

**Mayor and Council of Federalsburg
Regular Monthly Meeting
October 1, 2018 @ 6:00 pm**

The Mayor & Council of Federalsburg held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 1, 2018 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 Brynja Booth, Town Attorney, staff, citizens and media.

Announcement of Closed Session

Mayor Planner announced that a Closed Session was held on Monday, August 29th and this evening at 5:15 pm to discuss personnel matters and legal advice.

Prayer of Invocation

Bishop Ray Parsons, Park Lane Church of God offered a prayer for the Town, citizens and staff.

Welcome

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

Guests:

Ms. Sherone Thompson introduced herself and stated that she is a candidate for the Caroline County Board of Education. Ms. Thompson briefly told the Mayor and Council about herself and about her campaign. She stated that her platform is based on family and the needs of children; and she would like to encourage diversity.

Old Business

Grant/Main Street Updates - George Mayer

SRTS Gerardi Avenue - George Mayer reported that the Gerardi Avenue Safe Routes To School project had to be revised to accommodate some additional changes. He is hoping for a quick turn-around time from SHA and they project can get moving quickly.

Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant - George Mayer reported that the trees have been purchased for the replacement of existing trees on Main Street. Public Works has picked them up and will begin planting them within the next couple weeks. There are four white and four pink, weeping cherry trees. Mr. Mayer stated that he will be working with Councilmember Morean and his volunteers also, regarding the additional plantings for the islands on Main Street.

Floating Dock ADA Grant - George Mayer reported that he has spoken to a representative from the Army Corp of Engineers and has sent letters to all neighboring property owners. Mr. Mayer hopes to have approval on the Floating ADA Dock very soon, and expects the project to move quickly, about two weeks for completion.

Marshyhope Creek Debris Removal Project 2018 Award - George Mayer reported that he held a bid opening on October 1st for the annual Marshyhope Debris cleanup and only received one bid. The maximum grant was for \$6,000 and the bid from Living Ecosystems was for \$5,550. Last year this project took approximately two months to complete, and this year there is an abundance of overgrowth as well. The work will begin near the East Central Avenue bridge/dock area. Mr. Mayer requested that the Mayor and Council award the bid to Living Ecosystems.

Councilmember Windsor made a motion seconded by Councilmember Bollinger and unanimously passed by a vote of five to one to award the bid for the Marshyhope Debris Cleanup to Living Ecosystems in the amount of \$5,550.

New Business

Halloween Trick or Treat Hours - October 31, 2018

Trick or Treat hours will be held on October 31st, 2018 from 6 - 7:30 pm.

Trunk or Treat - October 31, 2018

The Trunk or Treat activities are scheduled for October 31st at the Town parking lot on Morris Avenue. We are waiting for more information; but believe the time for this event will be 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

The Federalsburg Elementary School Halloween Parade will be held on October 31st, but the time has not been determined.

Towne Monitoring Service

Kristy Marshall obtained an estimate from Towne Monitoring Systems to purchase a program that would allow the Town to notify residents via telephone, text or email when needed for emergencies or general notifications. Councilmember Phillips stated that after reviewing the documentation he had some questions. The Mayor and Council tabled further discussion on this matter until the questions can be answered.

Property - Solar RFP

Brynja Booth, Town Attorney read information pertaining to the grant that the Town received to construct a 970 kW solar field for the generation of 1.4 mWh/y. The solar array will provide power to the Federalsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant by virtual metering. Brynja stated that one thing that was not included in the package is the land. The Town must have a minimum of four acres, which is serviced by Delmarva Power. Brynja stated that only one bid was received and she recommended rebidding the project to hopefully get more bids for review.

Councilmember Phillips made a motion seconded by Councilmember Bollinger and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero to rebid the project for purchase of land for the construction of a solar field.

Councilmember Phillips made a motion seconded by Councilmember Bollinger and unanimously passed by a vote of five to re-advertise the project until November 15th, 2018.

Committee Reports

Federalsburg Historical Society

No representatives were present.

Federalsburg Lion's Club

Mrs. Kim Abner reported the following:

The Lions Club received \$3,931 from the Comcast Cares Day at Chambers Park. Comcast will be in Federalsburg on October 8th at 2 pm for a photo shoot at Chambers Park. The Lions Club is working on completion of some electrical work at the Community Building. The Lions Club will be participating in the HayDay activities on October 20th and the Trunk or Treat on October 31st. There will also be a sandwich sale on October 26th at the Federalsburg Firehouse from 10 am until sold out.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Councilmember Bollinger reported that the Commission received and reviewed a final site plan for a commercial property.

Federalsburg Volunteer Fire Company

Councilmember Morean reported the following:

October 20th - The Friends of the Watertower will host a "Putting the Fire Out Guys & Gals Bingo & Dinner"

October 13th - There will be a Chicken BBQ from 10 am until sold out.

He also reminded everyone that fire prevention is very important and to please check/replace the batteries. The annual fund drive is beginning now, so please support the Fire Company.

Minutes

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

Public Comment(s) - 2 Minutes

Gary Bee, Sr. addressed several concerns with rental properties in the Town. In particular, adjacent to his property which is located on South Main Street. There was a situation today, which resulted in the Police being called. He stated that many times the Police are called to handle various situations at this location and he

feels the landlord should be held responsible. Mr. Bee stated that he and his staff have worked with the Police many times, and utilized his video camera footage to assist with solving cases. The incidents occur at all times of the day and night.

Councilmember Phillips mentioned discussion some time ago, regarding fines for landlords if there are continuous Police situations with their tenants. Brynja Booth stated that she would like to look at this from a legal aspect and research what ability the Town would have in these type situations. Mrs. Booth stated that their may be a way to revoke their license.

The Mayor and Council agreed with Mr. Bee and suggested also looking at changing the zoning on properties. To discourage large single family homes being cut-up into apartments, and keep them as single family homes. The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Bee for addressing these concerns and for his assistance with his cameras, and agreed to look into the matter further to determine what avenues could and would be taken.

Jim Thomas - suggested to Brynja Booth and the Mayor and Council to look at the Maryland Nuisance Law. He thought this would give the Town the ability to condemn nuisance properties.

Mayor and Council Action Items

Councilmember Windsor

Councilmember Windsor thanked everyone for the well wishes and prayers for his wife. He stated that someone has tried to knock down the Fishing Zone sign by the Railroad bridge. Shirley Greene stated that she would advise Public Works.

Councilmember Bollinger

Councilmember Bollinger reported that the Planning & Zoning Commission will review properties in the R-1 R-2 and R-3 districts and their regulations based on the previous concerns addressed regarding rental properties.

Councilmember Morean

Councilmember Morean stated that there were several road patches, due to water leaks; that have not been completed. There is one on Liberty Road, the area in front of Fisher Auto Parts and at Lywood Electric. Shirley Greene stated that should would check with Public Works on the status of these repairs.

Councilmember Phillips

Councilmember Phillips questioned the status of the shed at super soda, and was advised that it was removed today.

Mayor Planner

Mayor Planner reported that the Christmas Parade is scheduled for Monday, December 10th at 7 pm, with lineup beginning at 6 pm.

He also reported that the Veterans Day Parade is scheduled for Saturday, November 10th at 1 pm, with lineup beginning at 12:15 pm. Anyone wishing to participate may contact Ron James at the VFW.

Adjournment

Councilmember Bollinger made a motion seconded by Councilmember Morean and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy L. Marshall
Clerk-Treasurer