\* Prior to the start of the council meeting Mayor Schlosnagle administered the oath of office to the following Councilmembers – Fred G. Fox, Sheryl A. MacLane and Robert H. Sines. They will serve for a term of two years.

**MINUTES**

**March 6, 2017**

This being the first meeting of the new council Clerk/Treasurer Karen Benedict called the March 6, 2017 general meeting of the Mayor and Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. She asked for nominations for Council President as this is done the first meeting of the new term. Jerry moved to have Julia serve as council president for another year. Sheryl seconds the motion. All in favor. Julia then took over the meeting and asked for all to stand for the Invocation given by Pastor Phil Smith of the Freedom Chapel and the Pledge of Allegiance. Also attending the meeting was Glenda Lane, Christy Thomas, Carol Calhoun, Trish Anderson and Nate Sorber.

**TO THE FLOOR**

Pastor Smith who was on council at the time the backboards were put up, came before council to discuss the damage to the basketball backboards in the Community Park. It appears one has been shot with a high-speed pellet gun and there is spider webbing from the weather on the other one. They are no longer under warranty. He spoke with Tim Nine, owner of Mt. Top Glass, who recommended replacing the backboard with one made of polycarbonate. It can withstand about any impact. The cost would be around $700 each compared to $889 from Pro Dunks, Inc. who manufactured the original backboards. There are also areas on the basketball court itself that needs patched and resurfaced as well as the poles needing retouched with paint. Questions were brought up about whether there would be a warranty on the new backboard and who will do the work on them. It was also suggested to put signage on the fence pertaining to vandalism. Phil was asked to get several proposals and present them to the council.

**Approval of the Agenda and Minutes**

Jerry moved to approve the Agenda. Fred seconds the motion. All in favor. Pam moved to approve the Minutes of February 6, 2017. Jerry seconds the motion. All in favor.

**TO THE FLOOR (Continured)**

Trish Anderson came before council to ask if the town council would allow a community flea market in the Community Park in May. It would be opened to anyone interested for a set-up fee of $5. The town would receive any profit after expenses for advertising etc. have been paid. She was informed that insurance would be an issue and it was suggested to see if the fire department would allow her to have it in their parking lot and co-sponsor the event since they had agreed to sell food.

Dr. Nate Sorber came before council on behalf of the Friendsville Elementary School and their PTO Spring Carnival. Council is invited to attend the carnival on May 5, 2017 from 5 to 7 p.m. They are also having a Color Run on April 8th in the Community Park at 10:00 a.m. This is a fundraiser for “Project Bundle Up” for Garrett County.

Glenda Lane spoke on behalf of the Friendsville Community Watch. They are having their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 9th beginning at 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed. Christy Thomas and Carol Calhoun were also in attendance on their behalf.

Carol Calhoun gave an update on the Kendall River Trail race. A $25 sponsor donation was given by the Friendsville Community Watch.

**COMMITTEES**

Spencer explained to the new council members about the different committee and how one council member is responsible for reporting back to council. He will make the appointments at the next council meeting.

**Property Maintenance Improvements:**  Streets:Second Avenue drainage problem. Spencer, Jerry, Dred and Clint met with Paul Harvey from the Garrett County Roads Department to see what could be done to help the drainage problem at 907 Second Avenue. Milling will be done on the lower side of the street at no charge by the county. Fred informed council of a water problem behind 265 Maple Street in the alleyway. Water is also running into the basement at 709 Morris Avenue. There is a low spot at 140 Walnut Street. All these areas will be reviewed and reported back at our next meeting.

**Tree Committee:** Julia reported they are working on a special memorial for Alice Spear and planting a Japanese Tinkerbelle tree in her memory. There was a tentative date of April 19th set but they are waiting to hear from State Forester Becky Wilson to see if she is available to come in the evening or if there are some other dates that she would be available. They will check with the family to see what date works for them after hearing from Becky.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

* Election questions: The election committee has requested some changes be made concerning the last day to petition for office in the charter. At present, it does not give them enough time to have ballots printed and look into questions on candidates should there be any.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* JROTC: They are having a Mountain Maryland County Jamboree on April 8, 2017. Pam moved to pay to have the town shown on the power point at a cost of $50.00. Sheryl seconds the motion. All in favor.
* Northern High After Prom Party: Pam moved to donate $50.00 to the After-Prom Party. Sheryl seconds the motion. All in favor.
* AL-GAR Chapter dinner: March 15, 2017 in Lonaconing. Jerry, Sheryl, Pam, Julia and Spencer will attend. Town pays for gas for the driver and meals @ $14.00 per person.
* National Police Bloodhound Association: They have requested to visit Friendsville and neighboring communities in the county from April 29th to May 5th for its 40-hour Man-trailing Training and Certification Course. They would like to have the approval of council. General consensus was given for the training course to be held in Friendsville again this year.
* Resolution 2017-1- A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Friendsville, Maryland, Adopting a Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. This Resolution will make it easier should we have a disaster. It actively encourages the formation of mutual aid agreements between local jurisdictions and/or taxing districts for reciprocal disaster response and recovery assistance. The Maryland Municipal League suggested we adopt it. Pam moves for the adoption of Resolution 2017-1. Jerry seconds the motion. All in favor.
* Planning Commission Vacancy: This position is vacant because Jess Whittemore is no longer on council and the person has to be a council member. After discussion Fred moves to have Julia fill this position. Pam seconds the motion. All in favor. This is a one year term.
* Highway User Revenue Reinstatement: Spencer read the letter from Senator George C. Edwards thanking the town for our letter of support of Senate Bills 563 & 564. He also read the letter from Delegate Wendell R. Beitzel for the letter of support of House Bills 946 and 942. They are hoping to defeat the Department of Legislative Services’ suggestion to reduce the amount budgeted for municipal transportation needs.
* Letter of Support-Celtic Festival: A letter of support was written and sent to Jen Ruffner of the American Heritage Trust in favor of the Celtic Festival that is being held in Friendsville on June 3rd. The Celtic Festival committee is applying for a grant through them.
* Park & Ride: Spencer informed council of state highway looking into putting a park and ride on the property of Janice Hileman. They have consulted engineers to look over the proposed project and wanted to inform the Mayor and Town Council.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

* Ornamental lights: Spencer presented an email from Don Beatty. He restated his previous statement that the bulbs in the ornamental lights that were taken down by the town could not be replaced with LED bulbs. There were several concerns and we just wanted to reverify this concern.
* Code Enforcement complaints: Spencer explained the process to the new council members. Complaints must go through Karen in town hall who enters them into Citizen-Serve. This is all confidential.
* Bear Creek Project: Spencer updated council on its progress.
* Hospice of Garrett County: Spencer read to council the recognition of the donation in honor of Lynn Patton by the town council. We donated to Hospice in lieu of a donation to Lynn for playing Santa at our Christmas event. This is his request.
* Trish Anderson: Park usage for flea market. This is an insurance issue. Referred to the fire company.
* Comptroller Office Overpayment: The bill has passed the Senate and now goes before the House of Delegates.
* Bob and Jennifer Pletta donated an American flag to the town. A thank you card will be sent.
* Community Parks/Playground Grant Application: Look into seeing if we can apply to have the tennis court resurfaced through this grant.
* Water and electric at park pavilions: After discussion Pam moved to have the employees turn the water and electric on only at the small pavilions when rented. Sheryl seconds the motion. All in favor.
* ARC Application: If interested the application is due April 7th. A one page project description is needed. There is a 50% match for this grant.
* New School Superintendent: Barbara Baker is the new Garrett County School Superintendent. General consensus to send a letter congratulating her on being selected for the position.
* Tom Carr: Board of Education vacancy: General consensus to write a letter in support of Nate Sorber being selected to replace Tom Carr.
* Meeting dates: General consensus to keep the council meeting start time at 6:00 p.m. The next council meeting will be March 20th. A work session is scheduled for March 27th at 5:00 p.m. Peggy Jamison and Code Enforcement Office Jarrett Mahoney will attend.
* Senior Center: It was agreed to try to meet with Community Action for a meeting on who is responsible for what at the senior center/head start building.

**CLERK’S REPORT AND PAYABLES**

Jerry moved to accept the Clerk’s Report. Pam seconds the motion. All in favor.

Pam moved to approve the payables. Jerry seconds the motion. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Karen S. Benedict

 Clerk/Treasurer