

TOWN OF BATH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

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.
At this point in the meeting the Mayor made a statement concerning the personal opinion article that Susan Webster submitted for publication in the Morgan Messenger. He emphasized that Council was not involved. Her position was that as an American it was her right to express her opinion.
The Mayor also stated that public present who wanted to discuss Certificates of Appropriateness (COA) proposed by the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) would not be allowed to speak because a meeting had been arranged to discuss the matter on Thursday. Discussion ensued on constituent's rights to speak at Bath meetings. The Mayor's decision to not permit public comment stood.
3. REVIEW OF MINUTES: Meeting minutes of May 4, 2021 were approved by Common Consent.
4. PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL: Dorothy Silvers spoke to Council concerning the condition of her family grave site in Greenway Cemetery. Her dissatisfaction was addressed by Cemetery Chairwoman Beth Skinner. The Cemetery Committee will visit the site and work toward a resolution with the company employed for this work.
5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR: The Mayor presented the Eastern Panhandle Conservation OM & R Funding Agreement and the 7-1-3U agreement (both attached). Discussion was held which included Morgan County Commissioner Sean Forney.
MOTION: To authorize the Mayor to sign the Eastern Panhandle Conservation OM & R Funding Agreement and the 7-1-3U Agreement- Chapman/Jackson- Carried.
The Mayor announced the Special Meeting of Council to be held at the Ice House on May 20th to discuss the proposed Certificate of Appropriateness ordinances the Historic Landmark Commission has given Council multiple times. The Recorder inquired as to the meeting agenda, what would be discussed and how the meeting would proceed. The Recorder asked that the proposed ordinances be posted on the Town website and facebook page so the public could be aware of the proposals. Discussion ensued concerning precedent versus the public's right to know.
MOTION: To post the Historic Landmark Commission's proposed draft ordinances concerning Certificates of Appropriateness- Webster/Skinner – Carried in a split vote. Webster, Skinner, Chapman, Bohrer in favor. Weber and Jackson opposed.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

1. BATH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: The next meeting is June 6th. President Lisa Stine updated the Council on the Authorities activities.
2. PARKS & REC: No report at this time. The next meeting is May 19th.

3. PLANNING COMMISSION: No report at this time.
4. RAIL/TRAIL: The next meeting will be April 28th. Co-Chairman Pete Brown presented an update to the Town Clerk's office (attached).
5. STREETSCAPE: The next meeting is May 20th. Co-chair Pete Brown presented the Town office with a progress report including Phase 4B grant application work.
6. TRAIN DEPOT: No report at this time.
7. LANDMARK COMMISSION: The Commission meeting is being held May 18th at the Granary.
8. CLERK/RECORDER REPORT: Clerk Corrick gave an Election calendar update.
9. FINANCE: Chairman Bohrer presented the following bills for approval:
 - (A) Town of Bath \$35,781.14- Motion to approve: Borher/Chapman –Carried.
 - (B) BSWW \$15,196.44- Motion to approve: Borher/Chapman- Carried.
 - (C) Greenway Cemetery \$3,030.00- Motion to approve: Borher/Chapman- Carried.
 - (D) NBRT \$5,812.00- Motion to approve: Bohrer/Weber- Carried.
10. TREE BOARD: The next meeting is May 26th.
11. GRANT: No report at this time.
12. PUBLIC SAFETY: The next meeting is May 18th. The Status Report for April was presented.
 - (A)Permits: No report at this time.
 - (B)Police Report: Chief Link reported that it is only he and a part time officer on duty while the full time officer is in the Academy. Parking on Congress Street has become a concern. The Chief reported that at the Special Meeting of May 20th if there are any outbursts he will give a warning. A subsequent outburst will result in removal from the meeting with arrest if there is resistance.
13. PUBLIC WORKS: Chairman Weber reported that the new trash truck is delivered and has been put into service. The Town will keep the old truck as a backup or use with recycling.
14. ORDINANCE: Discussion was held concerning the First Reading of the Demolition of Non-Emergency Structures.

MOTION: to table the first Reading of the Demolition of Non-Emergency Structures Ordinance- Webster/Jackson- Carried.

Chairman Webster has spoken again to County Planner Alex Moore and County Administrator Stefanie Allemong. They have agreed to a future meeting with Councilmen who are interested in how Morgan County conducts its building permitting process.
15. CEMETERY: Chairman Skinner thanked all who participated in the Make It Shine clean up in Greenway Cemetery. She suggested locking the gates of the cemetery at times to remove pass through traffic and wear and tear of the roads.
16. WATER WORKS: Chairman Chapman discussed work progress with the BSWW and that the \$250,000 available to the Town of Bath for infrastructure projects will be a matter of discussion in upcoming committee meetings.
17. MOTION TO ADJOURN: By Common Consent.

Attest:

Mayor Scott E. Melk

Recorder Suzanne Webster