



Mayor and Town Council
Town of Friendsville
Founded 1765

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Friendsville Mayor & Town Council Minutes
March 18, 2024

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

Citizens/Guests: Ashley Bodkins, University of Maryland Extension, Garrett County Office, Craig Umbel, Central Garrett Baseball League, Chad Fike, Lynn Aycock, Dave Kessmann, Jess Whittemore, Jon Hinebaugh, Melissa Custer & Claire Sullivan, The Republican Newspaper.

Call to Order: Council President Humberson, convened the general meeting of the Mayor and Town Council on March 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. to order.

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

Motion #1: (Council member MacLane/Council member Artice): Approval to accept the March 18, 2024, agenda. 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

Motion #2: (Council member MacLane/Council member Artice): Approval to accept the second public hearing comprehensive plan meeting minutes for March 4, 2024. 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

Motion #3: (Council member MacLane/Council President Humberson): Approval to accept the general meeting minutes for March 4, 2024. 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

To The Floor:

During the meeting, Ashley Bodkins presented her proposal for establishing a demonstration garden in Friendsville, along with a marketing card detailing additional services offered through the University of Maryland Extension. The primary aim is to educate the public. One recommendation was to kickstart a small vegetable garden in the allocated space, with all necessary supplies provided, and in collaboration with the Master Gardener program from May through September. Ashley Bodkins sought assistance from the town solely for space and water. Advertising for the initiative will be conducted through the UME extension and shared with the town. The proposal underwent thorough review, also emphasizing the Garden Apprentice Program as a pivotal initiative aimed at fostering diverse community involvement.

During today's meeting, Lynn Aycock requested an update on the progress of the TVR (Transient Vacation Rental) Ordinance. Mayor Schlosnagle then asked Wanda to share her conversation with Peggy Jamison.

efforts towards constructing new storage buildings. Craig asked if the Mayor & Town Council members would keep these projects in mind for Program Open Space funding. Mayor Schlosnagle reminded everyone that the bathroom facilities are currently closed and not available for use. The Notification will be provided once they are open and ready for use.

Melissa Custer, Ruth Enlow Library Friendsville Branch

- April 8 1:30pm. Total Solar Eclipse Watch Party. 1 pair of glasses per family
- April 9 9:15 a.m. & 10:15 a.m. Wild Tales: Live Adventures ~ National Library Week.
- April 10 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Maryland's Mobile Food Bank Market "Shop the Truck"
- March 11 – May 31st Smokey Bear Reading Challenge to celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday.

Jess Whittmore – Amendments have been introduced in the Senate for bill SB837, and it has successfully navigated through the Senate. These amendments are viewed as improvements over the original bill and are perceived to pose lesser threats to water dam releases. The creation of this bill stemmed from direct engagement by Deep Creek Lake stakeholders with their Senator and Delegate. There's apprehension that if this bill proceeds through the legislative process, it might set a precedent where "Lake stakeholders" could circumvent fair use protocols, bypassing other stakeholders' input regarding their desired outcomes. In other words, they could potentially gain the authority to control all dam releases via Senate and House legislation, bypassing the current oversight by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), which is considered risky. It's noted that lobbyists purchase by the American Whitewater to advocate for these amendments. There's a strong plea to oppose anything resembling this.

Business:

TVR Ordinance-Peggy Jamison was discussed during "To the Floor" discussion, no further discussion.

Based on legal counsel's guidance, it is advised that the bid submitted by Cornerstone Construction LLC not be accepted. It is recommended to proceed with the subsequent lowest bid, as the current bid surpasses the allocated grant amount. Consequently, none of the bids will be accepted. Mayor Schlosnagle will consult with Sierra Wigfield to explore alternative options and determine if it can be rebid.

Sheryl MacLane shared with the group that the two weeping Yoshino cherry trees have been ordered and the planting of the trees will be on Monday, April 29th 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. with the Friendsville Elementary 5th grade class. The Tree Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. with Katherine Phillips, MD DNR Western Region Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator at the Friendsville town hall.

Seasonal maintenance worker ad was placed in The Republican newspaper, on the website, shared via Facebook and posted in the library, post office and pharmacy. As of today, we have received two applications and one additional inquiry.

Mayor Schlosnagle informed us that Grantsville had their tennis and basketball courts painted but not sealed. It was suggested that our courts need to be sealed, and repairs are required around the poles. Following a discussion, it was agreed to convert one of the courts into a pickleball court and the other into a tennis court. These modifications will need to be incorporated into the FY25

- Sidewalks/Streets – working with County Roads to look at the drains; by the next meeting will know what will need to be done and work with Katherine Phillips regarding the trees that are causing sidewalk damage.
- Bathrooms/Water – Consensus was to turn on the water at the Community Park on April 10 – April 12, 2024. Wanda will notify GC Public Utility.
- Mayor Schlosnagle we are still waiting to see if we receive Program Open Space (POS) funds for the recreational pavilion.
- Mayor Schlosnagle will talk to Dred & Clint regarding the town mower and possibly giving the old one to Central Garrett Baseball league.
- Alleyway one way from Walnut to Maple; Mayor Schlosnagle will work with the County Roads department regarding the signs and will notify the homeowners in writing of the change.

Motion #9: (Council member MacLane/Council member Hook): Approval to make the alley way from Walnut up to Maple one way alley. 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

- Garrett County Public Foundation awarded 13 grants, with Katie Fresh receiving one for Friendsville Elementary School.

Committees Reports:

- Buildings: Nothing
- Safety: Nothing
- Streets & Sidewalks: Nothing
- Community Park: The tennis court nets can go back up in April.
- Trees & Shrub: Sheryl shared report earlier.
- Economic Development: Nothing

Concerns of Council Members: Nothing

Next Meeting: The next town council meeting will be on April 8, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

Motion #10 (Council member MacLane/Council member Artice): Approval to adjourn the meeting. 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wanda M. Guard

Wanda M. Guard,
Administrative Assistant, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved :

Spencer Schlosnagle
Mayor

4/8/2024