

**TOWN OF WILLIAMSPORT
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MINUTES
WORKSHOP
April 6, 2015**

A Workshop meeting of the Williamsport Mayor and Council was held on April 6th, 2015, at the Williamsport Town Hall in Williamsport, MD at 6:30 p.m.

In attendance were:

Mayor James G. McCleaf II

Asst. Mayor Joan Knode

Councilman Bill Green

Councilman Jim Kalbfleisch

Councilman Dustin Byers

Also present Town Clerk Donnie Stotelmyer

Mayor James G. McCleaf II called the meeting to order.

Guests

Mayor McCleaf introduced Fred Fredericks from Frederick and Seibert Associates. Mr. Fredericks was present to review the bid tabulation sheet for the Sidewalk Project in Byron Memorial Park. Mayor McCleaf shared with the Council the funding for this project came from Project Open Space grant. Through this program the town is responsible for 25% of the cost of the project and Project Open Space will pay for the remaining 75%. Mr. Fredericks reviewed the tabulation and indicated the town has enough money to complete Phase 1, Phase 1A and Phase 2 of this sidewalk project. The apparent lowest bidder was Harrel Home Construction. Mayor McCleaf reported the Council would have to vote on who to award the project to at the next meeting.

Unfinished Business

Mayor McCleaf reported on the previously discussed snow removal policy. In addition to the installation of small signs at each of the meters along the snow emergency route, Mayor McCleaf would also like to have the County make large signs explaining the parking guidelines during a snow event and have these signs placed at the corners of each entry point to the impacted streets.

New Business

Mayor McCleaf informed the Council this year's Spring Clean Up event has been scheduled for May 9th, 2015 in the pool parking lot of Byron Memorial Park from 7:00am-12:00pm.

Mayor McCleaf informed the Council the Washington County Commissioners are proposing a 3.7% sewer rate increase, which will be passed on to the town residents. Mayor McCleaf asked Town Clerk, Donnie Stotelmyer to schedule Public Hearing meetings to discuss this increase prior to the Council Meeting in June.

Mayor McCleaf informed the Council the City of Hagerstown is also proposing a 2.0% water rate increase this year, which will be passed on to the town residents. Mayor McCleaf asked Town Clerk, Donnie Stotelmyer to schedule Public Hearing meetings to discuss this increase prior to the Council Meeting in June.

Mayor McCleaf called on Town Clerk, Donnie Stotemyer to update the Mayor and Council on the updates from the fire that took place at Pavilion #3 in Byron Memorial Park on March 24th, 2015. Mr. Stotemyer informed the Mayor and Council he is working with the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) and the local claims adjuster, Dory Swartz, who has given us approval to clean up the debris and demo the block structure. He is currently working to get approval to demo the rest of the concrete slab at the site. Mr. Stotemyer explained J. Miller originally constructed the Pavilion. They have contacted us to inform us that he has the original blue prints if the town wanted to rebuild what was there. Mr. Stotemyer explained the building code has changed since the original construction of the pavilion, and we won't be able to use those blue prints with the new coding regulations. Mayor McCleaf held discussion on whether the Council would like to build the new pavilion a little bigger than the previous design. The Council was all in agreement with this plan. Councilman Dustin Byers asked what is being done to the perpetrators who started the fire. Mayor McCleaf said that is being handled through the State Fire Marshall's office. Councilman Byers asked when this case goes to trial, would there be a representative from the town present. Mayor McCleaf answered there would be a representative there. Mr. Stotemyer said he will continue to keep the Mayor and Council updated as things progress.

Mayor McCleaf called on Town Clerk, Donnie Stotemyer to discuss the annexation of the Garden State Tannery property. Mr. Stotemyer explained an environmental attorney from Montgomery County, Gary Silversmith, has recently purchased the Garden State Tannery. Mr. Silversmith makes his living by buying and cleaning up dirty sites throughout the country, then he sells or lease the property and contributes to the economic development in the areas where he purchases these sites. Mr. Stotemyer informed the Mayor and Council that after Mr. Silversmith purchased the property, he learned the County had changed the zoning of that property from "light industrial" to "research and development." This was something Mr. Silversmith was not aware of when he was researching the value of the property. This was something the town was not aware of either. Mr. Silversmith has reached out to the town for assistance in changing the zoning designation back to "light industrial" because otherwise he will not be able to develop that property. Mr. Silversmith already has 3 potential businesses who are ready to move into and lease that space, bringing jobs to the area. In a recent meeting, Mr. Stotemyer was informed that the County thought the zoning designation was changed because the town went to the County and requested this change to cut down on the truck traffic, but this is not correct and has not been corroborated with any documentation. The tannery was already closed down when this zoning designation was changed, so why would the town have been the ones to go and request the change, when already there was no truck traffic to that area because it was shut down. Mayor McCleaf informed the Council another main issue with developing this property is providing sewer to this site. Back when the tannery was operational they had their own sewer facility, but the permits for that facility have expired and it would be cost prohibitive to try and update the facility back to regulation standards. Mayor McCleaf said the families that live on Fenton Avenue and the surrounding area, are low income families and they would not be able to pay for EDU's and sewer upgrades. If we are to consider annexation, we would need to seek assistance from Maryland Department of Environment for assistance in funding necessary sewer upgrades. Mayor McCleaf was also explaining that by converting these homes to sewer and off septic, it would help the watershed implementation plan. Mayor McCleaf explained there is already gas for heat and public water connected to these areas. If we annexed this area, we would not be the electric providers.

Mayor McCleaf called on Town Clerk, Donnie Stotemyer to explain a request from the Heart of Civil War Heritage Area Management to approve a recent amendment. Currently,

the Tourism Council of Frederick County (TCFC) serves as the Heritage Area's management entity. The proposed amendment will replace the TCFC with the newly formed Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, Inc a 501 (c) 3 organization. The Maryland Heritage Area Authority requires the participating jurisdiction's (such as Williamsport) approval of the Management Plan amendment. Mayor McCleaf said we would have to vote on this at the next scheduled Council meeting.

Councilman Dustin Byers said he would like to see more police presence in the Town of Williamsport. Recently, there have been more acts of vandalism, assaults and a stabbing a few nights ago in Byron Memorial Park. Councilman Byers doesn't see much of a police presence in Williamsport at all. Mayor McCleaf stated when he goes to work in the morning, he always sees a lot of police vehicles, both city and state police representatives. He stated they are in and out of this area all the time. Mayor McCleaf asked Donnie Stotemyer to get ahold of Sherriff Mullendore and the town Deputy Sherriff, Brian Glines to set up a meeting to address these concerns. Assistant Mayor Joan Knode said the town of Williamsport has a lot for kids to do with all the playground areas, the Boys and Girls Club, the little leagues, the fitness trail, we offer a lot for our children to do. Assistant Mayor Joan Knode also stated she sees a lot of police on patrol on a regular basis. Mayor McCleaf said you could have a full time police department and still have crime and incidents like these. He doesn't know how you stop it all together. Assistant Mayor Joan Knode said she was contacted recently about children using playground chalk on their sidewalks. She said Donnie Stotemyer was also visited by this town resident complaining about kids using sidewalk chalk on the sidewalk in front of her house. It is unbelievable the type of complaints we get into town hall and the difficulty of sorting through all of these. Councilman Bill Green said over the weekend when they opened Billy Doub Field for the new softball league, there are some parking issues. One side of the street is painted red and you cannot park there. The other side of the street is marked resident parking only. There was one car parked on the resident only parking side, and there was a complaint from a local resident. Councilman Green said this is something the town needs to pursue further, because now other residents are asking for resident parking signs on their streets. Mayor McCleaf asked to have this issue placed on the agenda for the next Council Meeting.

Citizen Participation

Mayor McCleaf recognized town resident, Andrew Robertson who was present to talk about concerns regarding trash pick-up. He sees the garbage crews just dumping the recycles into the trash truck with everything else. Mayor McCleaf asked Donnie Stotemyer to contact Allied Waste to see if this was something that was happening and if so why. If they're dumping the recycles into the trash, what is the point of recycling?

Mayor McCleaf recognized town resident, Ken Lafferty who raised concerns on the new vault that is being installed as a part of the new water tower project off Honeyfield Road. When the contractor cuts the new vault into the water main, Mr. Lafferty would like to see them use pressure reducing valves. Town Clerk, Donnie Stotemyer told him to come up to town hall this week and they will contact the contractor together to raise these concerns.

Mayor McCleaf recognized town resident, David Kirby who was present to thank the town for their quick response in addressing an issue with the water bill at Calvary Temple church when they had a leak in the basement.

Councilman Bill Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Councilman Jim Kalbfleisch. With all voting in favor, motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donnie Stotelmyer
Town Clerk, Town of Williamsport