

Minutes for Town Meeting

October 16, 2017

Call to Order: Mayor Diehl called the meeting to order with 4 council members present.

Attendance: Councilman Walker, Councilwoman Newman-Edwards, Councilman Towers, Councilman Downton, and Administrator Robin Jones.

Guests: Lisa Rounds & Kim Lishia – Ruth Enlow Library, Brenda Ruggiero – The Republican, and Adam Rounds – Garrett County Sheriff's Department.

Minutes: The minutes for the October 2, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

Sheriff's Report: The month of September was once again reported on with 15 hours of service in the town. Deputy Rounds questioned if a decision had been made regarding allowing UTV's and ATV's on town streets. The administrator reported that the count was 2 in favor and 2 against with one member not submitting their decision as of tonight's meeting. The absent councilmember will be contacted and a decision made.

Ruth Enlow Library: The mayor spoke with Charles Wilt from the Mountain Laurel Medical Center and they will be looking into extending a parking area between the medical center and the town's storm water pond. This may provide between 2 and 6 spots depending on how the lot is built. These alternatives will be decided upon before winter is here as the library parking will be limited and the medical center is currently using spaces provided by the library. The library uses the services of VOIP internet and phones. Their only negative to the system is that when the electric is out so are the phones. The town is considering using the same service as the library.

Mayor Report: Autumn Glory Event: CBS News was in attendance at the parade and during communication with the Grand Marshall of the parade Mayor Mark was mentioned and the Town of Grantsville as being another place in Garrett County to visit. If the Lions are in need of help with Grantsville Days they may be able to ask the Chamber of Commerce; they organize the entire Autumn Glory event. **DHCD/CDBG Program:** The mayor spoke with Cindy Stone and she provided information that there is CDBG funding available to perform a feasibility study to construct new water line to residents east of town to Hilltop. There may

also be funding available from USDA and MDE. We will also see if Mike Murray can assist with grant applications when needed.

Outdoor Art Ordinance: Guests in attendance were not here specifically for the art ordinance so Councilman Towers moved to not read the entire ordinance at this meeting. Councilman Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried. The mayor read the first paragraph. The ordinance was published in The Republican for 2 weeks. And copies are also available at town hall if anyone would like one. The first reading of the ordinance was considered completed. The next reading will be at the meeting dated November 6, 2017.

Tax Incentive for New Business: Councilwoman Newman-Edwards is meeting with Karen Reckner from the Garrett County Arts Council and a possible buyer for 167 Main Street. This property is located in the Arts & Entertainment District and the buyer is interested in transforming it into a bed and breakfast with a textile art component. She would include music and quilting as a main attraction. The town could help to secure the sale by offering some type of tax incentive to the buyer. Councilman Walker moved to forgive the municipal property taxes on the property for a period of 5 years from the opening date. Councilman Towers seconded. Motion carried. The GRO Committee can assist with non-profit grant opportunities that arise.

Trotta Property Line Adjustment: Mountain View Engineering has completed a survey and plat for the property owned by Frank and Nancy Trotta at 141 Main Street. The Trotta's have the small house located on the property under sales contract. There is a right of way for a town street that was written in on the original plat for the town that was never developed into Durst Street. The right of way is 10' wide. The Trotta's would like to be granted ownership of 5' of the strip of land. With the other 5' being offered to bordering property owner Robert Speicher. Councilman Towers moved to allow the Trotta's to have the 5' section as requested. Councilwoman Newman-Edwards seconded. Motion carried.

ADA Swing: Councilman Walker researched a price for a wheelchair accessible swing for in the park. The cost is around \$1,800.00. The administrator reported that there is around \$1,000.00 left from a POS Grant that could be used. Letters will be sent to the Lions Club and the Rotary Club to see if they will donate the remainder of the funds.

Christmas Tree Lights: The Rotary and Lions Club will also be sent letters to request donations to purchase large bulb LED light strings for the Christmas Tree.

Light Up Night: An email will be sent to Governor Hogan's assistant to request he and the First Lady to attend the light up night as well as Christmas in the Village in December.

Sandwich Boards: More research will be put into purchasing sandwich boards that will be used to advertise activities throughout the town. The boards can be changed for each event and we can see if Spruce Forest, Lions Club, and other agencies will purchase their own event advertisements.

Next meeting will be held on Monday, November 6, 2017 beginning at 6PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7PM.

Administrator, Robin L. Jones

Mayor/Pres., Mark C. Diehl