Meeting minutes of Town Council on 7-05-2022

As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on August 9, 2022

There being a quorum, Vice-President Koval called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:31p.m. The meeting was held using video conferencing. Council Members Charles Bradsher, Tom Burke, and David Preusch were present. Mayor Ruspi was able to listen to the meeting but did not have video or microphone capabilities. The Treasurer and Assistant Clerk, were also present as were three residents and one guest.

Update on Mayor Ruspi: Vice-President Koval and Treasurer Hoffman provided an update on Mayor Ruspi.

Minutes: The minutes from the Public Hearing held on June 7, 2022, and the Town Council Meeting held on June 7, 2022, were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Balance Sheet for the month of June and noted the amount of $149,573 under Receivables. Treasurer Hoffman explained this reflects the ARPA funds that were not received by June 30, 2022. The amount of ARPA funds that were claimed on the first ARPA report were transferred from Checking to Operating. The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of June. The major source of income was $36,087 from Highway Income Tax. The major expense for the month of June was $17, 957 for Grounds Maintenance. The net income for the month of June was $1,909.

Council Member Preusch made a motion to approve the June Treasurer’s report subject to audit. Council Member Burke seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Committee/Board Reports

**Charles Hendricks, Historic District Commission Chair, said the Historic District Commission met by videoconference on June 23, 2022, at which they recognized Jill Ruspi for her nineteen years of service on the Commission. Jill Ruspi has now retired from her position on the Commission.**

**Eric Wenger, Planning Commission Chair, said the Planning Commission held the second quarter meeting, by videoconference, on June 23, 2022. Steve Crum from Macris, Hendricks and Glascock attended and reviewed progress on correcting the town maps from the 2014 Comprehensive Plan. Chair Wenger explained the Planning Commission will be taking on the Comprehensive Plan review in the coming year to prepare and present a new plan for 2024.**

**Old Business**

**Update on Jones Farm Pond: Council Member Preusch said SMC provided two estimates to repair the riser and pipe at Jones Farm Pond. The estimate to replace in-kind is approximately $50,000 and the estimate to replace with a concrete riser is approximately $100,000. Council Member Preusch noted the actual costs could be plus or minus twenty percent and include design services. Council Member Preusch observed that the pond is currently full and seems to be holding. He reported that the contractor believes evaporation is three times more likely than the leak to cause the low water levels. Council Member Preusch recommended continuing to monitor the pond over the summer.**

**Update on Staffing: Vice-President Koval provided an update on hiring for the Town Clerk vacancy and said the position of Assistant Clerk has been offered to Ana Taulbee. There will be an introductory training period of three to four months at which point, she may transition to the Clerk position.**

**New Business**

Appointments: Vice-President Koval presented the following slate of appointments:

* + 1. Assistant Clerk – Ana Taulbee
    2. Tree Commission – Tom Koval

Council Member Burke made a motion to accept the appointments as presented. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

**Second Quarter Safety Inspection: Vice-President Koval reviewed the Second Quarter Safety Inspection. Of note, were some cracks on the paved path around Jones Farm Pond. Olney Masonry completed an inspection of the sidewalks in May and found no issues. The removal and replacement of the fence at the pocket wetland on Sunset Drive is expected to be completed soon. The third quarter safety inspector will be Council Member Burke.**

**Update on MML Summer Conference: Vice-President Koval and Mayor Ruspi attended the MML Summer Conference. Vice-President Koval said the conference was very productive and highlighted some of the items which included the MML Montgomery Chapter meeting, classes on open and effective meetings and the Governor’s Cabinet Roundtable.**

**Update on Discussion with Officer Dixon and Officer Trybus: Council Member Burke explained that parking issues on Montgomery Avenue were discussed. The officers explained that to address a violation they must observe it and that if asked to investigate a parking violation in one part of town they will inspect all streets. Parking a commercial vehicle/trailer is a ticket able offense in Montgomery County. The use of ATV’s and dirt bikes was also discussed. Council Member Burke said Officer Trybus informed them that Montgomery County used to have eight traffic officers and now he is the only one. Council Member Burke commented that the town does not currently have a Code Enforcement Officer.**

**Resident’s Forum**

**Charles Hendricks, 7011 Brink Road, asked Vice-President Koval about the timing of completing the repaving in town. He inquired about the possibility of notifying the residents as they may want to leave town as the process is very loud.**

**Eric Wenger, 6815 Maple Knoll Drive, welcomed Ana Taulbee. He requested clarification on information provided to Mayor Ruspi from the Police Commander regarding police not enforcing actions against riders of motorbikes and ATVs for anyone under the age of fourteen.**

Adjournment: Council Member Preusch made a motion to adjourn at 8:33p.m. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Jackson  
Assistant Clerk   
July 5, 2022