

TOWN OF BATH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER: @ 5:35pm by Mayor electronically via Zoom
2. ROLL CALL: Scott Merki (X) Susan Webster (X) Chris Chapman (X) Rose Jackson (X) Elizabeth Skinner (X) John Bohrer (A) Rick Weber (X) Quorum present.
3. REVIEW OF MINUTES: Meeting minutes of April 20, April 21 and April 30, 2020 were approved by Common Consent.
4. PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL: Berkeley/Morgan County Health Department Administrator Bill Kearns, Sanitarian Chief Cara Harding, Deputy Health Officer Dr. Kevin McLaughlin were present to update the Council on the coronavirus pandemic effects on the community. Morgan County Prosecutor Dan James was in attendance. The Mayor expressed deep concern for the wellbeing of the livelihoods of Morgan Countians and Bath due to the shutdown of commercial enterprises. State and Health Department restrictions and closures have crippled the tourism economic mainstay of Bath. The Mayor informed the Health Department officials that Berkeley Springs/Morgan County Chamber of Commerce and Travel Berkeley Springs have developed guidelines for safe reopening of these businesses. A letter along with these guidelines (see attached) has been sent to WV Governor Justice requesting that restrictions on Bath businesses be eased since low disease incidence and high economic injury necessitates a balanced approach.
Health Department officials explained procedures that they are required to follow and that they are not attempting to be punitive with restrictions on citizens or businesses. They requested a copy of the communication that had been sent to the Governor.
5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR: Discussion was held concerning the need of a coronavirus testing site in Morgan County. Council concluded that if the County is to remain in enhanced restriction status residents should be able to be tested locally. Health Department officials informed Council on currently available testing sites and procedure. Council Member Skinner has sent a memo on the value of random testing for the community.
The Town has received a request to allow public space including parking meters to be decorated honoring Berkeley Springs High School graduates since they will not be allowed to have the customary event and celebration due to the coronavirus. The request was approved for the dates of May 15th through May 30th by Common Consent.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

1. BATH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: President Cindy Bodin and member Alisa Stine reported on the organizations activities. The next meeting is May 6th.
2. PARKS & REC: The next meeting is May 20th at the Courthouse.
3. PLANNING COMMISSION: No report at this time.
4. RAIL/TRAIL: Committee member Pete Brown reported that progress on the project

has been slowed due to the coronavirus outbreak, but steps are being taken to get the project under contract. Work is to begin soon.

5. STREETScape: Committee member Pete Brown reported that the April 14th bidding of the project was disappointing since all bids came in higher than estimated costs. The committee is working to learn the reasons. A letter has been sent to the WV DOH asking for clarification.
6. TRAIN DEPOT: Chairman John McCracken reported that the contracts for the Hazmat and Rehabilitation Projects for the Depot are ready to be signed. He noted that there are justified increased fees from the Mills Group due to WV DOH delays.
7. LANDMARK COMMISSION: The architect for the Historic District Map update is on the State's approved list.
8. CLERK/RECORDER REPORT: Traffic Court is rescheduled for July 15, 2020.
9. FINANCE: Clerk Corrick presented the following bills:
 - (A) Town of Bath \$10,206.12- Motion to approve: Chapman/Weber -Carried
 - (B) BSWW \$8,410.72- Motion to approve: Chapman/Weber- Carried
 - (C) Greenway Cemetery \$2,350.00- Motion to approve: Chapman/Jackson- Carried
10. TREE BOARD: No report at this time.
11. PUBLIC SAFETY: The next meeting is May 5, 2020 at 4:15pm.
 - (A) Permits: No report at this time.
 - (B) Police Report: Chairman Jackson gave the Police Activity Report (see attached).
Officer Link will assume the position of Chief on May 11.
12. PUBLIC WORKS: Chairman Weber reported on garbage truck repairs.
13. ORDINANCE: No report at this time. The next meeting time will be posted.
14. CEMETERY: Chairman Skinner informed Council that she was applying for the Historic Preservation Grant for Greenway Cemetery.
15. GRANT: No report at this time.
16. WATER WORKS: Chairman Chapman reported that the Water Works is running well and that Phase IV of the water line replacement project is temporarily on hold.
17. MOTION TO ADJOURN: Webster - carried

Attest:

Mayor Scott E. Mabe

Recorder Seena Webster