

Mayor and Council of Federalsburg
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, June 5, 2017

The Mayor & Council of Federalsburg held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 5, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Mayor & Council Meeting Room, 118 N Main Street, Federalsburg, Maryland. Those in attendance were Mayor Planner and Councilmembers Windsor, Phillips and Morean. Also in attendance were Brynja Booth, Town Attorney, staff, citizens and media.

Mayor Planner called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, he welcomed everyone and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Announcement of Closed Session

Mayor Planner announced that a Closed Session was held prior to the meeting at 5:18 pm to discuss a personnel matter.

Guests

Presentation by Lions Club - Wayne Cole & Judy White

Mr. Wayne Cole and Ms. Judy White were present representing the Lions Club to present the Mayor and Council with a check in the amount of \$2,900 toward the repairs/renovations to the splash pad in the Marina. The Lions Club donated these funds from their most recent sandwich sale proceeds. The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Cole and Ms. White and the Lions Club for their generous donation. Councilmember Phillips also thanked the Lions Club, on behalf of the Federalsburg Elementary School parents for all the organization does for the school and children.

Crossroads Community, Inc. - John Plaskon
Re: Transition of Services from Caroline County Health
Department to Corsica River Mental Health Services

Mr. John Plaskon gave out brochures containing information about his company, Corsica River Mental Health Services. They currently serve five counties on eastern shore. They are transitioning over from the Caroline County Mental Health Services, but it has been long slow process. They have seven locations currently, and plan to include substance abuse and outpatient mental health services, while working with Choptank to help meet the needs of their clients also. Corsica plans to open their facility two days per week to start and they will begin

with two therapists on staff, with more coming soon after. They hope to open next week to begin meeting and getting to know the clients.

Public Hearing

Ordinance No. 2017-08

Mayor Planner opened the Public Hearing at 6:08 pm and read **Ordinance No. 2017-08** - An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg to amend Section 235-9 of the Federalsburg Town Code to prohibit the obstruction of water meters and to ensure access to water meters for the purpose of reading, repairing or replacing meters.

Mayor Planner asked if there were any public comments and there were none. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:10 pm.

Ordinance No. 2017-09

Mayor Planner opened the Public Hearing at 6:10 pm and read **Ordinance No. 2017-09** - An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg adopting a General Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, and establishing a tax rate of \$.83 per \$100 of assessed real property value and a tax rate of \$1.65 per \$100 on all commercial or business personal property and all railroad and utility property; establishing and adopting the same service and administrative fee for semi-annual billings as adopted by Caroline County; establishing a quarterly waste collection fee in the amount of \$37.90 per quarter for commercial properties which receive waste collection services and for all residential properties located within the corporate town boundaries; and establishing a \$6.00 per item charge for Extra Waste Collection Items.

Shirley Greene pointed out that the Extra Garbage Pink Ticket fee would increase by \$2.00, and the Garbage rate would increase by \$.35, effective July 1, 2017. The Real Estate Tax Rate would remain the same.

Mayor Planner asked if there were any public comments and there were none. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:11 pm.

Ordinance No. 2017-10

Mayor Planner opened the Public Hearing at 6:12 pm and read **Ordinance No. 2017-10** - An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg revising the water and sewer rates for users of the municipal water and sewer system.

Shirley Greene read the new rates for water and sewer for In-Town, Out-of-Town, Industrial and Commercial.

Councilmember Morean made a motion seconded by Councilmember Phillips and unanimously approved by a vote of four to zero to approve the amended water and sewer rates, and include them in the revised Ordinance No. 2017-10.

Mayor Planner asked if there were any public comments:

Mr. Bart Johnson stated that his water bill costs slightly more each year than his property taxes, so the water bill is higher. Mr. Johnson stated that he had ran the numbers and just wanted to make the comment.

Mrs. Kathie Ostrowski questioned if the water bills are estimated, because her family was gone for 21 days during a quarter and her bill was nearly \$400. Mrs. Ostrowski was advised that the bills are not estimated, they are actually read. She also questioned who pays for vacant/abandoned properties, and she was advised that the owner/Mortgage Company/Bank is billed for the water bill. If they do not pay, the property will eventually be sent to tax sale for collection.

There being no further comments, Councilmember Phillips made a motion seconded by Councilmember Morean and unanimously passed by a vote of four to zero to close the Public Hearing at 6:20 pm.

Historical Moment - Federalsburg Historical Society

Mr. Bart Johnson shared a Historical Moment about Bell's Cut Rate. Mr. Earl Bell moved to Federalsburg in the early 50's and he bought 115 North Main Street. It was a Pharmacy owned by Dr. Fog. It was later moved into the Masonic Building across the street. They had a soda fountain, a news stand and it was a great hangout for kids. Mr. Bell also later became a County Commissioner.

Old Business

Grants/Main Street Updates

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

George Mayer reported that the plans for the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast are going well. Tickets are selling fast, but he would like to sell a few more. They are \$12 and can be purchased at Town Hall or at the door. Keith McMahan and Wayne Layfield will be the guest speakers.

University Avenue - Safe Routes to School Update

George Mayer reported that the sidewalk project has started. The contractor has the forms done and they hope to start pouring concrete tomorrow. The piping will be done after June 7th, when the baseball season is over.

Northwest Fork Dock Repair Grant

George Mayer reported that he received one bid for the Northwest Fork Dock Repair grant, from Tim Geortemiller of Living Ecosystems. Mr. Geortemiller's bid was in the amount of \$4,815, and it has been approved by DNR and they have advised that the Town could award the bid so he can begin working.

Councilmember Phillips made a motion seconded by Councilmember Morean and unanimously passed by a vote of four to zero to award the Northwest Fork Dock Repair Grant to Mr. Tim Geortemiller of Living Ecosystems in the amount of \$4,815.

Marshyhope Creek Dredging Project

George Mayer reported that three bids have been received for the Marshyhope Creek Dredging Project, and they have been sent to DNR for review. Mr. Mayer is hopeful that the Mayor and Council will be able to award the bid at the first of the month.

New Business

Adoption of Ordinances:

Ordinance No. 2017-08 - An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg to amend Section 235-9 of the Federalsburg Town Code to prohibit the obstruction of water meters and to ensure access to water meters for the purpose of reading, repairing or replacing meters.

Councilmember Windsor made a motion seconded by Councilmember Phillips and unanimously passed by a vote of four to zero approving Ordinance No. 2017-08 amending Section 235-9 prohibiting the obstruction of water meters and to ensure access to water meters for the purpose of reading, repairing, or replacing meters.

Ordinance No. 2017-09 - An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg adopting a General Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, and establishing a tax rate of \$.83 per \$100 of assessed real property value and a tax rate of \$1.65 per \$100 on all commercial or business personal property and all railroad and utility property;

establishing and adopting the same service and administrative fee for semi-annual billings as adopted by Caroline County; establishing a quarterly waste collection fee in the amount of \$37.90 per quarter for commercial properties which receive waste collection services and for all residential properties located within the corporate town boundaries; and establishing a \$6.00 per item charge for Extra Waste Collection Items.

Councilmember Phillips made a motion seconded by Councilmember Morean and unanimously passed by a vote of four to zero adopting the General Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, and establishing a tax rate of \$.83 per \$100 of assessed real property value and a tax rate of \$1.65 per \$100 on all commercial or business personal property and all railroad and utility property; establishing and adopting the same service and administrative fee for semi-annual billings as adopted by Caroline County; establishing a quarterly waste collection fee in the amount of \$37.90 per quarter for commercial properties which receive waste collection services and for all residential properties located within the corporate town boundaries; and establishing a \$6.00 per item charge for Extra Waste Collection Items.

Ordinance No. 2017-10 - An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg revising the water and sewer rates for users of the municipal water and sewer system.

Councilmember Morean made a motion seconded by Councilmember Windsor and unanimously passed by a vote of four to zero revising the water and sewer rates for users of the municipal water and sewer system.

Committee Reports

Federalsburg Historical Society

Mr. Bart Johnson stated that he had nothing to report at this time.

Federalsburg Lions Club

The Frog Fest will be held on June 24th - the parade will begin at 1 pm and it will kick-off the activities and they have food vendors in all 3 pavilions.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Councilmember Bollinger is not here - nothing to report at this time.

Federalsburg Volunteer Fire Department

Nothing to report at this time.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Windsor seconded by Councilmember Phillips and unanimously passed by a vote of four to zero to approve the minutes as presented.

Public Comment (2 Minutes)

There were no public comments at this time.

Mayor & Council Action Items

Councilmember Windsor

Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Morean

Nothing at this time.

Councilmember Phillips

Councilmember Phillips asked if we have started collecting garbage at Tanyard Branch Apartments yet. Shirley Greene advised that it will not begin until after July.

Councilmember Phillips also thanked everyone for their help and support of the Soapbox Derby. They had a great day and the winners are looking forward to heading to Akron, Ohio.

Mayor Planner

Mayor Planner reported that the Federalsburg Elementary School 4th grade held a cleanup day on May 31st around various areas of the Town. They cleaned up grass and trash in the gutters, they were a great help and had fun doing it.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Morean seconded by Councilmember Phillips and unanimously passed by a vote of four to zero to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy L. Marshall

Clerk-Treasurer