

**MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2007 @ 7:30 P.M.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg was held on Monday, August 6, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council Meeting Room. Those in attendance were Mayor Ballas and Councilmembers Willis, Gasser, and Gutkin. Councilmember Fluharty was on vacation. Also in attendance were local citizenry, staff, and the local media.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ballas, who then led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

A motion by Councilmember Gasser seconded by Councilmember Willis and passed by a vote of four to zero approving the minutes as corrected.

Councilmember Gasser advised that the Mayor and Council held a Closed Session prior to the regular meeting to discuss a Real Estate Matter as required under State Government Article, Section 10-508(a)3.

GUESTS

Natalie K. Chabot
Director, Caroline County Office of Tourism

Mrs. Natalie K. Chabot, Director, of the Caroline County Office of Tourism, introduced herself to the Mayor and Council and offered the services of her office to help promote the town. She also issued copies of the visitor's guide to the Mayor and Council. Ms. Chabot complimented the Town for being of great assistance to her in her position as Director of Tourism. She also thanked Richard Colburn for the help he provided in helping with the new visitor center up and running. She asked the Mayor and Council to consider becoming a partner with the Stories of the Chesapeake, which would help with promotion of Federalsburg and also provide possible grant funding.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Federalsburg Volunteer Fire Department

No members were in attendance.

Federalsburg Historical Society Committee Report

Mr. Joe Glime reported that the Federalsburg Historical Society participated in the Annual Thresherman's Show held on August 3rd, 4th & 5th. He said the Federalsburg Historical Society is in the process of working with the Caroline County Historical Society to preserve the Noble

House, which is currently owned by Mr. Steve Parks. The Federalsburg Historical Society has also talked with three landowners adjacent to the museum about the possibility of allowing access to the museum as well as the Public Safety Building.

OLD BUSINESS

ZONING AMENDMENT ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 2007-16 – An Ordinance to amend the Federalsburg Zoning Ordinance to create requirements for triangular shaped lots in the ID-2 District.

A motion by Councilmember Gasser seconded by Councilmember Willis and unanimously passed by a vote of four to zero approving Ordinance No. 2007-16.

Ordinance No. 2007-17 – An Ordinance to amend the requirements for townhouses in the Town of Federalsburg Zoning Ordinance.

A motion by Councilmember Gasser seconded by Councilmember Willis and unanimously passed by a vote of four to zero approving Ordinance No. 2007-17.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC CONCERNS

ELAINE PHILLIPS

Mrs. Elaine Phillips, who resides at 306 Maple Avenue, advised the Mayor and Council that her home had been broken into and she had some concerns she wanted addressed. She said that when the break-in occurred the Federalsburg Police responded immediately. She questioned why the person that broke into her home was released on bond. She wanted to know why citizens were not made aware of a problem with burglaries in Federalsburg. She said she is not upset with the Federalsburg Police Department, but with the immediate release of the person that allegedly committed the crime, and the fact that her name was published in the local newspaper.

Mayor Ballas advised that the courts released the burglar on his own recognizance. Chief Nagel issued copies of the Maryland Law that describes why the accused was released on bond first. The accused person was taken to the Commissioner's Office and bail was set. At that time, he came before the Judge and the Judge released him on his own recognizance.

There were other citizens present that voiced their concerns in regard to the burglaries in Federalsburg. There were recommendations to begin a system similar to the Amber Alert. The Post Office, Public Works Department, Delmarva Power, Comcast and the town sign could be used to assist with reporting suspicious activity. Chief Nagel thanked the citizens for their support of the Police Department and asked them report any suspicious activities in their

neighborhood. Chief Nagel asked that all neighbors look out for each other and report anything that doesn't look normal.

Mayor Ballas reported that C-Safe through the Kid Escape Program, teaches kids how to escape if someone is trying to abduct them. She will also get information out to citizens of the town to see if they wish to observe this program. The premise of the whole program is the abductor wants to move you away from where you are as quickly as possible. Adults also need to come and see the program and possibly participate. In the past this program has been geared to children, but a lot of good things can come out of this to teach adults how to protect themselves.

CHRIS PARKS

Chris Parks, President of the Mid-shore Softball League thanked the Mayor and Council for the support of the league. Mr. Parks expressed his concerns about (1) the removal of the scoreboard and (2) whether the Town would be willing to go in half on the cost of a home plate batting box that would cost \$1,500.00.

Mr. Parks reported that three new teams have signed up to play in their league. Their first game will be on August 26, 2007. The league held a benefit tournament for Blaine Cheeseman and made a donation of \$5,800.00. The Mayor and Council requested a schedule and the rules and regulations for the league.

PEARL LOFLAND **ABC CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

Mrs. Pearl Lofland and some of the parents from the program, representing the ABC Daycare Center, located on Laurel Grove Road, Federalsburg, Maryland, requested help and assistance from the Mayor and Council and Town Manager Richard Colburn to obtain the needed funding to operate their program through the Purchase of Care Program. Mr. Lofland stated that ever since they have changed the way that they have to report to them, which started in January, the Daycare has been battling with them to receive their money. The program changed from paying every two weeks to once a month. She stated that the parents are not receiving their money on a regular basis from the Purchase of Care Program. Some of the problems may be a result of changing their Federal I.D. Number. Mrs. Lofland advised of the hardship that this has created for the daycare. ABC cannot pay their employees or meet their expenses due to the untimely payments from purchase of care. Richard Colburn requested Mrs. Lofland write him a letter explaining their concerns and he will forward it to the appropriate department to get some answers.

MARION COPPER FELTON **HOLLAND DRIVE**

Mrs. Felton asked if the Mayor and Council could assist her with the drainage ditch that is in back of her property. The ditch was cleaned out several years ago and needs cleaning out again. The Mayor and Council requested that Steve Watson look into this ownership of the ditch and talk with PBH about cleaning out this ditch.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police Report – Chief Nagel

Chief Nagel read the Police Report. Chief Nagel explained that he was looking into a Crime Free Housing Program and gave a sample of the program for their review to the Mayor and Council Members. They are looking for the support of the landlords and the public with this project. The Crime Free Housing Program is a program that would help the quality of life in Federalsburg for everyone.

Public Works Department Report – Steve Dyott

Steve Dyott reported the following:

1. They have started work on South Main Street near Railroad Avenue and the contractor can't seem to locate where the problem is with the line. Once the repairs have been made the contractor will fill the hole with base asphalt for six months and mill off and pave with final coat.
2. The contractor has begun the assembly of the water tower. The contractor will be working eight days on and six days off. The Contractor hopes to begin painting the tower in October or November. The Mayor and Council recommended the logo and lettering color to be black for the water tower.

Main Steet/Grants Administrator – Happy Mayer

1. Bids are being accepted for the small boat dock at the fishing/boating park behind the Old Coastal Gas Station. This is the start of the three-phase project, which includes bank stabilization and a fishing pier.

Joe Glime questioned what type of fishing pier. It will be constructed similar to a boardwalk, about 36 feet in length with a railing enabling people to stroll or fish from the dock. The contractor will have to obtain permits. The number of boats that could possibly tie up to the pier would be approximately eight (8).

2. Program Open Space applications have been finished and sent. One was for the third phase of the playground equipment in the Marina Park and one was for the repair of the tennis courts in Chambers Park.
3. Permits are in the works for the stone revetment project around the bridges along the Marshyhope Greenway Trail and the Drainage Project at Marina.

4. Advertising has begun for the repair and replacement of roof and front walls for the Covey/Williams Garage Project. Bids are to be received on August 23rd and the Pre-bid meeting is August 7th. This project is to be completed by November of this year.
5. ShoreGood Water Bottling Company has been featured in the on three pages in the Chesapeake Business Ledger.

Tim Foley questioned the status of the new Police Station. The building is almost complete, and the walk through inspection is scheduled for tomorrow. If the punch list is completed, it will be done, except for generator, which is approximately 20 weeks out.

Code Enforcement – Steve Watson

Steve Watson stated that the tree trimming and debris cleanup on Holland Drive has been completed. The renovations at the former Northwest Fork were told that if plans were not submitted immediately, a STOP WORK order would be issued. The downstairs will be renovated and remain a restaurant, and the upstairs will be renovated and consist of two apartments. Several corrective orders have been posted on doors for tall grass and untagged vehicle violations. A certified letter was sent to the owner of 209 South Main Street about the tall grass, and if the grass is not cut by August 10th, the contractor will be advised to cut it. Citizens were urged to contact the Town Office with any violations or complaints.

Planning and Zoning – Steve Bollinger

Steve Bollinger reported the following:

The commission has received a tentative sketch plan for the former Coastal Station on East Central Avenue. The renovations at Northwest Fork will be reviewed by Planning and Zoning prior to issuance of a building permit.

ACTION ITEMS

Barbie Lynch, 11 years old of Federalsburg, recently received the Presidential Award for her high score on the MSA test and for her grade point average at Federalsburg Elementary School. She also received several other awards for band, chorus, math and reading and came in second place in her math tournament. Ms. Lynch is the daughter of Rob and Linda Lynch, and is also a member of the South Carolina softball team and cheer squad.

Comcast

Richard Colburn advised that Mayor and Council and citizens that they should look into going on line and exercising their arbitration guideline rights through Comcast. He related to a newspaper article in the Daily Times.

CUBMOBILE RACES

A request was submitted requesting permission to hold the Cubmobile Races on West Central Avenue on September 23, 2007, with a rain date of September 30, 2007. The Mayor & Council agreed unanimously to grant this request.

INDUSTRIAL PARK ACREAGE COST

A motion by Councilmember Gasser seconded by Councilmember Willis and passed by a vote of four to zero to charge \$35,000 per acre for Industrial Park land from \$18,000.00.

MARSHYHOPE CREEK DREDGING

Richard Colburn reported that he has received correspondence from Ann Collier addressing the town's request for dredging of the Marshyhope Creek. He asked and was given permission to schedule a meeting for the workshop on September 17th to meet with representatives of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Councilmember Gasser seconded by Councilmember Willis and unanimously passed by a vote of four to zero to adjourn at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Shirley A. Greene

Shirley A. Greene
Clerk/Treasurer