Attending the meeting of the Mayor and Town Council were Mayor Spencer R. Schlosnagle, Council members Pam Humberson, Sheryl MacLane, James Hook, Bob Sines, Jess Whittemore and Beth Van Sheetz Clerk/Treasurer. Councilman Edward Kelley was unable to attend. In the audience is Jarrett Mahoney Code Enforcement Officer, Craig Umbel from the Garrett County Health Department, local Business owner Nadine Grabania of Deep Creek Cellars and Connard Edlin.

Call to Order: Council President Pam Humberson called the August 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2021, general meeting of the Mayor and Town Council to order at 6:04 pm.

Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: The Lord’s Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attending the meeting.

Councilman Whittemore moved to accept the agenda for tonight’s meeting. Councilman Sines seconds the motion. All in favor.

Councilman Whittemore moved to accept the minutes for the General Meeting on July 19\textsuperscript{th}, 2021. Council President Humberson seconds the motion. All in favor.

To The Floor
Jarrett Mahoney/Code Enforcement Officer: Jarrett Mahoney is here to give an update on the tax sale for the Paugh property that burned badly in 2018, located at 125 Walnut Street. The taxes were paid by the family, but the home is un-inhabitable and is a safety hazard. Mr. Mahoney had an inspection of the property to see if it would be able to be secured, but the whole backside of the home is exposed and there is no way to board up the house. The question to Council is do we want to go ahead and take the house down in accordance with our un-inhabitable ordinance, or do we want to appoint an individual from the family and go to court and force the family to dismantle the structure. There was much discussion on what would be the least expensive option, and how much authority the town has to mitigate the hazard. It was agreed by Council to discuss this further with the towns lawyer. Jarrett Mahony agreed to keep in contact with any development.

Craig Umbel Health Department: Jennifer Steckman and Mayor Spencer Schlosnagle reached out to Mr. Umbel and requested him to come speak with council about current face mask mandates and answer any questions about Covid. Mr. Umbel has reported that it is still recommended that unvaccinated individuals still wear a mask and vaccinated should also put
on a mask in crowded rooms and outdoor settings when positivity rates are high. Craig also reported that positivity rates are low right now and are at 1.51%. President Humberson inquired if students will be asked to wear masks at school, Mr. Umbel reported that he was not sure right now but that the decision is driven by positivity rates so its hard to say right now and we will have to wait and see. Councilman Whittemore ask Mr. Umbel why he is not wearing a mask, Councilman Whittemore feels everyone should wear one including the vaccinated due to the new “Delta Variant” strain. Mrs. Nadine Grabania asked Mr. Umbel if there is a Surge currently in Garrett County and what that rate would be? Mr. Umbel stated that they would consider there to be a surge if we rose above 5%, but the county is currently at about 1.5%. Mr. Umbel also has concerns there could be a surge from the large amounts of people gathering at the County Fair the first week of August and reported that numbers will be closely watched in the next coming weeks. Mrs. Grabania is here with us today to advocate for local business owners. She also has concerns that the positivity rate is rising and would like to know if there will be a mask mandate in the near future. Mr. Umbel did state it is proven that masks do drive down positivity rates, but that he does rely on science and as of now the science is not showing that we are at a place to start having to wear masks just yet. Councilman Whittemore disagrees and feels everyone needs to return to wearing masks fulltime. Mr. Umbel appreciates Mr. Whittemore and Mrs. Grabania’s concerns and has urged them to contact the Director Steve Sherrard or Dr Quarter at the Garrett County Health Department with any additional questions.

Connard Edlin: Connard comes before Council to express concerns that there is no pedestrian right of way signs throughout the town. He would like to put “Watch for Turtles” signs up, with turtles pushing a grocery cart or carrying a boat over their heads. He is hoping this would get the attention of speedsters and they would notice the signs and slow down. Council President Humberson pointed out to Connard that we do have traffic speed limit signs posted, and a deputy that comes to meetings that we report incidents to. Mr. Edlin is concerned that drivers do not adhere to the speed limit signs and the deputy is contacted after the fact. Connard has given the example of other small tourist towns having pedestrian signs and feels the Town of Friendsville needs to also put up these types of signs to remind drivers to slow down. Mr. Edlin has offered to pay for the signs out of his pocket, Council has agreed to discuss the situation and get back with him. Mr. Edlin would also like to have a “Party in the Park” picnic for the Towns resident to honor his late Mother that passed during Covid. The Council instructed him to contact the Town Clerk to arrange pavilion rentals.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Library Building Lease Agreement: Mayor Schlosnagle passed out a Lease agreement that was drawn up by the Ruth Enlow Library regarding renting out the entire building. The Mayor has asked Council to look it over and be ready to address it at the next meeting on Monday August 16th, 2021
**AL/GAR Wednesday August 18th:** The Mayor has asked the council members to mark their calendars to join us for the Maryland Municipal League meeting at the park here in Friendsville. The menu will consist of a picnic style dinner, the Town Clerk needs to know by August 11th, if a council member and guest will be attending.

**SHA-Rt. 42 Project:** The Mayor received a letter back addressing the concerns of the council members for the Route 42 bridge rehab. Paul Nickol states in the letter that they are not at a point in the project where he can answer many questions regarding the detour. Mr. Nickol has assured council that their concerns will be heard and taken into consideration once plans come together when it is decided that construction will be scheduled.

**Garrett County Youth Lacrosse Club:** The Garrett County Youth Lacrosse Club is requesting to hold a clinic at the Friendsville Community Park this August 28th from 10am to 2pm. They do plan to follow the States guidelines on Covid and will have parents sign off on a waiver. The club will be primarily for grade school to middle school children. Councilman James Hook motions to allow the clinic, following the States guidelines on Covid. Councilwoman Sheryl MacLane seconds the motion. All in favor except Councilman Whittemore who voted against.

**Paugh Property Concerns:** Council discussed the hazards of keeping the property standing considering the safety concerns of the property. It was decided that the Town would investigate all avenues available to get the structure torn down. Mayor Schlosnagle will be checking with the Towns lawyer to get guidance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Sponsor of Friendsville Days Picnic:** The Friendsville Days Committee is requesting additional sponsorship from the Town of Friendsville for the picnic that will be held the evening of Friday the 13th. At the previous meeting Council voted to donate $500.00 to the committee. After much discussion Council President Humberson motions to donate $400.00 to sponsor the community dinner. The motion died for lack of a second.

**Garrett Central Batting Cage:** The Garrett Central Little League would like to apply for a grant to put a batting cage in at the softball field in the Community Park. Councilwoman Sheryl MacLane motions to send a letter of support, Councilman Hook seconds the motion. All in Favor.

**Letter From Northern Maddawgs:** Northern Maddawgs Football and Cheer is requesting sponsorship from the Town of Friendsville to help with offsetting equipment replacement and events for the kids. There were 3 different tiers of Sponsorship. Bronze, Silver and Gold. Councilman Whittemore motions to sponsor the Maddawgs at the cost of $220.00 with the gold package gaining the town recognition on the back of Players and Cheerleaders shirts,
Visual signage at home games and recognition at home games and banquet dinners. Councilman Sines seconds the motion. All in Favor.

**Pedestrian Signs:** Councilman Whittemore does feel Connard Edlin has some merit in requesting Pedestrian signs and feels we do have a speeding problem here in town. Councilman Whittemore feels signs at our town boarders may be effective. Council President Humberson feels the signs need to be located where there is high pedestrian traffic.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

- District Court sent a letter informing the town that we will soon be receiving restitution for the damages done to the Community Park this past winter.
- The Mayor has asked for final plans from the Fire Chief Terry Spear for the new conession stand, as it needs submitted latter in August.
- Trees were cut on Route 42 to help with the safety issue of visibility, and also at the new Dollar General Store by State Highway.
- Mayor Schlosnagle has spoke with State Highway about putting a sidewalk in to lead to the Veterans Memorial and Dollar Store, they feel it is a project that wont be addressed until next spring.
- The new bleachers have been received but are not assembled yet.
- A new sandbox is scheduled to be constructed at the park in the next few weeks.
- The Town put up “Caution Bees” signs as we had a large area in the park covered with Digger Wasp’s. There was an exterminator contacted but they were unable to spray for them because of it being a public park. It was reported from the exterminator that the Digger Wasp were actually harmless non-stinging wasp and that they would disperse within a few weeks on their own.
- Ben’s Thai Food will not be at the park August 6th and 7th so that way he can serve the community during Friendsville Days the following week.
- The Town Sign that was taken down during the Dollar General construction will be put back up at the entrance to town.
- The Town Hall has put up security cameras on the outside of Town Hall and the Library to help detour vandalism of the food pantry box.
- Deputy Saturday was unable to attend the council meeting, but did call into the Mayor to report that there was 10 patrol hours logged for the Town of Friendsville in July, they served 1 arrest warrant and several protection orders.

*Councilwoman Sheryl MaLane had to leave the meeting*
COMMITTEES

Tree Committee: Nothing.
Christmas: Nothing.
Buildings: Nothing.
Streets: Nothing.
Economic Development: Nothing.
Safety: Councilman Whittemore moved to require that masks be worn during future council meetings for the time being out of respect for fellow Councilmembers and their families. Council President stated to Councilman Whittemore that she would prefer to table the vote until all Council members would be present to vote. Councilman Whittemore wants a vote now. Motion died due to lack of a second. Councilman Whittemore left the meeting, with no plans to return unless masks are mandated for meetings.
Park: Nothing.
Trees/Shrubs: Nothing.
Concerns of Council Members: Nothing.

CLERK’S REPORT AND PAYABLES:
Due to lack of the required amount of Council members the Clerks Report and Payables are not able to be approved and will be tabled until the next council meeting, August 16th 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Van Scheetz
Clerk/Treasurer