

**AGENDA FOR A PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MEETING FOR TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2016
6:45 PM, SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM
SECOND FLOOR, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

(Carpenter, Wilcox, Coram, and Lynch)

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Councilman Jim Reed, Chairman
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. MINUTES – meeting held June 28, 2016
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Fireworks (concerning email from City Attorney, Joe Santer on July 13, 2016) stating that noise is not the way to go as there is great difficulty in measuring it, etc. He recommended discussion in the Public Works Committee to gain consensus on how to proceed.
 2. Update on trash cans in the street; placement of large dumpsters for commercial use.
- V. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Works committee of City Council met Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at 6:15 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 Councilman Jim Reed, who presided over the meeting. Members attending included JR Carpenter, Nancy Wilcox, Kim Coram, Sharon Lynch, and Jim Reed. Others attending included Mayor Jimmy Colombo, Rick Lemley, Chief Matthews, Dan Huffman, Joe Santer, Roger Brown, Warren Bigley, John Rockhold, Mike Reynolds, guests Mike Matheny and James Kincaid.

MINUTES – Ms. Lynch moved, seconded by Ms. Wilcox, to amend the minutes from April 19, 2016, on the last page to add “Lynch” after ‘Ms’., voting “no”, and the motion was adopted as amended by unanimous vote.

OUTDOOR FIREPLACES – City Attorney, Joe Santer, prepared an ordinance for first reading of City Council on June 14, 2016 concerning outdoor fireplaces, etc. City Council referred the ordinance to this committee, as Ms. Coram thought it could be simpler, for example in the definitions.

Chief Matthews stated that DEP defines what can be burned, such as no construction materials, pallets, etc., and we are only left with a dried tree limb. When Mr. Carpenter mentioned the free standing wood burners that people are now using, the Chief said he did not think we could regulate how people heat their houses. Mr. Carpenter said that paragraph ‘f’ was still broad about producing smoke or odor, and we have had citizens complain about that. Chief Matthews stated that if we get a complaint, we make them put the fire out, but when you use it for heating their house, we can’t do anything about that, he said.

If there were medical reasons, Mr. Santer said they could go to Circuit Court, and he agreed paragraph B (1)(f) should be removed.

MOTION – Ms. Wilcox moved, seconded by Ms. Coram, to remove paragraph “f” and the motion was adopted by majority vote with all members voting “yes” with the exception of Ms. Lynch, who voted “no”.

Mr. Reynolds said he did not understand Paragraph A (3) that mentions being covered with a screen with openings not greater than 1/8 inch. He said he installs outdoor fire pits and said it should say ‘covered with or without a screen’ or remove ‘covered’.

MOTION – Ms. Coram moved, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, to remove “covered with a screen with openings not greater than 1/8 inch (3.04mm)”.

Chief Matthews said he was concerned about embers.

VOTE – the motion was adopted by majority vote with all members voting “yes” with the exception of Ms. Wilcox, who voted “no”.

Ms. Coram inquired about paragraph C (1), Wood Burning. She said she can use charcoal started in her grill. Chief Matthews said they wanted to eliminate gasoline from being used. Mr. Santer said a fire pit is larger than a grill with a bigger flare-up. Charcoal will absorb, he said. Chief asked why you would use it on firewood. If they are called, the fire is already started, he said.

MOTION – Ms. Coram moved to change paragraph C(1) to say that charcoal fluid can be used, but there was no second to the motion.

Mr. Carpenter stated that in paragraph “G” (1), he thought the dimensions were pretty big and thought we should get rid of the 2’ x 3’ height and width. Chief Matthews said that the WV Forestry Division that in their rules. Mr. Reynolds added that is the size they sell to their customers.

MOTION – Ms. Wilcox moved, seconded by Ms. Coram, to refer the ordinance back to Council as amended, and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION TO CREATE GREEN INITIATIVES ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Mr. Eric Engle and other members of their group appeared during the committee meeting with the proposed resolution. They said the language came from the City’s five-year plan, and they think they can ease the burden and help the City be more efficient on how we operate. He said they wanted to emphasize “advisory”, and if they are asked to look into something, they would bring back a recommendation.

Ms. Jean Ambrose stated that their group has grown and they look to Parkersburg for leadership. She said they have 500 people on their Facebook that are looking for a connection with the City and Wood County to bring ideas from other places and put them into the mix. New things happen and they would like to partner with us, she said.

Mr. Carl Vaughn said they wanted to be a resource to come back to the City.

Mayor Jimmy Colombo stated that their group was assuming that no one in the City administration knows how to pick up a phone and find out these things. We can call any time and get the ratios, he said. The group does not know that we got a grant and replaced the lights in our building. We have a Tree Commission to advise us. The group talks about schools, but the City does not control anything in the schools. He said he did not believe they had a working knowledge of what the City does.

When people buy appliances, they find the best one for their needs, he said. We have an engineer to help us and that is part of what we do here. He said he appreciates what they said, but we want the best and safest we can get with the money we have. Our people have diverse backgrounds, he said.

Chairman Reed said there should be professional consultants with expertise to know where to look for savings, who will know what is in the market. There has to be someone who can give us what we need for a City our size, he said.

Ms. Coram said they have expertise in their group, just the same as our Bike Advisory. They would bring citizens who bring diversity, she said.

Ms. Ambrose said this was just an idea. They are saying that they want to connect with us. They see many municipalities that are in need, she said, and asked how they could help.

Citizen engagement is important, Mr. Engle stated. Mr. Carpenter said this could be a fresh look on a trial basis.

Mr. Santer said this would be advisory and you can listen if you want to, and he saw no disadvantage in trying it. We have done a lot of things to save energy in our building and we put solar panels at the sanitation garage because a business came to us.

The group may want to get with the Tree Commission to see if they have similar goals, Ms. Lynch stated, but Mr. Santer said that the Tree Commission deals with trees and shrubs and this is beyond their scope.

There is no structure or mission statement with their proposal, Mr. Reed stated, and thought professionals are who we should look to. Mr. Engle said they could prepare a mission statement.

MOTION – Ms. Coram moved, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, to refer the resolution back to City Council, and the motion failed with Ms. Wilcox, Ms. Lynch, and Mr. Reed voting “no”; and Mr. Carpenter and Ms. Coram voting “yes”.

BICYCLE LAWS – Councilman Brown shared that one night at 9:30 PM, two kids came off the 13th Street hill and he almost hurt them. Our City Code has sections that can be enforced, about lights and reflective clothing. Also, it is against the law for a bike to be going north on a south street.

Mayor Colombo told the Committee that he and the Police Chief would meet with Mr. Brown to discuss article 373, bicycles.

POINT PARK PARKING METERS, article 353.16 –

MOTION – Ms. Coram moved, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, to send this ordinance to the Finance Committee to discuss \$2,200.00 being moved from the parking fund to the general fund.

Ms. Lynch asked how the amount of \$2,200.00 had been determined. Ms. Coram stated that was the amount for mowing around the parking lot, and when the City does work on the Memorial Bridge, money is transferred from the Bridge to the general fund.

City Attorney, Joe Santer, explained that in 1991 there was a method so we would make sure there was parking available to the Blennerhassett Island, and we accommodated them, and we continue to do so today. The island is seasonal. During the winter months we got monthly parking. No one parked there because it is not close. It was unnecessary to keep changing from monthly parking to metered parking with no benefit and we stopped doing it. He thinks we should repeal that section, and we want it available for tourism.

Ms. Coram said that Matheny Motor fills that lot every day, and Mr. Santer said that anyone could park there.

Mr. Mike Matheny said that they lease the adjoining property, and 75% is open to the public. Across the street they have 12 spaces they lease, then after 5:00 PM people park and go to Point Park. He said he provides more parking and gives more than that back on week-ends and off-season – there is give-and-take there. He could fence his lot but he wants to be friendly.

We are not charging Matheny, but we charge the Blennerhassett Hotel, Ms. Coram stated, and we should be consistent. She does not understand the difference.

The hotel controls their lot, but any citizen could park there first come, first serve, Mr. Santer said. Parking Supervisor, Dan Huffman, stated that Mr. Matheny helps with the maintenance.

MOTION – Ms. Coram moved, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, to rescind section 353.16 and recommend that to Council, and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

TRASH CANS – Ms. Coram said that she has talked with Public Works Director, Rick Lemley, who said we can take trash cans if they are left on the street. Mr. Santer said that would make matters worse. Mr. Lemley said there may be an ordinance about obstructions on the street, and he will research it.

No law is enforced to the letter, Mr. Santer stated, and it is always common sense with the Police Department or Code Department. We don't intimidate, but we can make a fine for people who leave their trash cans in the street.

This seems to be like a yard sale ordinance, Mr. Reynolds stated.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Connie Shaffer, City Clerk

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