

# TOWN OF BATH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER: @ 5:30pm by Mayor
2. ROLL CALL: Scott Merki (X) Susan Webster (X) Chris Chapman (X) Greg Forney (X) Rose Jackson (X) Beth Skinner (X) Rick Weber (X) Quorum present.
3. REVIEW OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2021 were approved by Common Consent.
4. PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL: Bath Christmas Project Chairman Hunter Clark told Council that the Morgan County Commission has agreed to allow the yellow building from the Depot lot to be moved to the Pines Opportunity Center, but the area to be used needs leveling. He requested that the Town assist in this work.  
MOTION: To prepare the area at the Pines Opportunity Center for the setting of the yellow building from the Depot lot with Town equipment and labor- Webster/Jackson- Carried.  
Mr. Clark will decorate further north on N. Washington Street for this Christmas season.
5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR: The Mayor reminded Council of the NBRT Forsythia Planting and Depot Trailhead Celebration on September 10<sup>th</sup>.  
The BDA is sponsoring the 'It's a Jeep Thing' event on the weekend of September 24 through 26. President Alisa Stine has requested the use of the Depot lot for the Big Dogs Family Off-road gathering.  
MOTION: To allow the use and waive any fee for the use of the Depot lot for the 'It's a Jeep Thing' event weekend- Webster/Chapman- Carried.  
The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Dedication will be September 18<sup>th</sup> at the memorial.

## COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

1. BATH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: The next meeting is October 10<sup>th</sup>.
2. PARKS & REC: The next meeting is August 18<sup>th</sup>. No further report.
3. PLANNING COMMISSION: Larry Landon was in attendance to introduce himself to Council and offer his services on this Commission. Recorder Webster requested that Mr. Landon be placed on the next meeting agenda so his appointment can be considered and voted upon.
4. RAIL/TRAIL: The next meeting will be September 29<sup>th</sup>. Progress report was submitted by Pete Brown. Rebecca MacLeod advised Council of the celebration of the NBRT Brownfield Cleanup Completion and the Storm Water Management Installation to be held on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 11am at the Berkeley Springs Depot.
5. STREETSCAPE: The next meeting is September 19. Progress report was submitted by Pete Brown. MCI is removing its equipment and cleaning up areas used for material storage. They will return for the installation of electric in the new planters.
6. TRAIN DEPOT: The Request for Bids for the interior hazmat work has been

- advertised. Bid opening will be in October.
7. LANDMARK COMMISSION: Recorder Webster prepared the Memorandum of Understanding between the HLC and Bath and it has been signed by both parties. Grant Chairman Forney reported that he is in possession of the cleared check proving complete payment to Grove and Dall'Olio by the HLC. HLC Treasurer Ryan Rebant is sending the WV SHPO all documents to finish the Historic District Resurvey Grant obligations and insuring reimbursement of the Town's \$11,000.00 loan to the HLC. Chapter 42 is being corrected to conform to the WV State Code and adding treasurer to the officers required.
  8. CLERK/RECORDER REPORT: Clerk Corrick reported that the auditors will be at Town Hall tomorrow for their work concerning the Town and the BSWW audits.
  9. FINANCE: Chairman Webster presented the following bills for approval:
    - (A) Town of Bath \$20,766.19- Motion to approve: Forney/Weber-Carried.  
Chairman Webster added that the Finance Committee is interested in investigating Workers Compensation savings.
    - (B) BSWW \$3,347.97- Motion to approve: Forney/Weber- Carried.
    - (C) Greenway Cemetery \$4,784.00- Motion to approve: Forney/Weber- Carried.  
Note was made that the Greenway mowing is over for the season and the total financial obligation to Percy Renovations is included in this presentation.
    - (D) Rail/Trail \$240.00- Motion to approve: Forney/Weber- Carried.
  10. TREE BOARD: Councilwoman Skinner reported that the group is continuing work on a grant for software and assistance with the Tree Survey project. The Board is planning a flowering trees and bushes planting in Greenway for beautification. The removal of hazardous trees from the Old English Cemetery is complicated by the need to move vehicles out of the way. Councilman Forney suggested a 'Hold Harmless' agreement to alleviate liability.
  11. GRANT: Chairman Forney is researching grant possibilities. He requested that Committee Chairman inform him of specific needs in order to narrow and simplify search.
  12. PUBLIC SAFETY: The next meeting is October 19<sup>th</sup>. No report at this time.
  13. PUBLIC WORKS: Chairman Weber praised the performance of the Town Labor Crew for their work during Hurricane Ida. The crew has concerns about vehicle and RV improper parking, abandonment and storage on Wilkes Street making their work more difficult and dangerous. Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> is the day slated for yard waste pick-up.
  14. ORDINANCE: Councilman Weber explained that work is being done to amend the form used by the Morgan County Planning Office to apprise the Morgan County Assessor's Office of private property improvement and alteration for use in Bath. This will require the repeal of the WV State Building Code as adopted by Council in 2016. Chapter 42 Historic Preservation will be amended to comply with State Code membership requirements. Both of these ordinance changes will be placed on the next meeting agenda for first readings.
  15. CEMETERY: The Morgan Messenger published an article written by Chairman Skinner explaining the workings of Greenway Cemetery and asking for the public to volunteer their assistance with the care of all Town cemeteries. Skinner has applied for a grant from the Two Rivers Giving Circle for funds to repair Union General Barstow's headstone and

install an educational sign at the site.

Matt Pennington of Downstream Strategies will attend the next meeting. His work is to identify, apply for and administer grants. It is hoped that cemetery infrastructure improvements can be accomplished in this way.

'No ThruTraffic' signs have been placed at the entrances of Greenway to lessen vehicles using Greenway as a short cut.

16. WATER WORKS: Chairman Chapman reported that the Committee wishes to table the Water Tower Lease Agreement with Morgan Wireless until the next meeting. The next Committee meeting will be Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. The Committee has hired Candy Morris as an office administrative assistant. She will start September 13<sup>th</sup>.

17. ADJOURN: By Common Consent.

Attest:

Mayor Scott E. Miller

Recorder Susan J. Weber