Town and Washington County officials regarding the road bed of Smithsburg Leitersburg Road. The Mayor will meet with Chief Knight to go over his concerns/comments and put further discussion of the agreement on the December Mayor and Council meeting agenda.

Due to no further information from the Town Attorney, the discussion on the Municipal Infraction Ordinance was tabled until the December meeting.

On a motion by Councilmember Jernigan, Council unanimously approved having Councilman Abbott, Randy Dick and Jeff Long put together a bid package for the repairs to the Byron Drive/Sara Circle Swale and bring it back to Council for approval prior to work commencing in the Spring.

NEW BUSINESS

Daniel Cross, owner of Cloverly Hill, LLC and his attorney, Jason Divelbiss, presented a Petition of Annexation to enlarge the corporate boundaries of the Town by annexing +- 109.624 acres of real property located generally in the northeast quadrant of the intersection of MD Rte. 64 and MD Rte. 77. Land includes 62 acres owned by Cloverly Hill, LLC, 18 acres owned by Allenburg Orchards, 7 and 3 quarters acres owned by the State Highway Administration and the properties along Cloverly Farm Lane. The two zoning classifications that they are requesting for this property are General Commercial and Town Residential. Mr. Divelbiss will prepare the Annexation Resolution for introduction at the December Mayor and Council meeting.

Councilmember Lushbaugh brought up the issue of time management. On a motion by Councilmember Jernigan, Council unanimously approved the expenditure of up to \$1,000 to purchase and install an employee time clock for all employees except the Police Officers.

Mayor Myers read into record a letter from the Smithsburg Fire Department requesting the building permit fee of \$100 be waived for the renovations to the restrooms. Council unanimously approved the fee waiver on a motion by Councilmember Souders.

COUNCILMEMBER REMARKS

Councilmember Souders extended his thanks to Sari Kilheffer, the Boy scouts and Mr. Cross for attending tonight's meeting. He thanked Jeff Long for having the manhole repaired on Schaller Lane and the cross bars painted at the railroad tracks. He wished Dennis Romance good luck in his retirement. He encouraged everyone to participate in the Christmas activities sponsored by the SCAC and to recycle. Councilmember Souders also encouraged everyone to sign up for town alerts. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Jernigan thanked previous Mayors and Council for putting in place generators in all pumping stations and for putting the water storage tanks up on the hill. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Fritsch wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Lushbaugh thanked the Police Department, Fire Department and SEMS for their help with Trick or Treat night. He encouraged everyone to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony on Sunday, November 11th. He participated in the Homecoming Parade. Councilmember Lushbaugh thanked Dennis Romance for his service to the Town.

Councilmember Abbott thanked the boy scouts for coming to tonight's meeting. He also encouraged everyone to attend the Veterans Day ceremony. Councilmember Abbott stated that Trick or Treat night was very successful and that the Police did a good job. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Martin,
Clerk/Treasurer/Manager