

**Mayor & Council of Federalsburg
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 4, 2024
6:00 PM**

The Mayor & Council of Federalsburg held their regular monthly meeting on March 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM, in the Mayor & Council meeting room located at Town Hall. Those in attendance were Mayor Abner, Councilmembers, James, Williamson, and Sewell, Town Manager Kristy Marshall, Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan and members of the public were also present in the meeting room, as well as on Zoom. Councilmember Hammond was unable to attend due to an appointment out of town.

Call to Order

Mayor Abner called the workshop meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed all guests that were present.

Invocation

Pastor Marie Coulbourne gave the invocation.

Welcome - Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Abner welcomed everyone and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Previous Month's Minutes

Councilmember James made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell and unanimously passed by a vote of five to zero, approving the minutes from the February 20, 2024 Mayor and Council Workshop Meeting.

Introduction of New Staff Members:

Chief Michael McDermott introduced the new officers in the Federalsburg Police Department, Pfc-Jeremy Eckel, Pfc-Mahlon Allebach, and Pfc-Kadijah Ameen.

Town Manager Kristy Marshall introduced her staff, Sean Hoback-Public Works Department, Sheri Hendrix-Assistant Clerk, and Mercedes Moyer, Grants Administrator.

Amy Horne, CASA of Caroline - Pinwheels for Prevention:

Amy Horne, Executive Director for CASA (Caroline Court Appointed Special Advocate), introduced herself and explained the Pinwheels for Prevention program to the Mayor and Council. The Pinwheels for Prevention program's main goal is to raise awareness of childhood abuse and prevention. Blue and silver pinwheels are placed in gardens and flower beds throughout town to raise awareness of childhood abuse. Ms. Horne requested the Town participate in this annual event to help promote prevention of childhood abuse.

Federalsburg Activity Center- Update-Pastor Pam Bockhart:

Pastor Pam Bockhart gave an update on the progress of the Federalsburg Activity Center. Pastor Bockhart gave a summary of the completed renovations and explained that fire doors, windows, partitions for the bathrooms, and security systems are still in need of being purchased and installed in order for the project to be completed.

Pastor Pam requested additional funding from the Mayor and Council to assist with completion of the remaining projects.

Mayor Abner requested that the Federalsburg Activity Center bring them a budget and some quotes for completing the doors, windows, partitions and security system. Once they have those quotes, the Mayor and Council will be able to make an informed decision about the request for additional funding for the Federalsburg Activity Center.

Public Comment:

Mrs. Becky Reed stated that she and Mrs. Susan Andrew are starting a support group for women and they want to offer assistance to organizations or people in need of assistance by monetary donations. They are just getting started and are welcoming new members.

Mrs. Reed also asked the Mayor and Council for an update on the paving of Greenridge Road.

Mayor & Council Action Items

Councilmember Williamson: Reported out the following:

- He talked with the contractor and they will be in town the third week of March to repair the service patches on Bloomingdale, South Main Street and Academy Avenue.

Councilmember James: Reported out the following:

- There is a wooden fence that surrounds a large drainage ditch on Benjamin Haynes Court that needs to be replaced. Children are playing around the drainage ditch and she is concerned that a child may get injured.

Councilmember Sewell: Reported out the following:

- After trash has been removed residents are not pulling their trash cans back to their house
- The public trash cans are being used by residents to dispose of their household trash. She asked the Town Manager to look into the possibility of purchasing lids for the public trash cans.
- Inquired if there was a policy or procedure that establishes how the town performs or gives a proclamation and if not that should be something the Mayor and Council should review.
- Asked about the Masonic event that is being promoted on Facebook. Wanted to know if the town was aware of such an event. Town Manager Marshall stated she was not aware and Councilmember Sewell will share the info.
- At the March workshop meeting we will need to work on getting the rental contract for the marina.
- Shared a concern from a resident who received a letter from Code Enforcement prohibiting items on their front porch. Town Manager asked Councilmember Sewell to share the info with her for further investigation.
- There was discussion about implementing business licenses with the town.

Councilmember Hammond: Reported out the following:

- Commended Town Manager, Kristy Marshall, the office staff and the public works department for all their hard work during recent events in the town.
- Suggested a higher deposit needs to be paid for the rental of Marina and/or Chambers Park to cover any damages that are incurred during an event.

Mayor Abner: Reported the following:

- Thankful there is a new fire hydrant on South Main Street.
- Reported a mattress has been leaning on a building on Academy Avenue for sometime. The building on the corner of Park Avenue and Academy is in bad shape. Missing part of the roof, and the porch is falling down. Asked if the code enforcement application was being used to report problems.

Town Manager, Kristy Marshall: Reported the following:

- Bill Mengel from CCPS would like to have a crosswalk, ramp, and signs installed from the Judy Center to the sidewalk by the Elementary School Property.
- Representatives from the South Carolina Little League obtained two estimates for the backstop and the fencing repairs. One estimate was for \$9,200 and the other estimate was for \$8,000. Mayor Abner will contact the company that did the fencing for Lions Club to obtain an estimate.
- Asked the Mayor and Council if they would like to make a donation to the Greensboro Police Department Community Basketball Program. The Mayor and Council would like more information before making a decision.

Request for Executive Session - Legal Matters

Councilmember James made a motion seconded by Councilmember Sewell and unanimously passed by a vote of 5 to 0 to go into closed session at 6:58 PM for legal matters.

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:28 PM

Mayor Abner reported that the Mayor and Council met in closed session from 6:58 PM to 7:28 PM with the Town Attorney to discuss personnel and legal matters. No action was taken.

Water Adjustment-Credit to Residents

There was a discussion about giving the residents a credit for water usage during the three days that residents experienced low water pressure or no water during recent events. A motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Sewell and unanimously passed by a vote of 5 to 0 to approve giving

the residents a credit for the three days the town was without water. Staff has manually reviewed the usage for these days on accounts and a credit will be applied accordingly.

Settlement Agreement - NAACP/ACLU

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Sewell and seconded by Councilmember Williamson and unanimously passed by a vote of 5 to 0 to approve the settlement agreement that was presented to the Mayor and Council by the NAACP/ACLU.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Councilmember James made a motion seconded by Councilmember Sewell and unanimously passed by a vote of 5 to 0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Smith, Town Clerk