

TOWN OF BATH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER: @ 5:30pm by Mayor
2. FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: Due to the absence of the Recorder Webster, Councilman Chapman volunteered to assume her duties for this meeting. This was approved by Common Consent.
3. ROLLCALL: Scott Merki (X) Susan Webster (A) Chris Chapman (X) Rose Jackson (X) Elizabeth Skinner (X) John Bohrer (X) Rick Weber (X) Quorum present.
4. REVIEW OF MINUTES: Meeting minutes of August 18, 2020 were approved by Common Consent.
5. PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL: Residents of the Blackwood Street area approached Council with concerns over the poor condition of the street. After discussion of drainage and paving issues Public Works Committee Chairman Weber explained the scheduling and financing challenges of such repairs. The Public Works Committee's plan for street improvement of this area is set for next fiscal year, but will send the Labor Crew to mitigate immediate issues.
6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR; The Mayor presented the Statement of Just Compensation and Summary for Waiver Valuation from the WV DOT Division of Highways for a portion of Town owned property located in Bath District, Map 6, Parcel 148 (see attached). The reason for this transaction is due to the construction of the Berkeley Springs Rt. 522 bypass. The WV DOH has offered the Town \$1,300.00 for the property it requires.
MOTION: To accept \$1,300.00 for a portion of Town owned property in Bath District, Map 6, Parcel 148 from the WV DOH- Weber/Skinner- Motion Carried.

The Willards of Coughlin Street approached Council with a fallen tree incident of June 4, 2020. The tree fell from property known as the Old English Cemetery and caused the Willards loss of electric service ruining major appliances, HVAC systems and food. The tree remains on the property causing further concerns. Complications surrounding the resolution of this issue include no known deed for the Old English Cemetery therefore ownership is in question. The Mayor referred the issue to the Tree Board and Public Works Committee. He will also consult with the Town's attorney and requested that the matter be placed on the next agenda.

The Mayor presented a request from the Transportation on Demand Program in Morgan County for support in their grant application for funds to maintain service. Councilman Chapman explained the use and value of the program to the community.
MOTION: To approve and send a letter of support for the grant application for the Transportation on Demand program in Morgan County- Chapman/Jackson- Motion carried.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

1. BATH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: The next meeting is September 2nd at 4:30. President Lisa Stine reported on the North End Focus Grant progress.
2. PARKS & REC: The next meeting is September 16th at the Courthouse. No report at this time.
3. PLANNING COMMISSION: No report at this time.
4. RAIL/TRAIL: Committee member Pete Brown presented progress on Parcel 3. The committee continues work with the LRS on an updated Land Use Covenant for CSX to use to amend the deed to allow recreation. Morgan County authorities plan to mow and clean the trail to North Berkeley Road for immediate use by the public.
5. STREETSCAPE: Committee Co-chair Pete Brown presented the status and update of Phase 4A of the Streetscape Project. He presented three resolutions for Council consideration required in order to apply for future grants (see attachments).
MOTION: To approve Resolution 2020-07 to authorize the submission of Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Application for funding for the purposes of constructing Streetscape Town of Bath improvements in sidewalks – Chapman/Jackson- Motion carried.
MOTION: To approve Resolution 2020-08 to authorize the submission of Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Application for funding for the purposes of designing Streetscape Town of Bath improvements in sidewalks – Chapman/Weber- Motion carried.
MOTION: To approve Resolution 2020-09 to authorize the submission of Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Application for funding for the purposes of designing and acquiring needed right of ways for the Town of Bath Urban Trail- Chapman/Jackson- Motion carried.
6. TRAIN DEPOT: No report at this time.
7. LANDMARK COMMISSION: No report at this time.
8. CLERK/RECORDER REPORT: No report at this time.
9. FINANCE: Chairman Bohrer presented the following bills:
 - (A) Town of Bath \$7,960.87- Motion to approve: Bohrer/Weber –Carried
 - (B) BSWW \$6,147.65- Motion to approve: Bohrer/Weber- Carried
 - (C) Greenway Cemetery \$3,949.00- Motion to approve: Bohrer/Jackson- Carried
 - (D) NBRT \$420.00- Motion to approve: Bohrer/Weber- Carried
 - (E) Tree Board \$3,200.00- Motion to approve: Bohrer/Weber- Carried
10. TREE BOARD: Councilman Bohrer reported that Committee is working on three outstanding situations in addition to the Old English Cemetery.
11. PUBLIC SAFETY: Chairman Jackson provided the monthly police activity report.
 - (A)Permits: No report at this time.
 - (B)Police Report: Chief Link asked for Council's guidance with the upcoming annual Halloween Trick or Treat event due to the covid19 pandemic. After discussion it was concluded that Councilwoman Jackson would contact the Berkeley-Morgan County

Health Department for input. She will report findings at the next Council meeting.

12. PUBLIC WORKS: Councilman Weber reported that the Committee is still searching for a new garbage truck. Crew Leader Steiner is authorized to purchase a new snow plow for the F250.
13. ORDINANCE: No report at this time.
14. CEMETERY: Chairman Skinner addressed the lack of work being done in Greenway Cemetery by the hired contractor. The situation is being corrected and she has written a letter of apology to be published in the Morgan Messenger. It is nearing the end of the mowing season.
The drainage issues on the roads in the new section are being evaluated by Rebecca MacLeod and Kate Lehman. They will advise on repairs.
15. WATER WORKS: The next meeting is September 14, 2020.
16. MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chapman – Carried.

Attest:

Mayor Scott E. Webb

Recorder Pro Temp Chir Chapman