

**Mayor & Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, July 24, 2023
6:00 PM**

The Mayor & Council of Federalsburg held a meeting July 24, 2023 at 6:00 PM, in the Mayor & Council meeting room located at Town Hall. Those in attendance were Mayor Abner and Councilmembers Phillips, Sewell, Willoughby, Windsor, Lyndsey Ryan, Town Attorney, Kristi Marshall, Interim Town Manager, members of the public were also present in the meeting room as well as on Zoom.

Call to Order

Mayor Abner called the regular Mayor and Council meeting to order at 6:01 PM, welcomed all guests present and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes

Council Member Sewell made a motion to approve the June 20, 2023 minutes, Council Member Windsor seconded the motion and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero to approve the June 20, 2023 minutes.

Everest Water Tower Lease

Town attorney, Lyndsey Ryan reported the contract negotiations with the leasing of the water tower in the Industrial Park with Everest for a 60 year term is still ongoing. Everest proposed a provision that they would like to have all exclusive rights to the tower. In the provision also, the town of Federalsburg would have to maintain the maintenance of the water tower, and not lease out any other water towers within a one mile radius of this water tower through the entirety of the 60 year lease or the contract would be null and void. The Mayor and Council proposed the language be changed so that the town will reasonably maintain the tower but because of the age of the tower they can't guarantee that the tower will be in working order for the next 60 years. Also AT and T is currently using this tower. t

Everest will have to buy the easement that AT and T currently has with the tower. Council member Willoughby recommended that the town should get other bids for the lease of the tower. Mayor Abner was in agreement. Town attorney, Lyndsay Ryan will review the offer agreement and will go back to Everest to negotiate the proposals made by the Mayor and Council.

Discussion- Compensation

Council Member Phillips proposed a resolution to increase the compensation for all members of the Mayor and Council. The increase would not take effect until the election of the Mayor and Council. The proposed increase would be the following:

Mayor would increase from the current compensation of 5,000 a year to 10,000 a year. Council members would increase from the current compensation of 1,500 a year to 5,000 a year.

Town Attorney, Lyndsay Ryan will research the compensation of other local town mayors and council members and will draft a resolution to increase the Mayor and Council compensation package.

Public Comment

Susan Andrew, from Old Denton Road, questioned the Mayor and Council about hours the Mayor and Council spend on town business, private property maintenance out on Reliance Road, corner of Main Street and the corner of Liberty and East Central. The Mayor and Council spend numerous hours on town business. It changes from week to week person to person. The Interim Town Manager Kristy Marshall has already discussed with code enforcement to address property maintenance on private property.

Pastor Ellis, from the International House of Worship, raised concerns about groups of minors going around town late at night and ringing door cams, using profanity into the system and trying to break into her daughter's place of business. This has happened to her daughter's business a couple of times and has heard that it has happened to multiple places of businesses in town. Police have been contacted and were told since they are minors nothing much can be done. Pastor Ellis asked what

can the community do? The Mayor and Council encourage Pastor Ellis to continue to call the police and share any video from her Ring Camera that will help identify the minors. Mayor Abner stated that she has already spoken to FPD and that PD will start enforcing the curfew ordinance and if need be start writing fines to the parents of the minors.

Bicentennial Honorees

Community Honoree- Federalsburg Historical Society for the work on the bicentennial.

Legacy Honoree- Pearl Bryan-Mayor Abner read a biography for Pearl Bryan

Mayor & Council Action Items

Councilmember Windsor:

Attended the Planning and Zoning Meeting held on June 27, 2023. Councilmember Windsor stated John Phillips requested zoning lot 407 to be annexed into Town Limits and asked for advice on how it should be rezoned. Also Bob Rauch from Riverview Terrace requested a stormwater management waiver and it was approved.

Councilmember Sewell:

Passed out digital cards in town from the Chamber of Commerce.

Council member Sewell stated Debbie Bowden informed her that she is retiring from the Chamber of Commerce effective August 8, 2023.

Councilmember Sewell attended the MML conference in Ocean City.

Councilmember Sewell attended the ribbon cutting for Choptank Health and the Planning and Zoning community input meeting for the comp plan.

Councilmember Phillips:

Nothing at this time

Councilmember Willoughby:

Nothing at this time

Mayor Abner:

Mayor Abner thanked Public Works Department: Sumner Hoback, Keith Wheatly, Bryan Grant, and Sean Magee along with Sullivan Septic and Mr. Rooter for all their hard work and time on Pump Station1. She is very thankful for this crew.

Mayor Abner stated a gentleman from the fire department wants to head a committee of volunteers to help clean Chambers Lake Park. Mayor Abner stated that the town will provide trash cans to be placed out on the lake and will help with any trash needs.

Benediction: Pastor Ellis

Request for Closed Session -Personnel Matters

Councilmember made a motion seconded by Councilmember Windsor and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero to go into Closed Session at 7:07 PM to discuss personnel matters.

The regular meeting reconvene at 7:48

Mayor Abner reported that a closed session was held to discuss personnel matters and no action was taken.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilmember Willoughby made a motion seconded by Councilmember Phillips and unanimously passed by a vote of five to 0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Smith
Asst. Clerk

Closed Session 7:07 - 7:48

Personnel