

TOWN OF UNION BRIDGE
WORK SESSION
July 10, 2023

The Council held a work session meeting on July 10, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., in the Town Hall. Notice of the meeting was given by posting the agenda at the Town Hall, on the Town's website, and provision to the Carroll County Times. Those present were Mayor Perry L. Jones Jr.; Laura Conaway; Cheri Thompson; Ellen Cutsail; Amy Kalin; Bret Grossnickle; Town Attorney John Maguire and Circuit Rider, Mike Reynolds. Town Clerk/Treasurer Dawn Metcalf was absent.

TOWN ATTORNEY JOHN MAGUIRE

American Tower Update-

- Mr. Maguire provided an update that we are still awaiting a response from American Tower in reference to reduced revenue resulting from the merger of Sprint and T-Mobile.
- He stated that he reached out to the Landlord Relations Director but received no reply.
- He sent a certified letter and then was able to speak with her about a week ago.
- Mr. Maguire explained that with the Sprint and T-Mobile merger, the Town stopped receiving rent since March 2022 (\$800/month lost).
- Mr. Maguire explained that the Town was in the middle of a contract which expires in 2026 and the Town should still receive 25% of revenue from the first two (2) providers who are using the communication tower and T-Mobile should replace Sprint as the second of the first two (2) providers.
- Mr. Maguire explained that we are awaiting a response from American Tower.
- Bret Grossnickle asked if we should pursue legal action against American Tower. Mr. Maguire stated that he will need to advise the Council if that course is decided once the Town hears back from American Tower.

Waste Water Treatment Plant ENR Study Update-

- A copy of Mr. Maguire's report is attached and made a part of these meeting minutes.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

- Circuit Rider Mike Reynolds stated that the Town has been awarded funding for both the Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) and PFAS Emerging Contaminant Remediation applications.
 - The Town was awarded the requested \$6,801,300.00 for the I&I application, but it appears to be in only a loan capacity.
 - The Town was awarded \$675,000.00, which appears to be in a "Principal Forgiveness" package.
 - More information needs to be obtained from MDE, but the Town would not be able to take on the entire loan amount for the I&I project. The hope is that most of the money would be given as a grant.

LAURA CONAWAY

- Ms. Conaway solicited input on when to conduct the next snow cone event and determined it would be on Friday, July 14th from noon to 2:00 p.m. Subsequent events will be held on August 18th and September 1st.
- Leda reported a suspicious car with passengers being parked near Amy Kalin's shop on a daily basis. The car was reported to Master Deputy Kevin McGinnis who investigated and determined that the occupants of the car were employees of Lehigh on their lunch break.
- Ms. Conaway asked if the Town had been contacted by the essay winner about attendance to the July 24th Town Council meeting. As Town Clerk/Treasurer Dawn Metcalf was absent, Ms. Conaway stated that she would follow up upon her return to the office.
- Ms. Conaway stated that some Boy Scouts may attend the next Town Council meeting.
- Ms. Conaway stated that she will be having a medical procedure and may not make it to the July 24th Town Council meeting.

BRET GROSSNICKLE

- Mr. Grossnickle informed the Council that he will be working with SERCAP for a GIS mapping of the Town's water/sewer systems. The data collection is no charge and there is no charge for the first year of the service. There will be an approximate charge of \$400/year after the first year.
- Mr. Grossnickle stated that there was a bush on Thomas Street that needs to be trimmed as well as a tree in Engle Alley.

AMY KALIN

- Ms. Kalin stated that one of her salon customers reported an inordinate number of black snakes on their property.
- Ms. Kalin stated that Steve Stambaugh has been doing a great job of "cold patching" the potholes around town.

CHERI THOMPSON

- Ms. Thompson stated that she had a street light repaired near Donald Wilson's house.
- Ms. Thompson stated that a resident contacted her with concern that with the new cannabis laws being in place in Maryland, he is concerned with the usage around town (i.e., Flood Zone). There was discussion and it was determined that businesses will most likely treat the usage as it does with its general smoking policy.

ELLEN CUTSAIL

-Ms. Cutsail reported that new plants have been installed at the Community Center.

-Mr. Reynolds provided an update that the walkway roof repairs have been completed and the Town has received word that the Town has been approved for the Community Parks and Playground grant applied for last year, which will be added to the FY22 POS grant for the Community Center Playground project. Mr. Reynolds also stated that the initial application for the FY24 POS grant has been submitted for various upgrades to the Community Center. He stated that we are awaiting approval to officially apply to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

MAYOR JONES

-Mayor Jones stated that the Town needs to place added emphasis on enforcing the Town's parking ordinance. He stated that there are many trailers being parked on the streets and tickets should be issued. Ms. Conaway stated that she drafted a letter addressing trailer parking violations several years ago that may be of use in enforcement. Mayor Jones also stated that there are many cars on parked on town streets that have not moved in a long time, exceeding the amount of time allowed in our ordinance.

-Mayor Jones stated that the Town's election process should be updated. Examples cited based on other municipalities are: minimum voting age; council member must have lived within town limits at least two (2) years; mayoral candidates must be a resident at least five (5) years and candidates must be nominated at a town council meeting.

-Mayor Jones asked if anyone on the council would like to volunteer to be in a dunking booth on Friday evening, July 14, 2023. The event is a fundraiser at the Flood Zone Brewery titled "The 4th Annual Anchored Mini Boat Parade". There were no volunteers at this time.

The July council meeting will be held on July 24, 2023

The August work session will be held on August 14, 2023.


Mike Reynolds, Circuit Rider


Perry L. Jones Jr., Mayor