

**AGENDA FOR A PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MEETING FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2017
5:00 PM, SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM,
SECOND FLOOR, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

(Councilmen Fox, Barber, McCrady, and Carpenter)

- I. **CALL TO ORDER – Chairman, Councilwoman Sharon Kuhl**
- II. **ROLL CALL**
- III. **MINUTES – meeting held May 9, 2017**
- IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. **Consideration of an ordinance creating and regulating outdoor dining on public sidewalks in the Central Business District – Development Director, Rickie Yeager.**
 2. **Discussion concerning mowing grass on City rights-of-way – Mayor Tom Joyce.**
- V. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Works Committee of City Council met Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 6:00 PM in the small conference room on the second floor of the Municipal Building at One Government Square, Parkersburg, WV 26101.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Councilwoman Sharon Kuhl, who presided over the meeting. Members attending included Councilmen Jeff Fox, Eric Barber, Dave McCrady, JR Carpenter, and Sharon Kuhl.

Others attending included Mayor Tom Joyce, Rickie Yeager, Everett Shears, Eric Jiles, Captain Elliott, Chief Matthews, John Reed, Zach Stanley, Bob Mercer, and Jeff Fox.

MINUTES – Mr. McCrady moved, seconded by Mr. Barber, to approve the minutes from the meeting held March 29, 2017, and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

FIRE WORKS IN THE CITY LIMITS – City Attorney, Joe Santer, told the committee that the City has an ordinance that prohibits fireworks and it is a problem to enforce. He said they would have to decide which holidays to allow fireworks, and what times to begin and end.

Councilman Carpenter stated that our noise ordinance was discussed last year after the July 4th celebration, and Council decided to let the police department enforce that part of the code. The noise from the fireworks frightens animals needlessly, he said, and the consensus at that time was that we have an ordinance that was not being followed.

Mr. McCrady stated that in past years, we had simple firecrackers, but now they are a lot bigger and louder and they do create problems with animals.

It is often difficult to pinpoint the location of the fireworks, Mayor Joyce stated, but he said he did not believe that the enforcement was being ignored by the police or fire departments. The police department will make every effort to enforce it, but it has to be reasonable.

Mr. Carpenter thought that 11:00 PM was reasonable for the fireworks to stop. He appreciates the fireworks during holidays, but not at 1:00 a.m.

Chairman Kuhl stated that to determine which days would be allowed, and times should be the next step, and offered New Year's day until 1:00 AM; Memorial Day, the 4th of July, (the 2nd, 3rd and 4th), Labor Day, and Veterans Day – ending at 11:00 PM. The police department would not have to respond to calls if we had these dates established.

When Mr. Fox asked if people had to apply to the fire department for their fireworks, Chief Matthews stated that they go through the State Fire Marshall and the Fire Department makes sure the distances are safe. Mr. Fox asked if we have had an increase in safety problems or injuries, and Chief Matthews stated that last year was the first year, and there were no incidents related to them. They did receive some calls about how close some of the fireworks were to structures.

Similar discussion continued for an additional twenty minutes, and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM with no motions offered.

Connie Shaffer, City Clerk

