

**Mayor and Council
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2022**

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, with Councilman Lanehart and Councilman McCusker. Quorum in place.

Approval of Minutes

The January 11, 2022 meeting minutes, and January 11, 2022 Public Hearing minutes were approved as presented. Motion made by Councilman Lanehart Seconded by Councilman McCusker. All in favor. No opposed

Pledge of Allegiance

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATION:**

- **GREENWILL CONSULTING:**

- **House Bill 543-** Mr. Bill Valentine informed that Mike McKay has introduced House Bill 543 regarding Urban Renewal.
 - **Letter to Senator-** Mr. Valentine informed that Mayor Smith has sent a letter to Senator Guzzone, Budget and Taxation Committee, in support of the proposed budget for FY 2023.
 - **MARC Train-** Mr. Valentine stated there is a push in Annapolis to fund the extension of the MARC Train to Hancock. Mr. Valentine informed that the station would be on the West Virginia side of the river even though Maryland would be funding.
 - **Grants-** Mr. Valentine asked for Mayor and Councils approval to move forward with two grants. The Business Development Grant would allow property owners to improve buildings with a 10% match. The Revitalization Grant would allow funding for equipment and furnishings with a 10% match.
 - **Public Works building-** Mr. Valentine suggested Mayor and Council begin discussions about a new Public Works building.
 - **Incubator Spaces-** Mr. Valentine informed there has been discussion with the property owner of the former visitor's center building regarding utilizing the first floor for Incubator Spaces. Mr. Valentine stated this would be an opportunity for potential business owners to get started.
 - **Truck Stop Water/Sewer Lines and Annexation-** Mr. Valentine stated water and sewer line construction is to begin at the new Truck Stop Plaza. Mr. Valentine suggested the Town get started on the annexation process.
 - **Website-** Mr. Valentine stated that the company producing the new Town website is currently waiting on a survey from the Town to move forward.
 - **Capital Improvement Plan-** Mr. Valentine informed he is currently working on a capital improvement plan.

- **CITIZENS COMMENTS:** Mr. Preston Hall inquired about his water bill. Mr. Hall stated his water bill has increased. Mayor Smith informed of the three percent yearly increase and suggested that Mr. Hall check for leaks. Mr. Hall inquired if there were two separate trucks that pick-up trash and recyclables. Mayor Smith stated that he has recently inquired about the recycling and is working on this issue.

- **DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Police Commissioners/ Police Dept.**

- **Cadets-** Councilman Lanehart informed the Cadets are doing well in the academy.

- **Heat/ AC-** Councilman Lanehart informed the work for the heating and air conditioning will begin this week.
 - **Vehicle-** Councilman Lanehart stated there have been discussion of ghost lettering for one of the vehicles.
- **PLANNING COMMITTEE:**
 - Mr. John Cohill stated the committee has met recently and discussed the Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan.
- **HANCOCK IN MOTION: NO REPORT**
- **PARKS / PARKS AND REC: NO REPORT**
- **ARTS COUNCIL- NO REPORT**
- **HISTORICAL SOCIETY- NO REPORT**
- **Public Works**
 - Councilman Lanehart stated the well pump that was installed around November 2021 lasted only 66 days. The Town is still waiting on a part for the second well.
- **MAIN STREET HANCOCK- NO REPORT**
- **TOWN ATTORNEY/ Mr. Ed Kuczynski:**
 - Motion to pass the Ordinance to declare 317 E. Main Street surplus property, made by Councilman Lanehart. Seconded by Councilman McCusker. Mr. Kuczynski stated the Ordinance would be effective February 28, 2022.
 - Mr. Kuczynski informed there needs to be a Public Hearing regarding the new Redspeed Cameras and he is working on the Resolution to approve the agreement for next meeting.
 - Motion to approve the Resolution to support participation in Main Street Maryland made by Councilman McCusker. Seconded by Councilman Lanehart. All in favor. No opposed.
- **MAYOR and COUNCIL REPORT:**
 - **Water system-** Mayor Smith informed he has a meeting on February 24th with Senator Edwards to discuss the awarded money.
 - **Truck Stop Plaza-** Mayor Smith stated there is work being done with the State of Maryland to provide adequate water lines.
 - **Trash Service-** Mayor Smith stated the Town currently pays an estimated \$8200 monthly to Apple Valley Waste. Those rates will increase beginning this month. Mayor and Council discussed recycling and tipping fees, sanitation charges versus outgoing costs, and the possibility of putting the Towns truck back in service.
 - **Police Vehicle-** Mayor Smith had contacted Sheriff Mullendore regarding another police vehicle. Mr. Mullendore was able to give the Town of Hancock a Ford interceptor.
 - **Budget-** Mayor and Council scheduled a workshop to discuss the budget for February 16, 2022 at 6:00pm
 - **Water Meters-** Mayor Smith informed that new water meters have been ordered but will not be here before April 2022.
- **OLD BUSINESS: NONE**
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Mayor Tim Smith read a resignation letter from Councilwoman Misty Cabbage. Councilwoman Cabbage will be resigning from her seat effective February 24, 2022. Mayor

Smith stated that Mayor and Council have 14 days to appoint a new council member to replace Cabbage.

- Motion to allow Mr. Valentine to proceed with the Revitalization Grant and Business Development Grant made by Councilman McCusker. Seconded by Councilman Lanehart.
- Mayor Smith informed he spoke with a member at the Washington County Board of Education about the Robotics Club. The board member is looking into the kits and the money disbursements.

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Lanehart, Seconded by Councilman McCusker. All in favor. No opposed.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:16pm

Heather Keefer