

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF FEDERALSBURG
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2007
7:30 P.M.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg was held on Monday, November 5, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council Meeting Room. Those in attendance were Mayor Ballas and Councilmembers Fluharty, Willis, Gasser and Gutkin. Also in attendance were local citizenry, staff, guests, and a representative from the Times-Record.

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 Fluharty seconded by Councilmember Willis and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero approving the minutes of the October 1, 2007 meeting as corrected. The changes were typographical.

GUESTS

**Loren Sullivan
HSC Community Coordinator**

Ms. Loren Sullivan, HSC Community Coordinator, introduced herself to the Mayor and Council and citizens of Federalsburg. She stated that she would be responsible for assisting with lowering the crime rate in Federalsburg, Greensboro, and Ridgely. She hopes to begin having monthly meetings. The first meeting is aimed at the last week in November. At that meeting, she hopes to review common problems in the area. She welcomed suggestions and comments from the community. She was also asked to contact Heather Hutson, to get involved with the Neighborhood Watch Program.

**Lisa Ruiz
Memorial Plaque Discussion**

Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Ruiz requested approval from the Mayor and Council to place a hometown memorial in the triangle located at the intersection of West Central Avenue and Park Lane in honor of their son, Manuel Antonio Ruiz, who died while serving his country. The Mayor and Council were in support of erecting a memorial, however, they recommended listing the names of all of Federalsburg's fallen soldiers. The Ruiz Family stated they have received a donation from Barnes Sand and Gravel for cement. The memorial would cost approximately \$3,300.

A motion by Councilmember Fluharty seconded by Councilmember Willis and passed by a vote of five to zero granting permission for a war memorial to be erected at the triangle located at the intersection of West Central Avenue and Park Lane.

Councilmember Fluharty will also be on the committee with Mr. & Mrs. Ruiz for development of the memorial for the triangle.

The Ruiz's have gained support from local organizations for the development of this project. They were also asked to contact the local VFW to assist.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Federalburg Historical Society

Bart Johnson thanked the Mayor and Council, citizens and organizations for their assistance with the Hobby Fair. The Fair was very successful with 35 participants. The Hobby Fair highlighted the soap box derby. They have begun planning for next year and are looking for town support.

Bart Johnson read article "Can Small Towns Be Cool? Yes, he says". This article points out how to be a successful small town. Mr. Johnson distributed copies of the article for those present.

It was the consensus of the Mayor and Council to allow the Grants Administrator to assist with locating grant funding for the FHS.

Federalburg Volunteer Fire Department

Councilmember Fluharty stated that the Federalburg Volunteer Fire Department's soup sale went well. They also hosted the Caroline County Ducks Unlimited Dinner and that also went well. Councilmember Fluharty expressed his concern for the lack of financial support from the businesses in the town's three industrial parks. The fund raising efforts of the FVFD have raised \$8,900 to date and that does not include the businesses in the Industrial Park. Sisk Fulfillment takes care of their mailings to show their support to the FVFD. Richard Colburn asked if going door to door with representatives from the fire company to educate the public of the significance of their support would help. It was suggested that the fire company go door to door to meet with each business individually. Richard Colburn said he would be more than happy to go door to door with representatives from the FVFD. The fire company's annual operating budget is \$150,000.

OLD BUSINESS

WasteWater Treatment Plant Bid Approval

Mayor Ballas gave a brief synopsis of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Upgrade and proposed funding. The low bidder for the project was Howard Robson, Inc.

The proposed funding breakdown for this project is as follows:

BNR Grant - \$1,916,184

ENR Grant - \$3,558,694

State Supplemental Grant - \$325,000
EPA Grant - \$433,700
State Revolving Loan Fund - \$3,407,043

This project is a federally mandated project that if the town does not proceed with can be fined \$32,500 per day for every day the town is in violation.

Jason Loar with Davis, Bowen, & Friedel advised that the town is going to have to obtain interim financing for the loan portion of project.

The concern of Councilmembers Fluharty and Willis is not the contractor, it is the issue of how the citizens of Federalsburg will pay back the loan portion of the project. Councilmember Fluharty stated he had no problem awarding the bid to the lowest bidder, however, he feels the citizens of Federalsburg should have a clearer understanding of the cost to them prior to the Mayor and Council making a commitment on their behalf. Councilmember Fluharty stated he would like to see the public educated in regard to this matter.

Councilmember Gutkin said the billing structure for the water and sewer should be re-examined for residential, commercial and industrial rates with the expansion. Councilmember Gutkin feels the town should look at rates for those on fixed incomes.

After much discussion and analysis, a motion by Councilmember Gasser seconded by Councilmember Gutkin and passed by a vote of three to two (Ballas/Yea; Gasser/Yea; Gutkin/Yea; Fluharty/Nay; Willis/Nay), to award the bid for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade to Howard Robson, Inc. in the amount of \$7,870,000.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

Chuck Planner

Chuck Planner questioned what plans the Mayor and Council have for the old police station. He wanted to know if the town would be selling or leasing the building; or keeping it for their own use. Mr. Planner was advised that the Mayor and Council have agreed to sell the building. They have been approached by the YMCA, who has asked that the town not do anything until December 1st, which will give them an opportunity to determine whether or not they want to utilize the building as a satellite center for the YMCA.

There was some opposition expressed to using that building to house a YMCA. It was recommended that it would be more suitable for a business. A committee has been selected to investigate the procedures of selling several properties in the town that are no longer of use to the town.

Darlene Dotson

Darlene Dotson questioned who was responsible for sidewalks in town when they are in need of repair. She said she tripped and almost fell on a sidewalk and she questioned the liability if she

hurt herself. Ms. Dotson was advised that the property owners are responsible for the sidewalks and the liability would fall on the property owner. Ms. Dotson also recommended to the Mayor and Council to look into some type of sidewalk replacement program for property owners.

Ms. Dotson also questioned who was on the Planning and Zoning Board when the Holland Drive subdivision was approved? Ms. Dotson was asked to contact Steve Dyott to see if the name of the chairperson is on the subdivision plans.

Ms. Dotson also asked for an update on the Holland Drive Street lighting situation. Mayor Ballas advised that she had not heard from any of the residents since the trees have been trimmed to know whether or not the tree trimming has provided substantial lighting. Steve Dyott said he thought that additional lighting was needed at this location. The Council was asked to take another look at the lighting since the tree was trimmed and make a decision at the workshop as to whether a light should be placed in that location.

William Beall

Mr. Beall stated that he has purchased a house on Park Avenue and the drainage is poor. There are no sidewalks, curb and gutter. Mr. Beall stated that he is going to become committed to making Park Avenue one of the best streets to live on in Federalsburg. He said there are also holes that need to be filled on that street.

Garbage Can Collection

Dr. H. R Trapnell questioned the need to charge a second debt service fee for the second trash can, if it is purchased by the property owner. He also questioned why it takes two men to ride on the trash truck. He said four times during the month of October the garbagemen left his garbage can sitting in the middle of his driveway. Dr. Trapnell was informed that the need for the second man on the trash truck is dwindling. Basically there are residents who still do not sit their garbage can out or they set it near a pole or a car is parked too close or in front of it. Steve Dyott said the second man is soon to be stopped and asked for the backing of the Mayor and Council when the calls come stating that their garbage was not picked up would the council back them. The Mayor and Council agreed to support the policy.

The Mayor and Council agreed to adhere to policy that if a property owner purchases a second can then they have to pay the garbage fee.

Heather Hutson

Heather Hutson reported that Federal Manor with Neighborhood Watch held a Fall Festival during the month of October. She thanked Mayor Ballas and Chief Nagel for their support. They had approximately 100 youth in attendance. They did activities and played Christian rap music. Federal Manor now has a new manager whose name is Rev. Terrance Murray.

Mrs. Hutson reported that the lighting of the Old Water Tower will be held on December 1st at 6:30 p.m. This will be the last year that the old tower will be lit. She is waiting for donations of

hot chocolate and cookies. They are planning an old fashioned hymn sing. They will be dedicating the lighting of the tower to the Ruiz family.

Mrs. Hutson stated that they are considering having a scavenger hunt of the old Christmas bells throughout the community. This may help to bring business to some of the downtown businesses. The Santa Claus Committee will supply Savings Bonds for this project. She will be contacting businesses to see if they want to display a bell.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police Department

Chief Nagel did not have a report for the month of September because the Police Department is in the process of moving from North Main Street to Morris Avenue and the Crime Star Reporting System is currently down. The new police station phones were turned on today and they are still continuing to move.

Public Works Department

Steve Dyott, Public Works Director reported the following:

1. The generator is in perfect working condition.
2. The water tower is in the process of being sandblasted and painted and is expected to be complete around Thanksgiving. It will have to sit at least 30 to 40 days, be inspected and will be ready to go. The other two will be cleaned and drained and hopefully complete by February 2008.
3. The street light on Park Lane between Vesper Avenue and Greenridge Road is very dark and Steve asked if another light needed to be installed. There is a pole close by that a light could be put on, so a new pole would not be needed. Conectiv will be asked to take a look at it. The Mayor and Council will let Steve know of their decision. Part of the darkness in this area is tree growth.
4. 110 South Main Street – There is a cotton wood tree with a broken limb that needs to be trimmed and removed because it is laying on the electric wires. The tree is owned by the property owner of 110 South Main Street. The electric wires service Mr. Brohawn's Building, Horizon Photography and the old police station. If these lines are pulled down there will be businesses without of electric. The property owner needs to call in and request that Conectiv have the tree trimmed. The Town will write a letter to the owner of Café 110 advising that a complaint has been made.
5. There is an area on Old Denton Road that needs to be paved because it is in poor condition. One of the reasons that it has not been repaired, is because of the Glime Meadow development and the work that needs to done for that project.

Main Street/Grants Department

Happy Mayer Main Street/Grants Administrator reported the following:

1. The Playground equipment on Phase II will be installed on November 6th for ages 5 to 12.
2. The Town Website has been upgraded to include permit and application forms, and residents will be able to do online submittals.
3. December 4th and 5th – Monitoring visits on grants projects.
4. Marshyhope Realty is having a decorating contest for houses in the area. Awards and gifts will be presented.
5. The Town has signed the easement agreement regarding the Town sign, and will forward it to General Mills for their signatures.

Code Enforcement Department

Steve Watson, Code Enforcement Officer, stated that permits are starting to pick up again. Steve was contacted by a Main Street business owner, regarding the possibility of installing an underground propane tank. The town currently owns a portion of the property where the tank would have to be located. Councilmember Fluharty said that in 1991, he requested the same thing, however, per code there is a certain distance that the tanks have to be located. The request is currently for a buried tank, and there isn't enough room on their property so it would have to go out into the town parking lot. This would have to be approved by the Floodplain Administration. Steve Dyott said it would be more cost effective if the property owners got together and signed a contract with Tri-Gas. The downside is the limitation of the vertical tanks. The Mayor and Council said they cannot give an answer at this time because the town may be selling the property.

ACTION ITEMS

Weekly Reports

Councilmember Fluharty thanked the staff for starting the weekly reports.

Santa House

Mayor Ballas reported there has been some discussion of placing the Santa Claus House at the current location of the Morris Avenue Water Tower once it is removed. However, after some consideration this may not be an appropriate location either. The Santa Claus Committee is open to suggestions as to where the Santa Claus House should be located.

General Foods/Pillsbury

Mayor Ballas advised that for the past several years Pillsbury has conducted leaf cleanup in Chambers Park using volunteers from their employees. Pillsbury employees have also steam cleaned the playground equipment.

Caroline County Association of Municipalities

Mayor Ballas reported that the Caroline County Association of Municipalities has rescheduled their meeting from November 21st to November 15th at a place to be announced. The dinner will be hosted by the Town of Ridgely.

Employee Christmas Luncheon

There was discussion as to whether or not to hold the employee luncheon on December 24th or December 21st. Plans for the luncheon will be finalized at the November workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Councilmember Fluharty seconded by Councilmember Gasser and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero to adjourn at 10:22 p.m.

Submitted by,

Shirley A. Greene
Clerk/Treasurer