

**TOWN OF WILLIAMSPORT  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MINUTES  
WORKSHOP  
April 3, 2017**

A Workshop meeting of the Williamsport Mayor and Council was held on April 3, 2017, at Williamsport Town Hall at 6:30 p.m.

In attendance were:

Mayor William Green  
Asst. Mayor Joan Knode  
Councilman Charles Brown  
Councilman Jim Kalbfleisch  
Councilman Dennis Grove  
Councilman Jim Braswell  
Councilman Dustin Byers

Town Attorney, Ed Kuczynski

Also present was Donnie Stotemyer, Town Clerk.

Mayor William Green called the meeting to order.

**Guests**

No Guests.

**Unfinished Business**

**New Business**

Mayor Green reminded the Mayor and Council we will celebrate Arbor Day with a tree planting event on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 9am. Volunteers who wish to help plant trees should meet at Pavilion #1 at 9am.

Mayor Green reminded the Mayor and Council we will host our Annual Spring Clean Up on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The Clean Up takes place in the pool parking lot of Byron Memorial Park from 7am-12pm.

Mayor Green reviewed a letter from Rehoboth United Methodist Church requesting permission to shut down Salisbury Street on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 for their Annual Street Fair. They request the road be shut down from 8am-3pm. Mayor Green said the Council would need to vote on this at the next Council Meeting.

Mayor Green shared an invitation from the C&O Canal Trust to participate in the Canal Pride Days event on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 9am-12pm at Cushwa Basin. This is a clean-up event and they ask that you register if you wish to help out.

Mayor Green called on Town Clerk, Donnie Stotemyer who explained about past bus trips to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. Mr. Stotemyer asked if the Mayor and Council would be interested in sponsoring another bus trip to Sight and Sound Theater.

Everyone was in agreement to pick a date this Spring to host a bus trip to Sight and Sound Theater.

Mayor Green reviewed a request from Ebenezer Christian School for a reduction in the price to rent the Community Building. Currently, they are scheduled to use the building on Thursday, April 20, 2017. Discussion was held. Assistant Mayor Knode said just last meeting they denied a similar request from a different church to utilize the Bandstand at no charge. She explained that we should have a set standard. If we are going to allow one or some churches/non-profits to use the facilities at no cost or at a discounted rate, then we will have to do it for them all. Councilman Dustin Byers asked if the church was a non-profit. Councilman Braswell asked if we have given churches a break on facility rentals in the past.

Mayor Green held discussion on consideration of hosting a carnival in Byron Memorial Park this summer. Mayor Green called on Councilman Brown. Councilman Brown said he talked to the Downsville Ruritan leaders and they have asked if the town will reconsider allowing them to host a carnival in Byron Memorial Park. The members of the Downsville Ruritan would like to partner with the Williamsport Blue Band to offer concessions and split the profits. Councilman Brown said there have been no dates set or suggested for the event. He knows it is late in the year to try and plan it, but it is a good event for the children and families in Williamsport. Councilman Byers said the last carnival that was hosted in our park was an embarrassment because of how poorly it was put together. Councilman Byers said the Downsville Ruritan would need to come up with some kind of standards to ensure the event would be better executed. Councilman Brown agreed it was a bad event, but there were circumstances outside of the Ruritan's control, but because they had a contract with the company, they tried to see it through. Assistant Mayor Knode said the last carnival they hosted was nasty. Assistant Mayor Knode said she wishes they had cancelled the carnival when those issues came up instead of putting on that poor of an event. Assistant Mayor Knode also said she doesn't want them to be allowed to camp in the park if they do have it again. Councilman Braswell suggested to Councilman Brown that he talk with the Downsville Ruritan and ask them for a proposal describing what exactly the carnival would provide and have them present it in front of the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Green held discussion on the Old Sheetz Property. Mayor Green asked Town Attorney Ed Kuczynski to explain how the Town would go about disposing of a town property. Mr. Kuczynski explained the town would have to host a public hearing that the property is no longer needed for public use. There are procedures that would need to be followed. The town is required to advertise and host the hearing. Mr. Kuczynski said after that the Town would move on to pursue selling the property. Mr. Kuczynski suggested that after the public hearing the town open up a competitive process and request proposals for use of the building. Mr. Kuczynski said the Sheetz Property has been subject to a lot of conversation and Mayor Green would like to revisit the option to dispose of this property. He asked the Council if there was a consensus about selling the property. If the Mayor and Council are all in agreement, then he will have to draw up an ordinance and resolution and a solicitation for proposals. He reminded the Mayor and Council that there are restrictions on the property and they will have to take that into consideration. Councilman Braswell said with all of the activities in town what is wrong with the idea of tearing down the building and using it for parking. There is so little parking in the downtown area it is constantly an issue. Councilman Byers asked what the cost would be to demo the property. Councilman Byers expressed his wish for the property to be sold. Mr. Kuczynski recommended we host the public hearing declaring the building no longer suitable for public use and then see where we go from there based on the hearing. The purpose of the public hearing would be to guide the

public through the process of selling the property and to answer any questions they have about the property. Councilman Braswell said there is a cost in tearing the building down, but that the Town is in desperate need of parking.

Assistant Mayor Knode presented the following report/notes:

#### Items to Discuss

- Town Clock meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 11am to review the clock building and inspecting/removing the weathervane that is always crooked on top of Town Hall. Mr. Stotemyer has said there is \$25,000 in budget to repair the clock tower.

Mr. Jerry Stumbaugh said the interior of the clock tower is very stable, but the exterior and siding is in disrepair and needs replaced.

- Imad and his daughter asked me to meet with them. Councilman Braswell came along. They wanted to share their idea for the Wolfe Lot for 40 storage lockers. She shared with them that she didn't feel that was a good idea right in the middle of the Town square. Imad asked what would the Town do. She suggested a small pocket park with bathrooms available, a bike wash area, walks, trees, benches and Jim suggested a small amphitheatre. Imad said he would sell it to the Town for what he has into that project, which is \$140,000.

Mr. Stotemyer reported he has scheduled a meeting with the Washington County Parks Board at 3:30pm to discuss the possible procurement of the lot through a Project Open Space grant.

- I planned to meet a young man about opening a bike shop and called Ronnie Byers, he had already rented the old bike shop and is thinking about opening a small laundromat in the old computer store. He suggested the back of the cutting lane building (in the alley) for the bike shop. The bike shop could advertise on the side of the building coming in the alley. The meeting has to be rescheduled due to a track meet he was in at college.
- Tenant House renovations—the center room if remodeled could be used for a staging area for brides and other events. A rental fee would be charged for use of this area.
- Does anyone have a problem with Keith Delosier volunteering to work on the log section of the Tenant House. Keith did most of the log work on the first floor about a year ago.

Councilman Byers said he thought it was good idea to pursue these reservations. Councilman Byers asked Assistant Mayor Knode how far out she is currently renting the barn for weddings and events. Assistant Mayor Knode said she is renting out into 2018 and a few 2019 rentals. Councilman Byers said if we can get that space in the Tenant House renovated, we could easily collect an additional \$500 rental rate on events.

- Slate steps and base front of Town Hall needs replaced they are crumbling.
- Town Museum needs more room. I would like to expand into the stable area. It needs a concrete floor, insulation and 2 walls constructed, ceiling cleaned but left open, stonework would need cleaned and repaired chinked. Construct a simple storage area with shelving to get Museum items inventoried and up off the floor.

Councilman Grove asked how big of an area would they be laying down concrete.

Councilman Brown said the area is at least 50' x 60'.

- New white commercial 8 foot tables are needed for the Community Building. The old tables can be used in stable area for sorting and cleaning museum items still there from the water damage at the barn.
- Please plan on attending a meeting with Noel Kunkle and band members on Wednesday, April 5th at 11:30am. This is a planning meeting for the upcoming Maryland Community Band Festival at the Springfield Barn. Let's help make it an outstanding visit to our town.

Mayor Green said he would like the Council's approval to have town resident Don Munson update the Veteran's Memorial sign in front of Town Hall. Councilman Grove asked if a person lived or is from Williamsport and served in the military, would their names be added to the sign. He recommended we consult the local churches who may have lists compiled or to put it out on Facebook to get the names of all Williamsport veterans.

Mr. Munson asked with the upcoming construction to the Route 81 bridge, will the traffic be rerouted through Williamsport. Mayor Green responded that the State Highway officials have told us that the construction should not affect traffic in the Town.

Councilman Byers made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Councilman Grove. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donnie Stotemyer  
Town Clerk, Town of Williamsport