

TOWN OF BATH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER: @ 5:30pm by Mayor
2. ROLLCALL: Scott Merki (X) Susan Webster (X) Chris Chapman (X) Greg Forney (X) Rose Jackson (X) Beth Skinner (X) Rick Weber (A) Quorum present.
3. REVIEW OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 19, 2021 were approved by Common Consent.
4. PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL: Bath Christmas Project President Hunter Clark updated Council on the status of the storage building move. Insurance for the donated lift equipment has been researched by Councilman Forney and he will prepare a 'Hold Harmless' agreement to further protect the Town from liability. A rental agreement has been prepared allowing the rental of the Bath Christmas Project's Grove Manlift to the Town of Bath for the Christmas wreath and light hanging.
MOTION: To authorize the Mayor to sign the Grove Manlift equipment rental agreement at no cost to the Town as presented- Webster/Chapman – Carried.
Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce Lori Hansroth requested that Council permit the Deck the Meters Project from Saturday, November 21, 2021 until Sunday January 2, 2022. Travel Berkeley Springs offered to donate \$1,000.00 to the Town to defray loss of revenue due to the meters being out of service during this time.
MOTION: To permit the Chamber of Commerce to conduct their Deck the Meters Project for the 2021 Christmas season- Jackson/Skinner- Carried.
5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR: The Mayor expressed with sadness the passing of the Berkeley Depot Chairman John McCracken. Appreciation was shown for his dedicated contribution to this and other Town projects. Recorder Webster suggested a commemoration be arraigned at the Depot at a later date.
Mountain State Cruisers submitted a letter requesting approval for their annual 'First Fridays Cruise-Ins' with the date of the Father's Day Cruise-In being Saturday, June 18, 2021 rather than Father's Day Sunday.
MOTION: To approve the request as submitted- Webster/Skinner
During discussion Councilman Chapman objected to the approval of the request without referral to the Public Safety Committee and consultation with Chief Link.
MOTION: To rescind the motion to approve the Mountain State Cruiser's request- Webster/Skinner- Carried.
The Knights of Columbus of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church will hold a wreath laying ceremony at the Fairfax Green Veterans Memorials on Sunday November 7, 2021 at noon.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

1. BATH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: The next meeting is November 3 at

4:30pm.

2. PARKS & REC: The next meeting is November 17. Member Melissa Bartley advised Council that summer sports activities are wrapping up and Bidy Buddy Basketball sign-ups are currently being held.
3. PLANNING COMMISSION: No report at this time.
4. RAIL/TRAIL: The next meeting is November, 24. Pete Brown has submitted his progress report to the Town office.
5. STREETSCAPE: The next meeting is November 18. Progress report was submitted by Pete Brown on this project and the Berkeley Springs State Park project.
6. TRAIN DEPOT: Due to the loss of Chairman McCracken, Recorder Webster will be the project contact and plans to reorganize interested parties to move forward.
7. LANDMARK COMMISSION: Councilman Forney reported that the Town has been reimbursed \$10,500.00 from SHPO for the HLC Resurvey Grant. The figure previously reported of \$11,000.00 in reimbursement appears to have been a miscommunication. Also, WV SHPO has \$25,000.00 in grant funds available which Grant Chairman Forney believes could be advantageous to a reorganized HLC.
8. CLERK/RECORDER REPORT: Clerk Corrick advised that the Town office will be closed November 11 for Veteran's Day. Recorder Webster attended WV Attorney General Morrissey's Town Hall and met with Congressman McKinley. Both were informative on State and Federal issues.
9. FINANCE: Chairman Webster presented the following reviewed bills for approval:
 - (A) Town of Bath \$2,418.20- Motion to approve: Forney/Chapman-Carried.
 - (B) BSWW \$4,261.04- Motion to approve: Forney/Chapman- Carried.
 - (C) Rail/Trail \$1,020.34- Motion to approve: Forney/Chapman- Carried.
 - (D) Greenway Cemetery \$84.50- Motion to approve: Forney/Chapman- Carried.Chairman Webster reported that in addition to reviewing the bills the Finance Committee had voted to recommend that the Council approve authorization to spend up to \$500.00 for moving vehicles on private property in order for the Tree Board to be able to instruct their contractor to remove hazardous trees from the Olde English Cemetery. While the matter brought discussion of the propriety of such an expenditure it was realized that this was necessary to order to accomplish any positive movement in this long-standing issue.

MOTION: To authorize the expenditure of up to \$500.00 to move vehicles on private property in order to be able to remove hazardous trees in the Olde English Cemetery and to develop a 'Hold Harmless' agreement in the matter to protect the Town with liability concerns- Webster/Forney – Carried.

The Finance Committee also discussed other cemetery risk management and labor issues, the Auditor's Training meeting, ARPA fund distribution and the budget comparison. The Clerk will present the budget comparison to Council on a quarterly basis.The next meetings of the Finance Committee will be November 15 and 16.
10. TREE BOARD: The next meeting is December 8. Nothing further.
11. GRANT: The next meeting is November 15. The Green Infrastructure Grant has not been

received. Aside from previously discussed matters, nothing further.

12. PUBLIC SAFETY: The next meeting will be November 16. The Christmas Parade will be December 4. The Mayor brought up the need for consideration of a 4-Way stop at Warren and Mercer Streets. Consultation with the Public Safety Committee was requested.
13. PUBLIC WORKS: The Mayor reported that preparations are being made for paving improvements to Legion, Kent, Blackwell and Rockwell Streets.
14. ORDINANCE: No report at this time.
15. CEMETERY: Chairwoman Skinner is preparing a Home Rule application with the Municipal League's assistance to be able to potentially sell the northern portion of the Olde English Cemetery. At this time WV Code does not allow the sale of publicly owned cemetery property. The adjacent property owners have an interest in the property. The Committee is placing an ad in the Morgan Messenger for an additional Town employee for Cemetery labor. Façade removal from the mausoleum is necessary and an ad will be placed for that work also.
16. WATER WORKS: Chairman Chapman reminded that bid request for the Phase IV Water Line Replacement Project is being appropriately advertised with bid opening on November 10. The Request for Proposal for Professional Engineering Services for the Rt. 522 Water Line Extension is being properly advertised with proposal opening on November 19. The contract with Munibilling has been signed and preparations are being made for the system change.
17. ADJOURN: By Common Consent.

ATTEST:

Mayor *Lott E. Meade*

Recorder *[Signature]*