

Town of Bethel  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
August 1, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

- 1. Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by V. Proctor. Present were V. Proctor; M. Shaver; K. Layfield; P. Kough; K. Phillips; and Bethel Town Clerk, M. Hawkins.
  
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by V. Proctor.
  
- 3. Trey Wallace – Insurance:** The current Premium Summary is attached hereto.
  
- 4. Jim Smith – DP&L:** The Bethel area is one of the areas that DP&L has determined needs improvements this year. From Woodland Ferry Road to Sharptown Road rebuilding will be done. It is still being designed. The crossing over Broad Creek will be underground. Discussion was held regarding possibility of putting lines underground. We may need to contact Del Dot about getting lines put underground (check on this.) It is the Town's decision to pursue LED lighting. Whatever the preference of the Town is what is done. DP&L has to get any change approved by Del Dot. Del Dot will look at traffic patterns to make their decision. We can contact Jim Smith about nuisance lighting or whether or not we want to increase or decrease wattage.
  
- 5. Secretary's Report:** P. Kough presented the July 6, 2023 Town Council Meeting Minutes. P. Kough made a motion to accept the July 6, 2023 minutes as presented. M. Shaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
  
- 6. Town Clerk's Report:** Town Clerk, M. Hawkins, presented the Town Clerk's report. M. Shaver made a motion to approve the Town Clerk's report. K. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

**a. Bills to be Paid:** K. Layfield presented the bills to be paid. M. Shaver made a motion to pay the bills as presented. K. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**b. Treasurer's Report:** K. Layfield presented the July Treasurer's Report. P. Kough made a motion to approve the July Treasurer's Report. M. Shaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. Building Permits:** No permits were issued.

**9. Chipman Property Status:** Mr. Ed Witalec reported that the Witalecs are purchasing the Chipman property. Settlement date is August 18, 2023. The Witalecs contact Mike Calloway's son, Derrik Calloway, CM&C Land Management, to do the demolition.

**10. Complaints:** The McCoy properties date for changes has passed. If the owner does not comply with the demand that has made the Town can go in and do the job and bill the owner. V. Proctor spoke to Mike Smith and there are safety risks to whoever goes in to do the work. There are also legal risks. We don't currently have fines for vegetation. Smith suggested that we send a letter saying we have engaged someone on a certain date. Mary has not responded to the most recent letter. We discussed putting fines in the ordinance. We sent a supplemental letter to Mrs. Bracken. K. Layfield talked to her and she is still trying to get Mrs. Bracken and the gentleman doing the tarping together.

**11. Ordinance Committee:** Proposed change to the speed limit ordinance is for Sec. 4-3 Speed Limits. "Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit on all streets within the Town limits shall be 15 miles per hour." P. Kough made a motion to add fines to the vegetation ordinance.

**12. Community Development & Housing Rehabilitation Program:** I need to call them and see about setting up an information meeting. Martha said they normally have meetings in December.

**13. Message Board:** M. Shaver is going to call them for an update.

**14. TV, computer hookup for Community House:** I'm waiting for the debit card. We got mini checks and I will take one and go back to Best Buy.

**15. Old/New Business:**

V. Proctor got a letter that we are eligible for a grant for local law enforcement and police related expenditures.

I have talked to Wendy who I was told was the new Brandywine SPCA contact, but she isn't. She gave me info for Forgotten Cats. They charge \$50 per cat, plus additional for treatment if they are sick. They would keep a cat that had to be treated at their facility until the treatment was done. They will do a mass trapping at one time. Wendy's group charges \$60 per cat. I believe the trapping with them would be the same way I did it before. Could we use ARPA money and do a mass trapping?

There were about 15 people at our Community Meeting. We got a lot of good ideas. We are thinking about having a pot luck dinner to start with. Is there any way that ARPA money could be used as a small fund to get us started.

We plan to have a voluntary donation bucket to cover future costs. Do we need to get a waiver for people to sign if we do exercise classes? Do we need a form for community groups who might want to use the community house that don't include a council member?

Martha will email Trey about liability. I have to give her information on the types of things we're thinking of doing.

Mike Calloway said there is no update on planning and zoning.

Why is alcohol not allowed?

**16. Adjourn Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:02.