

**Mayor and Council of Federalsburg  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
April 1, 2019 @ 6:00 pm**

The Mayor & Council of Federalsburg held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 1, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Mayor & Council Meeting Room, 118 N Main Street, Federalsburg, Maryland. Those in attendance were Mayor Planner and Councilmembers Bollinger, Phillips, Windsor and Morean. Also in attendance were Lyndsey Ryan and Brynja Booth, Town Attorneys, staff, citizens and media.

**Welcome**

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

**Prayer of Invocation - Pastor Norris Colona  
Park Lane Church of God**

Pastor Norris Colona offered a prayer of invocation for the Town, staff and community.

**Public Hearing**

Councilmember Phillips made a motion seconded by Councilmember Bollinger to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2019-1 at 6:03 PM.

**Ordinance No. 2019-1**

Mayor Planner read Ordinance No. 2019-1 - An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg to amend the Town Code by adding Section 245-155 to regulate the construction and placement of Satellite Antennas and Towers, Poles and/or other structures intended for use in connection with Telecommunications Facilities or Small Cell Telecommunications Facilities.

Brynja Booth, Town Attorney stated that currently there are no regulations in place regarding cell towers and satellite antennas. This ordinance would allow the Mayor and Council to regulate construction and placement of them and give some guidelines for intended use.

Mr. Jim Thomas asked what Caroline County does to regulate towers and antennas. Mrs. Booth stated that this ordinance is only for the town of Federalsburg and she did not know what stance the County has taken.

Mr. Purnell Shortall stated that in order to have good cell communication, you must have plenty of towers.

**Ordinance No. 2019-2**

Mayor Planner read an Ordinance No. 2019-2 - An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg to amend Section 245-115 of the Federalsburg Town Code to authorize the Planning Commission to waive the

freestanding sign regulations for commercial properties adjacent to Maryland Route 313 when necessary to ensure visibility to the property.

Brynja Booth, Town Attorney summarized the ordinance, by stating that it would give flexibility to the Planning Commission regarding sign regulations, as the current policy is somewhat restrictive.

Mr. Bart Johnson questioned what the current minimum height requirement is and what is the reason for the change. He was told that the current minimum is 10 feet and the new height is 30 feet. This would allow better visibility for traffic on Md Rt 313 and allow drivers to project turns and stopping at an appropriate distance well in advance.

Mr. Purnell Shortall stated that he agreed with this because it would allow large trucks adequate time to slow down.

Councilmember Windsor made a motion seconded by Councilmember Morean and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero to close the Public Hearing and reconvene the regular meeting at 6:14 pm.

### **Guests**

#### **Rick Della, Tanyard Branch Apartments Update**

Mr. Rick Della, Tanyard Branch Apartments advised the Mayor and Council that they planned to move forward with a grant application to construct 7 new ADA approved rental units and a community center facility. They also plan to conduct renovations/upgrades to the existing 25 units.

Mr. Della requested support and assistance from the Town to get this project moving. He is currently working on a grant to Maryland DHCD and would like the Town's assistance in applying for CDBG funding. Mr. Della worked with the Town several years ago on a project application for Federalsburg Gardens for approximately \$120,000. Mr. Della stated that they do not believe they will obtain funding without the Town's assistance.

Mr. Della stated that the deadline to submit his application is May 8th, but he would like to submit by May 3rd. He would need a letter from the Town stating their intentions and he would be happy to compose a draft letter on behalf of the Town. It was the consensus of the Mayor and Council that they would not be able to contribute to this project monetarily, however, they would allow George Mayer, Grants Administrator to assist Mr. Della with this grant request.

#### **Mr. & Mrs. Purnell Shortall - Request for Waiver of Square Footage Requirement**

Mr. Purnell Shortall stated that he would like to request a waiver of the minimum square footage requirement for the property he owns at 306 Buena Vista Avenue. He would like to construct a home, approximately 1,100 square feet and he was told the requirement was approximately 1,800 square feet. He stated that it would be impossible to rent a home of that size.

Councilmember Bollinger stated that SDAT records show that the previous home on Mr. Shortall's property was 1,428 square feet, however, Mr. Shortall stated that this was incorrect it was only about 800 square feet.

Mr. Shortall stated that he plans to construct six homes in Federalsburg and has a package deal on the size and price of the homes with Beracah Homes. If he cannot reach an agreement with the town, he will not proceed with any of them. This lot is the only one with the issue.

After some discussion, it was agreed by the Mayor and Council that they would like to help Mr. Shortall, but would also like to table discussion on this matter until more information can be obtained.

There was question about the size of home recently moved by Mr. Haines Holt at the corner of Buena Vista and Railroad.

#### **Announcement from Town Attorney - Brynja Booth**

Brynja Booth, Town Attorney announced that she has been appointed to the Maryland Court of Appeals and would be turning the Town's services over to Lyndsey Ryan. She has been the Town's Attorney for 10 years and has been practicing law for 22 years. Lyndsey has been working with the Town for several months now, and would continue to handle the Town's legal services after Brynja is sworn in on April 18th. The Mayor and Council presented Mrs. Booth with a plaque in recognition of her years of service and dedication to the Town of Federalsburg. Everyone wished her well with her new endeavor.

#### **Historical Moment - Bart Johnson**

Mr. Bart Johnson shared a historical moment regarding the original water system in the Town of Federalsburg.

#### **Old Business**

#### **Grants/Main Street Updates - George Mayer**

**SRTS Gerardi Blvd Update** - George Mayer reported that the bid opening for the Gerardi SRTS was held on Thursday and three bids were received and all of them were higher than the Engineer expected. Mr. Mayer has sent all bid documents to the State Highway Administration for review and no awards have been made at this time. They plan to complete a more in depth review prior to any decisions being made.

**Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant Update** - George Mayer reported that letters have been sent out to the local businesses requesting donations for the downtown flower columns/posts. The donations have already begun to come in.

**Floating Dock ADA Update** - George Mayer reported that the slip treads have been installed and this project is now complete.

**Log Cabin Repairs Grant Application** - George Mayer reported that he received a request for additional information for this project and he has submitted it.

#### **Discussion on Charging Stations**

The Mayor and Council again discussed the option of installing EV Charging Stations in the town. It was agreed that the Planning Commission could speak with representatives from Royal Farms to see if they plan to

install them. Councilmember Bollinger agreed to look at the stations in Vienna to get more information. After further discussion, Councilmember Bollinger made a motion seconded by Councilmember Morean and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero to contact EV, and request they bring back more information and a survey to further discuss.

## **New Business**

### **Ordinance No. 2019-1**

Ordinance No. 2019-1 - An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg to amend the Town Code by adding Section 245-155 to regulate the construction and placement of Satellite Antennas and Towers, Poles and/or other structures intended for use in connection with Telecommunications Facilities or Small Cell Telecommunications Facilities.

Councilmember Windsor made a motion seconded by Councilmember Bollinger and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero approving Ordinance No. 2019-1 regulating the construction and placement of Satellite Antennas and Towers, Poles and/or other structures intended for use in connection with Telecommunications Facilities or Small Cell Telecommunications Facilities.

### **Ordinance No. 2019-2**

Ordinance No. 2019-2 - An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg to amend Section 245-115 of the Federalsburg Town Code to authorize the Planning Commission to waive the freestanding sign regulations for commercial properties adjacent to Maryland Route 313 when necessary to ensure visibility to the property.

Councilmember Bollinger made a motion seconded by Councilmember Windsor and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero approving Ordinance No. 2019-2 amending Section 245-115 of the Federalsburg Town Code to authorize the Planning Commission to waive the freestanding sign regulations for commercial properties adjacent to Maryland Route 313 when necessary to ensure visibility to the property.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Federalsburg Historical Society**

Bart Johnson reported that the Museum has reopened on Friday and Saturday from 10 am - 2 pm. Mr. Johnson also reported that the Hobby Fair will be held on April 27th at Federalsburg Elementary School. And the 3rd grade students from Federalsburg Elementary School will visit the museum on May 3rd.

### **Federalsburg Lions Club**

Mrs. Kim Abner reported that the Lions Club held the annual "Night at the Races" on March 30th and raised approximately \$11,000 for the annual Frog Fest event to be held in June. Mrs. Abner reported that the Dog Jog that was scheduled for April 13th will not be taking place this year. She has a meeting soon with Mr. Chad Shelley to discuss future plans for cleanup. The Comcast Cares Cleanup Day will be held on May 4th from 8 am - 2 pm, and the Lions Club will host a Quarter Auction on April 28th.

## **Planning & Zoning Commission**

Councilmember Bollinger reported that a workshop has been scheduled for April 2nd for site plan review and followup. There was question regarding if there are any design regulations for new businesses coming into town, Councilmember Bollinger stated there is currently no requirements on the books. The Planning Commission could discuss and consider amending the Zoning Ordinance and including this as part of the site plan approval process.

## **Federalburg Volunteer Fire Department**

Mr. Ken Trader, 1st Vice President of Federalburg Fire Company reported the following:

April 13th - Chicken BBQ - 10 am til sold out - They plan to have a Chicken BBQ on the second Saturday of each month until October.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Councilmember Bollinger made a motion seconded by Councilmember Phillips and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero approving the minutes from the previous meeting as presented.

## **Public Comment (2 Minutes)**

None

## **Mayor & Council Action Items**

### **Councilmember Windsor**

Nothing at this time.

### **Councilmember Bollinger**

Councilmember Bollinger asked if Public Works has a hydrant flushing schedule, and if so, could he have a copy.

### **Councilmember Morean**

Nothing at this time.

### **Councilmember Phillips**

Councilmember Phillips requested the crosswalk on East Central Avenue at the foot of the bridge be repainted. It has become so light, it can barely be seen.

### **Mayor Planner**

Mayor Planner reported that he and George Mayer have reviewed the entries from the Federalsburg Elementary School 4th grade students for the "If I Were Mayor" contest to select a local winner. All entries have been sent to the State for overall judging. The students had many good ideas, including but not limited to, fixing streets, having more fun things to do, more crime prevention, cleaning up the town, safer environments, fixing potholes, trash collection, littering, speeding, smoking in front of businesses, bullying, providing more food for people, creating places for homeless, bringing back a carnival, more protection at schools, more jobs, rebuilding old stores, locating more trash cans, hosting a TCD - trash community day by picking out one day per month and allow people to put items on the curb and town pick them up for free, and getting people to work together more.

### **Adjournment**

Councilmember Morean made a motion seconded by Councilmember Phillips and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kristy L. Marshall*  
Clerk-Treasurer