

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

The regular meeting of the Smithsburg Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, September 6, 2011, with Mayor Myers and Councilmembers Aurand, Jernigan, Lushbaugh, Martin and Souders present.

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

Mayor Myers introduced Matthew Pryor of Boy Scout Troop #108 who was attending tonight's meeting as a requirement for his Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge.

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously voted to approve the agenda as written.

Councilmember Aurand made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 9th meeting of the Mayor and Council. Councilmember Aurand, Jernigan, Martin and Souders voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Lushbaugh abstained from voting due to the fact that he was not present at the meeting. The minutes of the August 23rd work session were unanimously approved on a motion by Councilmember Lushbaugh.

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 Commissioning Ceremony of Second Lieutenant Michael Patrick Lawrence held at Veterans Memorial Gardens in Veterans Park. She congratulated Michael for his accomplishments and service to our Country. (2) Attended the first AD HOC Charter Committee meeting. She extended her thanks to the citizens who volunteered to take their time to review the Town's Charter for any improvements needed. This is your Charter and should reflect the wishes of our people. Please keep informed as the information will be published before official adoption by Council. (3) Jeff Long, Public Works Director, has received his Superintendent license for the Wastewater Collection Systems for the Town of Smithsburg. She congratulated him and presented him with his certificate.

REPORTS -- DEPARTMENT HEADS

Betsy Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/ Manager reported the following: (1) Continued work on the Town's website. If anyone has any additions that they would like to see added to the site, please contact the Town Office. The Business Directory is currently being updated. (2) Submitted Yearly Hotel/Motel Report and Excise Report. (3) Mailed out 79 water and sewer disconnect notices. 4 properties had their water disconnected. (4) Participated in Pre-Mandatory Bid Walk through for Grove Lane Overlay project and bid opening. (5) Attended Charter Ad Hoc Committee Meeting. (6) Attended Multi Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting. At this meeting we were informed about the new Everbridge Aware for Citizens Alert which will become active in mid September. Citizens can go to the County Web site, which can be accessed through the Town's site and sign up for these alerts.

Chief George Knight of the Smithsburg Police Department presented the following report: (1) There were 137 calls for service during the month of August with 3 adult and 3 juvenile arrests. (2) The department patrolled a total of 3,540 miles this month and did 18 hours and 15 minutes of foot patrol. (3) A total of 2,999 patrol checks and 53 premise checks were conducted during the month. (4) The Department did a total of 3 hours of Bike Patrol. (5) The Department held their 2nd National Night Out on August 2nd. (6) He congratulated Office Hudson on the birth of his first child. (7) He reported that there had been no vandalism in the park in the last month since the parking lot lights have been left on at night.

Jeff Long, Public Works Director, gave the following report: (1) Repaired and fiber coated the large pavilion roof in Lions Community Park. (2) Re-painted the exterior of the large pavilion in Lions Community Park. (3) Attended a pre-bid meeting, along with Betsy Martin, regarding the repairs and re-surfacing of Grove Lane. (4) Inmates with the Maryland Department of Corrections were working in both parks the week of August 8th. (5) Delivered water disconnect notices and shut off a total of four services. (6) Mr. Rehab was in town the week of August 29th and made eighteen priority one repairs. (7) Along with Jason Elliott attended an all day training class in Walkersville on August 24th and received 7.5 credit hours required for state licensing. Upcoming events and projects include: (1) Begin third quarter water meter readings. (2) Curb and Hydrant Painting. Average daily water usage for the month was 244,325 gallons.

REPORTS -- COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

Appeals Board – Randy Dick reported that the Appeals met and granted a variance from the required ten (10) feet rear yard set-back to three (3) feet six (6) inches for the purpose of enlarging and adding stairs to the exiting deck. Property is owned by Linda Burns and is located at 125 Sentry Ridge in a Planned Residential District.

SCAC – No meeting.

Parks and Improvement Commission – Park Chairman Carlo Belella, gave the following report: This report includes the activities of the Parks and Improvement Commission reported in the minutes of our August 8th meeting. (1) A new FACEBOOK blog called “OUR SMITHSBURG PARKS” is up and running. The parks link to the town official web site is under construction. (2) Inmates have helped Public Works with parks clean up, painting and general maintenance recently. (3) The approved swags to decorate the lamp posts at Christmas have been ordered to take advantage of a 20% summer discount. Additional decorations for the town square planters are being considered. (4) Our member Mark Cline is preparing preliminary sketches for the roll up door installation at the Veterans Park pavilion. The sketches will be used for final engineering drawings before seeking construction bids when authority to spend the POS money is received from the State. Review by our insurance will be sought. (5) Our proposal to set the Veterans Park parking lot lights to a dusk to down configuration was approved by the Council on a 30-day trial basis. (6) Two more Eagle Scout candidates, Benjamin Connelly and Austin Lane have approached us with proposed park projects. Their projects will be reviewed at our September meeting and presented to the Mayor and Council for approval if accepted. We are in contact with the first candidate, Connor Brown, who has an approved plan to maintain the small pavilions and help with the wildflower project. (7) The next meeting will be on September 12th at 7:00 PM.

Planning Commission – Randy Dick reported the draft copy of the Comprehensive Plan has been corrected and copy sent to the State. The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on September 15th. The October meeting will be held on October 13th at which time the Commission will review the comments received from the State on the Comprehensive Plan.

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

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Phil Rohrer, President of Smithsburg Community Volunteer Fire Dept., reported that Patrick Baker is still working on checking the fire hydrants for obstructions. He invited everyone to the dedication service on September 11th for the new flag pole in front of the building. He also noted that the new radio tower is being installed.

James Ulrich, Deputy Chief of SEMS, reported that they had 131 calls for service in August with a year to date total of 809 calls. He reported that SEMS will be on standby at the home football games. He also reported that 3 of their members have passed the National Paramedic exam.

Betsy Martin read into record the following report from the Library Board: (1) The Board accepted the resignation of Joyce Williams who will be moving from the area. Mrs. Williams was commended for her many years of effort on behalf of the Smithsburg Library. (2) Smithsburg Pride Days activities added \$410 to the Donations Account. The book sale was the main fund raiser. (3) Tim Sharpe, who, along with his wife Elise, was a generous donor to the library and a Board member at his passing, will be memorialized with a tree planted on library grounds. A suitable site will be decided upon using the landscaping plan the Board has developed. (4) Ashley Hutson, Branch Manager was a participant in the recent HorrorFind Weekend Convention and Film Festival in Gettysburg, PA. Ms. Hutson's film, "The Black Eyed Children", was one of 43 films out of one thousand submitted for showing at this three day event. (5) Everyone is invited to the 5th Anniversary of the Smithsburg Branch Library on Friday, September 30th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The Charles Slick Art Exhibit will be on display and Sari Slick Kilheffer will talk about the history of Smithsburg. RSVP to 301-739-3250 by September 28th if you would like to attend. (6) The next scheduled Board meeting is November 17, 2011.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OR MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS/CONCERNS

Patrick Grach of 108 Eagle's Ridge spoke to Council about his concern with the Trash Company coming into town too early in the morning. Betsy Martin stated that she had been in contact with Allied Trash Company and that they would make sure that the drivers would pick up trash in the old part of town first and then go to the developments. Sari Kilheffer of N. Main Street stated that traffic gets backed up when they are in town later in the morning.

OLD BUSINESS

Randy Dick reported that the next meeting of the WIP committee will be held on September 16th. He noted that they are still waiting on information from the state.

Randy Dick reported that the revised Floodplain Map updates will be ready by the summer of 2012 with final determination in 2013.

The Draft Comprehensive Plan is in the hands of State Planning for their review. They have assured the Town Planner that they will have their comments back by October 7th.

On a motion by Councilmember Jernigan, Council unanimously approved leaving the Parking Lot Lights on in Veterans Park until November 30th and then turned back on the first of March.

Mayor Myers reported that the town attorney has sent a letter to the State Ethics Commission with a copy of an Ordinance that will adopt a new ethics law to comply with the Senate Bill 315.

Discussion was then held on the Grove Lane Overlay Project. After much discussion, Councilmember Souders made a motion to proceed with Phase I of the project and award the contract to Huntzberry Brothers for a price of \$10,920. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Betsy Martin read into record letters from the following: Dr. Thomas Nussear, Bonnie Winders, Attorney at Law and Troy Jernigan, DRL Properties. The letters stated that they were requesting that the parking spaces in front of their businesses/properties be designated with limited parking signs.

Councilmember Lushbaugh made a motion to grant the limited parking spaces and that the property owner is responsible for the core borings of the sign holes as well as subsequent back filling after the signs are deemed unnecessary. Signs are for 1 hour parking during the hours of 7AM to 9PM. Councilmembers Aurand, Lushbaugh, Martin and Souders voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Jernigan abstained from voting. Motion passed by a majority vote.

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously voted to hold Trick or Treat night in Smithsburg on Monday, October 31st from 6 to 8 PM.

On a motion by Councilmember Jernigan, Council unanimously approved the permit fee waiver to the Smithsburg Fire Dept. for the installation of the replacement communication tower.

On the agenda for the October work session will be: (1) E. School Lane Review – Town Engineer, (2) Railroad Lane Drainage Issue – Town Engineer, (3) Tree Issue – Plan of Action, (4) Ad Hoc Committee Report, (5) Energy Grant – A/C bids.

COUNCILMEMBER REMARKS

Councilmember Lushbaugh congratulated Jeff Long on his obtaining the Superintendent of Waste Water Treatment License. He attended National Night Out and stated that it was a great success. He appreciated everyone who was involved.

Councilmember Aurand also congratulated Jeff Long. She welcomed Bud Lucassen back to the meeting.

Councilmember Souders informed everyone that the next meeting of the Charter Ad Hoc Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 13th at 6:30 PM. He stated that the first meeting was very productive. Councilmember Souders welcomed Bud back to the meeting. He encouraged everyone to visit the website and sign up for the alerts. He extended his thanks to the Police Department for the work they are doing especially during the past couple of incidents in the area.

Councilmember Jernigan dittoed all the above remarks. He also stated that he would like to see citizens come to the meetings as Patrick Grach did this evening. He remarked how nice the new website is and urges everyone to get on it. He stated that it is very professional.

Councilmember Martin stated that it was good to see Bud Lucassen back at the meeting. He congratulated Jeff Long. Councilmember Martin attended the Charter Review Committee meeting.

Mayor Myers welcomed Bud Lucassen back. She also thanked Matthew Pryor for attending tonight's meeting.

On a motion by Councilmember Aurand the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Martin,
Clerk/Treasurer/Manager