

TOWN OF BATH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER: @ 5:30pm by Mayor
2. ROLLCALL: Scott Merki (X) Susan Webster (X) Chris Chapman (X) Rose Jackson (X) Elizabeth Skinner (X) John Bohrer (X) Rick Weber (X) Quorum present.
3. REVIEW OF MINUTES: Regular meeting of July 16, 2019: Common consent to approve.
4. PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL & COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR: A member of the Christmas Project Committee, Barb Wolfe, requested that Council improve electric service on Fairfax Street for lighted decorations and that the Committee be able to use the donated building behind the Depot for events during the Christmas season. Council approved the requests through common consent. She also relayed a complaint from the Downtown Business Group on the maintenance of sidewalks, curbs and streets.
Trey Johanson proposed that the Town of Bath adopt a resolution celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day on October 14, 2019, rather than Columbus Day.
MOTION: To not accept the proposal to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day – Skinner/Weber – Carried.
The Mayor addressed the chlorine leak that occurred at the Berkeley Springs Water Works plant on August 1st and 2nd. Ronald Janniney, Chief Water Operator, supplied the Council with a written explanation of the event and his proposal to avoid future problems (see attached). Everyone expressed gratitude to the first responders, staff and outside agencies for their help and generosity.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

1. BATH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: No report at this time. Next meeting is August 14th at 4:30pm.
2. PARKS & REC: No report at this time. Next meeting is August 21st.
3. PLANNING COMMISSION: President Rebecca MacLeod explained to Council that this Commission is in need of members.
4. RAIL/TRAIL: Committee co-chair Pete Brown reported on progress on the NBRT project and that the committee is waiting on a response from the WV DOH on issues. The next meeting is August 27th.
5. STREETSCAPE: The Committee informed Council on progress with Phase 4A of the project. Assistance from the Morgan County Commission and Del. Daryl Cowles is appreciated.
6. TRAIN DEPOT: John McCracken, Chairman of the Berkeley Depot Rehabilitation Committee, reported that the Depot has been approved to remain on the Preservation Alliance of WV list of endangered properties.
7. LANDMARK COMMISSION: No report at this time. Next meeting is August 21st.

8. CLERK/RECORDER REPORT: Clerk Corrick reported that due to a bankruptcy that the Town has had to write off a sanitation bill in the amount of \$3,299.00.
9. FINANCE: Chairman Bohrer presented bills as follows:
 - (A) Town of Bath \$15,675.30- Motion to approve: Bohrer/Weber –Carried
 - (B) BS Water Works \$10,575.62 – Motion to approve: Bohrer/Weber - Carried
 - (C) Greenway Cemetery \$2,687.53 Motion to approve: Bohrer/Skinner – Carried
 - (D) Tree Board \$1,156.00 Motion to approve: Bohrer/Weber – Carried
10. TREE BOARD: The next meeting is August 20th. No report at this time.
11. PUBLIC SAFETY:
 - (A) Permits: No report at this time.
 - (B) Police Report: Chief Johnson spoke about the success of the Back to School Bash and the National Night Out event that he and Danielle Swope were attending this evening.
12. PUBLIC WORKS: Chairman Weber reported that a new grate has been installed on Biser Street and that a grate will be ordered for Ewing Street. Potomac Edison has been called to repair 14 street lights which are out. The Committee has replaced two employees. Suggestions were made to investigate the use of Community Service Workers and Teen Court for maintenance assistance.
13. ORDINANCE: Chairman Webster informed council of the committee discussions on fireworks, annexation and Municode issues.
14. CEMETERY: Chairwoman Skinner thanked a volunteer who asked to remain anonymous for their work in the Old German Cemetery. She also thanked Chief Johnson for his assistance with vagrancy in Greenway Cemetery. The columbarium project may be postponed while more information is gathered. The next meeting is ~~August 27th~~ ^{Sept. 3rd} at 4:30pm.
15. GRANT: Chairman Bohrer discussed the Benedum grant process and his continued search for projects and agencies.
16. WATER WORKS: Chairman Chapman discussed the previous eventful week including the chlorine leak and administrative difficulties due to the BSWW server being down. The old backhoe has been sold.
17. MOTION TO ADJOURN: Webster - carried

Attest:

Mayor Scott E. Mink

Recorder Suzanne Webster

Berkeley Springs Water Works Plant Chlorine Leak on 8/1/19 and 8/2/19.

The chlorine leaks were caused by faulty controllers (vacuum regulators) that control the flow of chlorine introduced into the raw water system for the purpose of treatment of the water. Both of these controllers were last rebuilt in 2012. We were able to obtain a controller from Berkeley County Water on 8/2/19 and a back up controller was ordered the same day. Both of these faulty controllers were heavily corroded where the controller attaches to the 150lb chlorine bottle. We believe that because of this corrosion, which occurs over a period of time, a proper seal was not obtained between the controller and the bottle thus allowing chlorine gas to escape into the atmosphere.

On 8/5/19 I presented to the Berkeley Springs Water Works Water Committee a request to investigate the possibility of changing out our current gas chlorine system to a liquid chlorine system known as Sodium Hypochlorite. I consider this system to be much safer and cost effective as it would be very expensive to revamp our current system to the point where it should be because of the age of the system. The committee has advised me to move forward on this request.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ronald C. Janniney

Chief Plant Operator/Department Manager

Berkeley Springs Water Works