

TOWN OF BATH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER: @ 5:30pm by Recorder Webster. Due to the absence of the Mayor the Town Recorder assumed Chairmanship of the meeting.
The first order of business was to appoint a Recorder Pro Tempore.
MOTION: To appoint Councilman Chapman Recorder Pro Tempore- Jackson/Skinner. With Councilman Chapman's concurrence the Motion Carried.
2. ROLLCALL: Scott Merki (A) 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 September 21, 2021 were approved by Common Consent.
4. PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL: Stephanie Rebant, President of Travel Berkeley Springs (TBS) along with staffer Laura Smith, presented the organization's annual report (see attached). Income and expenses during the past year were discussed with emphasis on the effects of the ongoing pandemic. President Rebant offered support for the Town's Depot and Rail/Trail projects which was appreciated. She also asked the Town to support the TBS efforts to increase marketing signage for the tourism industry and Senate Bill 163 which rectifies unfair tax collection within the industry. Council advised contacting elected State Representatives on SB 163.
Due to the Berkeley/Morgan County Health Department's pandemic decision to impose restrictions on the Apple Butter Festival the event will not be held in 2021. Barb Wolfe expressed concern that 'rogue' booths would be set up. If all business licensing and permitting were in place Council considered this activity acceptable. Issues should be directed to the BSPD.
5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR: The BDA first time event "It's a Jeep Thing" was successfully held September 24-26. It is expected that the group will produce the event again.
The inspections of the Warm Springs dams will be October 14 by the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District. The sign up contact is Sherry Duncan at the EPCD. Trick or Treating will be allowed on Halloween October 31 from 6-8pm as usual.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

1. BATH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: The next meeting is October 6 at the Blue Ridge Community and Technical College.
2. PARKS & REC: The next meeting is October 20. The group is sponsoring their 'Trunk or Treat' event on October 30. Councilwoman Jackson has spoken with Parks & Rec Director Dawn Beal concerning the ongoing vandalism problem at the North Berkeley Park. Council expressed desire to work together with Parks & Rec on solutions.
3. PLANNING COMMISSION: Commission member Larry Landon described a patriotic event being planned by the local Knights of Columbus and the American

Legion on November 7 at noon on the Courthouse side of Fairfax Street.
Recorder Webster expressed a desire to help organize and restart the Bath Planning Commission.

MOTION: To appoint Recorder Webster to the Bath Planning Commission –
Skinner/Weber- Carried.

4. RAIL/TRAIL: The next meeting will be October 27. Pete Brown has submitted his progress report and is pleased with Parcel 3 completion. He awaits funding progress. Rebecca McLeod described plans for the Storm Water Management Project on the Depot lot. McLeod requested that a member of the Public Works Committee participate in the selection of contractors for this project. Councilman Weber indicated he would serve.
5. STREETSCAPE: The next meeting is October 21st. Progress report was submitted by Pete Brown on this project and the Berkeley Springs State Park project. Member Rebecca McLeod raised concern with the Morgan County Commission consideration of creating TIF Districts around future bypass interchanges outside of Town.
6. TRAIN DEPOT: Bids for the Haz Mat rehab phase of the Depot project were opened by Chairman McCracken and Susan Webster. There is an apparent low bidder, but disclosure will be after review of the bids by the Mills Group and WV DOH.
7. LANDMARK COMMISSION: Treasurer Rebant reported to Recorder Webster that the reimbursement process of the \$11,000.00 loan is in motion and that the Town should receive the SHPO check in that amount within the next couple of weeks.
8. CLERK/RECORDER REPORT: No report at this time.
9. FINANCE: Chairman Webster presented the following reviewed bills for approval:
 - (A) Town of Bath \$20,708.74- Motion to approve: Forney/Weber- Carried.
 - (B) BSWW \$11,173.42- Motion to approve: Forney/Weber- Carried.
 - (C) Streetscape \$1,792.00- Motion to approve: Forney/Weber- Carried.
 - (D) Rail/Trail \$976.00- Motion to approve: Forney/Weber- Carried.
 - (E) Hotel/Motel disbursement- Motion to approve: Forney/Weber- Carried.Council was reminded of the Auditor's Training on October 26th. Budget comparisons will be made available to Committees for their upcoming meetings. The Committee will meet three times per month to accommodate the review of bills and other financial business. The next meetings are October 18 at 4pm and October 19 at 3:30pm.
10. TREE BOARD: The next meeting is October 27. Councilwoman Skinner explained that the lack of progress on the hazardous trees removal from the Old English Cemetery was due to Tree Works staffing difficulties. The Tree Board will coordinate the moving of vehicles in the way of this work when Tree Works is ready.
11. GRANT: The next meeting is October 18th. No report at this time.
12. PUBLIC SAFETY: The next meeting is October 19th. No report at this time.
13. PUBLIC WORKS: Chairman Weber reported that the Town is facing another crew member loss. The crew leader has been instructed to drive the more fuel and maintenance efficient vehicles from April through October rather than the Town dump truck.
14. ORDINANCE: Recorder Webster reported that the ordinances to rescind Chapter 14 (State Building Code) and to amend Chapter 42 (Historic Preservation) were not prepared

for first reading. The form to replace the Morgan County Notice of Building or Real Property Improvement for the Tax Assessor was also not ready to present. The Mayor and Ordinance Committee Chairman asked the Recorder to have these items tabled until the next agenda.

15. CEMETERY: Chairwoman Skinner thanked Kate Lehman, Andy Swaim, Rebecca McLeod, Town and BSWW staff for their work at the Greenway tree planting recently.
16. WATER WORKS: Phase IV Waterline Replacement Project is moving forward. Bids will be appropriately advertised with Bid opening scheduled for November 4th at 2pm. Chairman Chapman reported that the ASI system for the water and trash collection billing will be moved to the Munibilling system. This move is being made in conjunction with the Warm Springs Public Service District. The Foxglove Garden Club has approached the BSWW for help or suggestions for relief from a service line leak at the Fairfax Green. While Public Service Commission regulations prohibit direct assistance by the BSWW the Water Committee suggested that the organization approach the Council for available financial and other assistance in the situation.
The next Water Committee meeting will be November 4th at 4:30pm.
17. ADJOURN: By Common Consent.

ATTEST:

Mayor Scott E. Mub

Recorder Suzanne Anderson