

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007 @ 7:30 P.M.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg was held on Monday, December 3, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council Meeting Room. Those in attendance were Mayor Ballas and Councilmembers Gasser, Gutkin, Willis and Fluharty. Also in attendance were local citizenry, staff and a newspaper representative.

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

REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Ballas reported the Mayor and Council held a Closed Session on Monday, December 3, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter as allowed under the State Government Article, Section 10-508(a) 1.

MINUTES

A motion by Councilmember Fluharty, seconded by Councilmember Gasser and passed by a vote of five to zero approving the minutes of the previous meeting as corrected. The corrections were grammatical and spelling.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Federalsburg Historical Society

Joe Glime reported that they attended the progress meeting on the Covey Williams Building. He reported that the trusses are erected. The new bubble block samples have come in and everything is progressing nicely. The Federalsburg Historical Society has erected displays in the Public Safety Building windows.

Federalsburg Volunteer Fire Department

Councilmember Fluharty reported the following on behalf of the Federalsburg Volunteer Fire Company:

1. There will be a Soup luncheon on December 14th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
2. There will be a Christmas Breakfast on December 23rd and the ladies will be having a cookie walk.
3. The Fire Company is also selling Christmas Trees.

OLD BUSINESS

War Memorial Update

Adam Lusk presented a diagram of the proposed layout of the war memorial. The committee will meet to confirm the plan and compose better drawings. The committee would like to maintain the February 14th deadline. There will be an upcoming fundraiser and a post office box for donations.

Mayor Ballas is waiting for suggestions on where to place the Santa House. The memorial walk is designed to be handicapped accessible. Those being memorialized in the circle are those that lost their lives while serving their Country. One suggestion that was presented to the Committee to help raise funds was to sell bricks in memory of fallen heroes. The committee will be sending out letters requesting financial support for this project. The committee is also considering constructing a concrete bench for those that want to visit. There were concerns as to how it will look in the future and who would maintain it. The committee will contact the VFW to see if they would be willing to assist with the maintenance of the area, etc. The town would maintain the grassy area of the project because it is on town property. The only area of maintenance needed would be the flag area. The Ladies Auxiliary will be asked to plant the flowers. The memorial wall would be a 3 foot granite wall. There will be an ongoing memorial fund and the flag pole will have a written guarantee. The main concern now is to obtain approval to install the concrete footer for the base of the wall. The remainder of the project will be done in phases.

The committee has obtained donations for the concrete. Mayor Ballas questioned Steve Watson about the disturbance of impervious surface. Steve said it depends on how much is disturbed and they would have to contact the Stormwater Management Department. They will remove the pine tree that is currently located at the site.

A motion by Councilmember Fluharty seconded by Councilmember Willis and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero granting approval to the War Memorial Committee to begin with the installation of the concrete for the war memorial at the triangle. The Mayor and Council advised Mr. Adam Lusk that the committee should coordinate with the Code Enforcement Department in regard to a permit and to make sure the concrete is poured to meet code specifications.

THE ABOVE MOTION WAS AMENDED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2008 AS FOLLOWS:

A motion by Councilmember Gutkin seconded by Councilmember Gasser and passed by a vote of three to two granting approval to the War Memorial Committee. The Mayor and Council advised Mr. Adam Lusk that the committee should coordinate with the Code Enforcement Department in regard to a permit and to make sure that the concrete is poured to meet code specifications.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

HEATHER HUTSON

Heather Hutson thanked everyone for their participation with the lighting of the water tower festivities. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. Josh Ruiz flipped the switch in honor of his brother, Manuel Ruiz. There was a band and residents sang Christmas carols, and everyone enjoyed hot chocolate. Heather thanked Chief Nagel for the participation of two police officers, and she also thanked Public Works Department for their assistance.

Mrs. Hutson reported that Loren Sullivan, Community Coordinator for the Human Services Council held a community meeting on November 26th at 7 p.m. at the Federalsburg Town Hall and four people were in attendance. They will be scheduling another meeting at a later date, hopefully, during the month of January.

MARION COPPER-FELTON

Mrs. Marion Copper-Felton, who resides at 3437 Holland Drive, advised that her husband's pick-up truck was stolen from their yard. The truck was involved in a high speed chase on Richardson and Laurel Grove Roads, and the boys that stole the vehicle were taken to hospital. Her concern is the lighting on Holland Drive. She said there was a portion of the street that is very dark. She advised that there are a lot of foot trails through the woods that lead to the housing development. She also advised that there was another theft in the area other than hers. The Town agreed to write a letter to the owners of the property advising them that there are concerns about the foot traffic through the woods and other criminal activities in this area. Mrs. Copper-Felton was also advised that the town has requested a requisition for lighting near the wooded area on Holland Drive.

Mrs. Copper-Felton advised that the ditch located behind her property is still full of debris. Steve Watson is working with PBH to get the ditch problem resolved.

DARLENE DOTSON

Darlene Dotson questioned who owned the property behind her property located at 3423 Holland Drive. She asked the town to find out who owns the property because a tree snapped on that property and fell into her yard, and narrowly missed hitting her home. She questioned the Mayor and Council about what could be done to get the tree removed. Steve Watson will write a letter to PBH to ask for their assistance in removing the tree. Ms. Dotson questioned how she could get a listing of the Board Members for People for Better Housing. She was referred to the Caroline County Library in Denton.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police Department

Chief Nagel presented his monthly report. He stated his department is working on solving some serious crimes and hopefully there will be an arrest made soon.

Main Street/Grants Department

Happy Mayer, Main Street/Grants Administrator reported the following:

1. The rip rap project to protect the bridges on the Marshyhope Creek Greenway Trail was completed during the last week of November 2007.
2. The last of the funds from Recreational Trail Project #407 was also completed the last week of November. Three feeder trails into the greenway trails were completed to show the public where to enter the trail. The amount of funds remaining was \$6,350.00.
3. CDBG Monitoring of several municipal projects begins on Tuesday, December 4th and Wednesday, December 5th.
4. The State Highway Department is researching State Road trail signage to direct persons from Denton and Easton for both the Marshyhope Creek and Trail, and soon to be the new Federalsburg Historical Society Museum.

Mayor Ballas praised the Public Works Department for the work that they do on maintaining the Greenway Trail, which is an asset for such a small town.

Joe Glime stated he would like to see an inexpensive brochure developed outlining a walking tour of the town, which would include the Marshyhope Greenway Trails that could be distributed at the town hall. Mayor Ballas advised that there is a booklet published by the Caroline County Health Department which outlines the trails throughout Caroline County.

Code Enforcement Department

Steve Watson, Code Enforcement Officer, received numerous calls about 120 Old Denton Road. The owner will be demolishing the structure on this property. Steve also had a couple of cars removed from Academy Avenue.

Mayor Ballas advised that she has received several compliments on the removal of the house at 514 South Main Street, which has made the area look better.

Planning and Zoning Department

The Commission reviewed and approved the final plans for the Federalsburg Gardens Apartments renovations and new Community Center. The basic problem is the temporary relocation of the families.

The final plans for the former Coastal Station on East Central Avenue were also approved. Mr. Charles Brohawn will be constructing 2 apartments on the second floor and office space on the first floor.

The Commission is in the process of creating an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding outside storage. Steve Watson has been experiencing several problems in town regarding outside storage. The amendment should be finalized very soon and forwarded to the Mayor & Council for review and adoption.

A Workshop was scheduled for December 17th to work on the outside storage amendment. There will be no regular meeting in December because of the holiday.

Mayor Ballas said that Stacy Weisner of Caroline County Planning and Codes requested permission to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the Comprehensive Plan that will work on House Bill 1141 together. County representatives feel that if everyone worked together, there might be less confusion, and the County and Town would be better prepared and need to hire only one engineer. Stacey has attended several workshops and engineers stand ready to assist, but it would be great for the County and Town to work together.

A motion by Councilmember Gasser seconded by Councilmember Willis and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero granting Mayor Ballas approval to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the County and all the municipalities on a cooperative effort to work together on some planning related issues that deal with the House Bill 1141 – Comprehensive Plan.

ACTION ITEMS

CORRESPONDENCE

Darlene Dotson

The Mayor and Council received a letter from Ms. Darlene Dotson in regard to some concerns about her property. The Mayor and Council advised that they did not receive a copy of the attachments and asked her to forward a copy to them. Ms. Dotson said she would do so.

Rev. Parsons

The Town received correspondence from Rev. Ray Parsons of Park Lane Church of God, thanking the Town for relocating the Recycling Dumpsters. This resolved concerns for them in regard to the dangers for neighborhood children who use the Library and Park Lane properties for football and sledding. The church now plans to install cement parking bumpers on their property to help align vehicles.

Noise Concern

The Town received correspondence from Mr. Bryan Gadow, who resides at 317 Reliance Avenue, advising that he officially wanted to file a complaint for assistance with the noise coming from the Pillsbury/General Mills Plant. He believes they have a piece of machinery that makes a very loud noise at different times during the day. The noise can be heard throughout his house and it is annoying. He has written two letters to General Mills to try and resolve the matter, to no avail. The noise can be heard 7 days a week at all hours of the day or night. Mike Tipton thinks it is the auger that feeds materials into a trailer from the outside of the trailer. Mr. Gadow has written two letters with no response. Chief Nagel advised that he would handle this matter and get a response. If Chief Nagel does not get a response then the Mayor and Council will send a letter.

Water Tower

Councilmember Willis advised that the new Water Tower looks great and the caroling went very well. Councilmember Willis also looks forward to seeing the new tower being lit next year. He also said the decorations in town were beautiful with the white lanterns, and he advised that some of the lights in the triangle don't work. Some of the cords in the triangle need to be reconnected and put back in place.

Councilmember Willis attended a Charter meeting in Easton. The basic discussion at the meeting was about the radar, trying to get cameras and each town should have their own sales tax. The President of MML also attended the meeting, as well as representatives from the legislature.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT INTERIM FINANCING

The Mayor recommended accepting the lowest bid for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Interim Financing. After some discussion, the Mayor and Council agreed to allow Shirley Greene, Richard Colburn and Mayor Ballas to review the bids with Chuck Ireland, Accounting Consultant, to select the best quote.

APPRAISALS FOR SALE OF PROPERTIES

It was agreed that since the Mayor and Council have not heard from the YMCA about the old Police Building, the property will be put up for sale along with several other town properties.

TOWN MANAGER'S CORNER

Richard Colburn asked the Times-Record to publish the town's garbage collection schedule for Christmas and New Years. Since both Christmas and New Year's fall on a Tuesday, Garbage will be collected on Wednesday, December 26th and Wednesday, January 2nd. Both garbage trucks will be in operation on those days and all residents will be asked to have their garbage out by 7 a.m. Christmas trees will be picked up anytime as long as they are set out to the curb.

The employee Christmas Party is scheduled for Friday, December 21st at 12 Noon. The Mayor and Council gave approval that the town offices would be closed on Friday, December 21st at 12 Noon, and on December 24th and 25th.

The Mayor and Council, Town Manager, staff and citizens offered their deepest sympathy to Mayor Ballas in death of her husband George Ballas. Richard Colburn told a brief story about Mr. Ballas and asked the Mayor and Council to close meeting in honor of his memory.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Councilmember Gasser seconded by Councilmember Willis and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero to adjourn in honor of George Ballas at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by,
Shirley A. Greene
Clerk/Treasurer