

THE TOWN OF UNION BRIDGE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2024

The Council met in the Union Bridge Town Hall, on Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7:03 p.m., for their monthly council meeting. 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. Mayor Jones presided over the meeting with councilmembers Laura Conaway; Bret Grossnickle; Cheri Thompson and Town Attorney, Mandi Porter. Councilmembers Ellen Cutsail and Amy Kalin were absent. The attendees' sheet is attached to and made a part of these minutes. **Council President Laura Conaway motioned to approve the March operating statements; March 25, 2024 council meeting minutes; and Quantum's financial statements for March 2024. Councilmember Bret Grossnickle seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

MAYOR'S REPORT

-Signs advertising the Veterans Celebration of Carroll County were dropped off at the Town Hall. Mayor Jones will distribute the signs to residents that are interested in posting a sign on their property. The event will be held at the Carroll County Farm Museum on May 5, 2024 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

-Mayor Jones met with the new owners of the Carroll County Times.

Budget Ordinance 319-A

-Mayor Jones called for a motion on Budget Ordinance 319-A, for fiscal year 2024/2025. **Council President Laura Conaway motioned to approve Budget Ordinance 319-A, for fiscal year 2024/2025, for expenditures and revenues of \$1,174,714.00, with the town tax rate to remain at \$.35 per \$100 of full value assessment of property in the Town of Union Bridge, and the town personal property tax rate is to remain at \$.75 per \$100 of assessed value. Councilmember Bret Grossnickle seconded and the motion passed unanimously.** A copy of Budget Ordinance 319-A is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

ATTORNEY REPORT – MANDI PORTER

Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

-Ms. Porter reported that on April 1, 2024, the court approved the 3M settlement. There is a 30-day appeal period. As of Friday, April 19, 2024, there have been no appeals submitted. There was an appeal on the Dupont settlement, but within the last few weeks, that appeal has been withdrawn. There has been another settlement with other defendants in the amount of \$750,000,000.00. At this time there have been three (3) major settlements with a few more in progress.

-The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalized the maximum contaminant limit for PFAS chemicals, set at four (4) parts per trillion for each contaminant. The EPA will start to monitor levels of these chemicals by 2027 and by 2029, if water systems have not implemented to reduce the level of these chemicals, the EPA will start fining municipalities.

CIP Resolution 01-24

-Town Attorney, Mandi Porter introduced Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Resolution 01-24 for fiscal years 25-30 at the March 25, 2024, council meeting. **Councilmember Laura Conaway motioned to approve CIP Resolution 01-24 for fiscal years 25-30. Councilmember Bret Grossnickle seconded and the motion passed unanimously.** A copy of Resolution 01-24 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

18 Whyte St. and Town Hall Property

-On March 11, 2024, the Town received an email from Mike Kreimer concerning the pencil trees that were planted along one of the town hall parking pads. The balls of the trees were large and encroached onto Mr. Kreimer's property located at 18 Whyte St. Mr. Kreimer requested the Town provide him with a letter that acknowledges the fact that the plantings are on a portion of his property and that the town will be responsible for taking care of them. Ms. Porter stated that there are two ways to handle this.

*The simplest way to move forward would be a simple agreement between the Town and Mr. Kreimer that the Mayor and Mr. Kreimer would sign. This type of agreement would not run with the land and if Mr. Kreimer sells the property, the new owner would have the ability to cut down the trees.

*The more in-depth way would be creating an easement that runs with the land and recording it with land records.

After discussion, Mayor and Council were in agreement to move forward with a simple agreement between Union Bridge and the current property owner, Mr. Kreimer.

CARROLL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DEPUTY MCGINNIS

-Deputy McGinnis reported that between the dates of March 25, 2024 until April 22, 2024, the Carroll County Sheriff's Office responded to 53 calls for service within the town limits of Union Bridge. Out of those calls for service, only six (6) required a report. A copy of Deputy McGinnis' report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

-Deputy McGinnis assisted in taking drone footage of the Donald D. Wilson Walking Trail.

-Deputy McGinnis revisited his discussion with Westminster Rescue Mission and the United Way on distributing groceries and toiletries in Union Bridge monthly. The organizations are looking at the 3rd Wednesday of every month with the first scheduled day to be June 19, 2024.

- On April 20, 2024, Deputy McGinnis assisted the Carroll County Health Department in a Take Back Medication and Sharps event. 144 pounds of medication were collected to be processed.
- Deputy McGinnis serves on the Circle of Caring Executive Committee Board that works with homeless outreach. He also serves on the Senior Center Task Force Board.
- Deputy McGinnis shared that he is a Crisis Intervention Team trained Officer. Deputy McGinnis stated he works hard to help those in need and that Mental Health is very important to him.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Donald Wilson

- Mr. Wilson reported that the Church of the Brethren had a successful "Crop Walk" with 68 participants.
- Sensenig's removed the tree near the front door of the Town Hall where the bell will be installed in the future.
- Mr. Wilson reported for Councilmember Amy Kalin, who was absent, on which town streets need repair. Mr. Wilson met with White Pine to go over street repairs and he is waiting on estimates.
- Mr. Wilson showed Mayor and Council photos of the 6/10 of a mile on Union Bridge Road that has deteriorated, once again, due to the larger amount of truck traffic that travels that area. In the last few years, this portion of Union Bridge Road, has cost the Town over \$80,000.00 in repairs. During Mr. Wilson's time on the Town Council, he spoke to the Carroll County Commissioners about taking ownership of that portion of the roadway, which never came to fruition. Discussion is needed on the possibility of prohibiting through truck traffic on that street.
- Mr. Wilson reported that five (5) evergreen trees have been planted on the side of the Community Center.
- The Town has put a deposit on the Track Loader.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WATER/SEWER

- Mr. Grossnickle had no new business.

STREETS

- Ms. Kalin was absent.

COMMUNITY CENTER

- Ms. Cutsail was absent.

POLICE/MOWING/CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

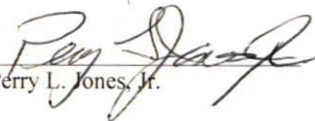
- Ms. Conaway requested a donation from Lehigh for National Night Out.
- Ms. Conaway nominated Perry for the 2024 Maryland Municipal League Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Ms. Conaway worked with Master Deputy Kevin McGinnis, Parking Enforcement Officer's Leda Bush and Ellen Cutsail regarding policing and parking enforcement matters.
- Ms. Conaway attended the Carroll Cable Regulatory Commission meeting.
- Ms. Conaway's full report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

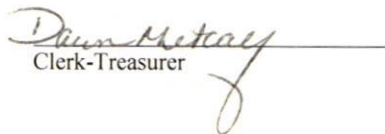
STREET LIGHTS/TRASH

- Ms. Thompson reported one (1) street light in need of repair since the last council meeting.

Councilmember Laura Conaway motioned to adjourn the Council meeting. Councilmember Bret Grossnickle seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The next council meeting will be held on May 20, 2024.
 The next work session will be held on May 13, 2024.
 The content of the council meeting is contained on a zip drive.


 Perry L. Jones, Jr.


 Clerk-Treasurer