

Friendsville Town Council Minutes
November 6, 2023

Attendance:

Mayor Spencer Schlosnagle, and Wanda Guard, Administrative Assistant, Clerk-Treasurer. Council members: Pamela Humberson, President, Michael Artice, Edward Kelley, Sheryl MacLane, and Robert Sines.

Public: Thomas Vose, Ruth Enlow Library Director, Christian Mash, Ruth Enlow Library Board President, Heath Barnes, Burgess of Woodsboro, MD who is a candidate for the District #6 US Congress, Jamie Spano, GCHD Community Health Outreach Worker – Friendsville Community Watch, Ken Hinebaugh, Friendsville Veteran's Memorial, Terry Spear, Friendsville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Jennifer Uphold, Friendsville Pharmacy, and Claire Sullivan, The Republican newspaper reporter.

Call to Order: The general meeting of the Mayor and Town Council was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Council President, Pamela Humberson.

Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: All attending the meeting recited the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion #1: (Councilwoman MacLane/Councilman Artice): Approval to accept the November 6, 2023, agenda. 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

Motion #2: (Councilwoman MacLane/Councilman Artice): Approval to accept the general meeting minutes for October 2, 2023. 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

To The Floor:

During the meeting at Ruth Enlow Library, Thomas Vose and Christian Mash expressed their gratitude to the Friendsville Mayor & Town Council for their collaboration in bringing the new library project to realization. They presented an overview of the project's timeline, with a planned commencement around September 2024 and a targeted completion date of September 2025. They emphasized the preservation of existing trees, particularly the cherished pine tree.

Councilwoman MacLane raised a question regarding the Tinkerbelle (Lilac) tree, which had been planted in memory of Alice Spear. If necessary, it may be relocated to the community park. Thomas diligently worked to secure a 90/10 State match for the project's funding.

The deed transferring the property of 313/315 Chestnut Street from the Town of Friendsville to the Ruth Enlow Library was signed, and photographs were taken to commemorate this significant milestone.

Heath Barnes warmly introduced himself to the group, sharing his background and motivations. He informed everyone that he currently holds the position of Burgess (Mayor) in Woodsboro, MD, located in Frederick County. Additionally, he expressed his intent to run for the United States Congress representing Maryland's District #6.

He recounted his upbringing in a small farming community in Southwest Missouri, proudly noting that he is the grandson of two United States Army Veterans, one of whom also worked as a dairy farmer, while the other became a special education teacher after completing their service. Barnes credited these two individuals as the source of his strong work ethic and unwavering determination.

Unfinished Business:

During the Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting on October 11, 2023, Councilman Kelley attended and conveyed that Garrett County is in the final stages of updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2023. They encouraged municipalities, including the Mayor and Town Council, to actively participate in the planning process and consider adopting the plan. Acknowledging the town's location in a flood plain and the potential impact of incidents on Route 68, the Mayor and Town Council emphasized the importance of generating ideas for the Friendsville plan. These ideas are expected to be brought forth and discussed at the December meeting. Additionally, recognizing the need to review and submit the assets inventory list, which will need to be forwarded to David Middleton. The subsequent meeting is scheduled for January.

Councilman Kelley, Kim Thomas, and Mayor Schlosnagle participated in the MML Fall Conference event at College Park. While the classes were informative, they primarily catered to larger cities. The primary issue is affordable housing. Mayor Schlosnagle mentioned that the MML Fall Conference in October 2025, taking place a week after Autumn Glory, is scheduled to be held in Garrett County at the WISP which will be the first time to be here..

Motion #6 Approval to accept Ordinance No: O-2024-01 Charter Amendment (Councilwoman MacLane/Councilman Kelley) 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

Mayor Schlosnagle shared that he is working with Michele Keplinger with LIGIT regarding possible health insurance for the maintenance employees.

Mayor Schlosnagle distributed the 2024 Rack Card crafted by Wanda, emphasizing the importance of obtaining current information for the card's successful printing in 2024. Wanda is set to send the rack card via email to council members, who are encouraged to provide any necessary updates at the upcoming December meeting.

The Mayor and Town Council are reassessing the necessity of establishing an ordinance specifically addressing Airbnb/VBRB within the Town of Friendsville. Mayor Schlosnagle recently engaged in a conversation with Chad Fike of the Garrett County Planning and Land Development, expressing concerns about the language in the current zoning ordinance that requires reconsideration. Fike emphasized uncertainty about the desired course of action and highlighted the need for clarification. It was underscored that existing arrangements will be grandfathered in under any new regulations. Mayor Schlosnagle pointed out that initiating an ordinance is a process and takes a while to be processed.

Motion #7 Approval to proceed with drafting an Ordinance for any new Airbnb/VRBO properties for the Town of Friendsville, existing Airbnb/VRBO will be grandfathered in under the ordinance. (Councilwoman MacLane/Councilman Artice) 4 in favor/0 opposed/1abstention. Motion carries.

New Business:

Mayor Schlosnagle will reach out to the other municipalities regarding the meals and mileage reimbursement guidelines & give a report at the December meeting since he was not able to attend the municipalities meeting in November to obtain the information.

The Mayor & Town Council reviewed the Annual Holiday Contest flyer for December 18, 2023.

5 Favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

Clerk's Report, Payables, & Receivables

Mayor & Town Council reviewed the October clerk's summary and QuickBooks expense, income & salary reports.

Motion #11 (Councilwoman MacLane/Councilman Sines): Approval to accept the clerk's report, payables, receivables & salaries for the month of October.

5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

Mayor & Town Council members reviewed the Code Enforcement Cases as 11/6/2023 and concurred to do the following:

Case #1 Pursue with Brownfield with WVU.

Case #2 Check on companies on cleaning up and receive estimates.

Case #3 Continue to work with property owner.

Case #4 Continue to monitor for compliance.

Case #5 Continue with citation to be issued if property is not in compliance by the compliance date.

Case #6 Continue with prosecuting the citations if there's no compliance.

Case #7 Recommend taking it to court if eviction does not resolve the issue.

Case #8 Recommend taking it to court if eviction does not resolve the issue.

Committees Reports:

- Buildings: Nothing
- Safety: Councilman Sines brought to the attention of the council that traffic is traveling too fast through town on Trick or Treat night and that we need to look into setting up cones or even working with FVFRD that evening to ensure the safety of the children.
- Streets & Sidewalks: Nothing
- Community Park: Nothing
- Trees & Shrub: Nothing
- Economic Development: Nothing

Concerns of Council Members: No concerns

Next Meeting: The next town council meeting will be on December 4, 2023, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wanda M. Guard

Wanda M. Guard,
Administrative Assistant, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:
Samuel Shlanagh
Mayor
12/4/2023