

TOWN OF RISING SUN

BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR
Judith M. Cox

COMMISSIONERS
Deborah Craig
James Majewski
August Pierson
Stewart Yust

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Calvin Bonenberger, Jr.

CLERK-TREASURER
Sandra D. Didra

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April 22, 2008

Present: Judy Cox, Skip Yust, Jim Majewski, Debbie Craig, Augie Pierson

Town Administrator: Calvin Bonenberger, Jr.

Guests: See Attached List

The regular scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of Rising Sun was held on April 22, 2008 at the Town Hall with all members in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Mayor Cox followed by the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence. Note: The meeting scheduled for April 8, 2008 was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum.

The minutes of the March 25, 2008 meeting were presented. A motion for approval was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried.

Mayor Cox sworn in PFC. Stephen S. McKinney, the newest member of the Rising Sun Police Department. He has worked in law enforcement since 1983 and was formally of the Cecil County Sheriff's Department.

Mayor Cox read a proclamation declaring May 1-31, 2008 as Rising Sun Tourism Month. She advised of the economic impact that Tourism has on the Town, County and State, lessening the financial burden and not having to supply expensive services. She reminded those in attendance of the upcoming Sunfest that attracts tourist and of Creeger's Grand Opening.

Troop 92 of Colora was in attendance for their community badge. Mayor Cox asked the boys to introduce themselves. Their leader, Mark Broomell, advised that one of their scouts, Bobby Taylor, had just completed his Eagle Project, by building the benches at the Community Pond. Mrs. Craig advised that the benches looked good.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor - Mayor Cox had nothing further to report.

Parks & Recreation - Mrs. Craig showed everyone a picture of the mural that was painted on the culvert in the Wilson Avenue Park. She advised that the Arts Council is coordinating a driving tour of the projects that were created as a result of the "just a day dream away" project. She further advised that she was still waiting to hear from someone at the high school with regard to names for the sports signs.

Mrs. Craig advised that, as reported in the papers, the Town has received a Community Parks & Playgrounds Grant Award in the amount of \$155,600. She advised that the Town would need to match \$17,000 and another \$22,000 of in-kind services. The park will be re-vamped to meet the needs of people of all ages. The name will also be changed to Rising Sun Veterans Memorial Park. She thanked Calvin on his work on the grant.

Streets & Sidewalks - Mr. Yust reported that the Town Administrator and the Public Works Director would be conducting an evaluation of both the streets and sidewalk/curbing in Town over the next month. They would then develop a schedule for the repaving, repair and replacement schedule. By scoring the proposed projects, they will begin efforts to secure the funding needed.

Mr. Yust also advised that now that it is spring, it is time to consider the Queen Street and Wilson Avenue sidewalk projects, previously approved. The Public Works Director will begin securing updated prices.

Public Safety - Mr. Pierson advised that he would like to discuss changing the times for the no parking in order to better facilitate the efforts of the street sweeper. He has requested that Mr. Bonenberger arrange to meet with the street sweeper to see what times he is at the Municipal Parking Lot and on Main Street so that the signs can reflect the actual times rather than a broader time frame.

Mr. Pierson also reported that the Speed Camera Legislation passed the Senate and House. This bill would authorize local law enforcement to use speed cameras.

Chief Michael advised that he had attended training in Ocean City and had completed his yearly certification.

Water & Sewer - Mr. Majewski reported on a water service break on W. Main Street which was repaired by the public works crew. He also addressed the recent issues concerning excessive water pressure in the Maple Heights Development. The concerns were actually in Meadow Side not Maple Heights and the pressure was 90 pounds not the 125 as reported. He went on to explain how the pressure develops.

Mr. Majewski reported on the meetings about options for the new sewer plant construction. The management team is exploring all option possible to present to the Town for consideration in the future. He also reported on the meeting with MDE and applying for a grant under the Water Quality Infrastructure Program.

He advised that the early findings of the Sewer Modeling Study indicate that the existing lines of the North Interceptor may be too small for the volume of sewage passing through them at this time..

Mr. Bonenberger explained the result of the Town Meeting Questionnaire survey.

Finance - Mr. Bonenberger advised that the financial report for the last three quarters had been prepared. They indicate that the Town is in good shape being about 85% of the expected income and 64% of the expected expenses. He advised the Board that he has given them a calendar of possible meeting dates. He has given the department heads instructions to secure prices for expenses that exceed \$2,500. He has set a target date to approve the 2009 budget for June 10, 2008

He reported on the Tax Differential Rate, corrected to be the Constant Yield Rate. The tax rate needs to be decided upon and the necessary advertising and public hearings must be completed between May 20 & May 29.

Town Administrator - Mr. Bonenberger reported on the election banners he was requested to look into purchasing. He showed the Board examples of the banners which would have a pocket so that the actual election date could be changed as needed. He suggested 4 such banners 2 for North and South Queen Streets and 2 for East and West Main Street and other patriotic flags that could be used for Memorial Day and the 4th of July. Real Estate type signs were also suggested for Election Day in front of Town Hall. A motion was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried to purchase the 4 Election Day Banners with the date pockets and the other patriotic banners, both to be double sided and the cost not to exceed \$1,500.

Mr. Bonenberger advised that we have advertised for the solicitation of qualified bids for the collection of trash, recyclables and yard waste for the upcoming fiscal year. The bid packages are set up to help us determine a more accurate cost associated with these types of tasks. The Town will pay the tipping fees so that we have knowledge of how much trash, recyclables and yard waste the Town produces. There is a pre-bid meeting scheduled for Monday, May 7 at 10 am and the bids are due by May 12 at 3 pm. Bid opening will take place at 3:05 PM

Planning & Zoning - Mr. Bonenberger advised that the next P & Z meeting would be held on April 28, 2008. He advised that the P & Z Board had voted to recommend approval to the Board of Appeals for the 2 cases heard at their last meeting. Both were requests for Special Exceptions to allow a residential unit in a Central Commercial zone. One was for 9 Pearl Street and the other for 128 S Queen Street.

Board of Appeals - Mr. Bonenberger reported that the Board of Appeals had met on April 17, 2008 and approved the aforementioned applications for 9 Pearl Street and 128 S. Queen Street.

He also advised that the terms of office for the Board of Appeals had expired and he requested a motion to advertise for someone interested in serving on this Board.

A motion was made by Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mr. Pierson and carried to advertise for the vacant positions on the Appeals Board with a deadline of 2 weeks for interested parties to respond. In addition, a letter will be sent to each of the current members, whose terms have expired, requesting that they formally advise us if they would like to continue to serve on the Board.

Another motion was made by Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mr. Pierson and carried to advertise for the 3 vacant positions on the Planning & Zoning Commission the same as above.

Community Development - none

Code Enforcement - Mr. Bonenberger reported on a written request for a waiver of Permit Fees from Dr. Seiter associated with the inspections of his home as a result of a recent fire requiring him to rebuild his home. He suggested that the request be tabled until more time has been given to consider the facts. He advised that the contractor has not applied for permits to date and he will hold off on any charges until a decision is made. Mr. Pierson questioned if a structural engineer had look at the building

Mr. Bonenberger reported that Martin's is ahead of schedule and that there will be a lot of dump trucks coming in next week to pour the floor of the building.

Mr. Pierson, PFC Dominick, Chief Michael and Mayor Cox presented certificates to those person who donated money, goods and services to help establish and maintain the Rising Sun Police Department K-9 Program. \$12,000 was raised for the program. The recipients were:

John Dominick	Walmart – Elkton	JR Animal Supply
Edward & Mary Lowe	Sun Pharmacy	MD Transportation Authority
Rising Sun Lions' Club	Ragan Motors	Shadow Bail Enforcement
R Brooks Mechanical	Banks Auto Recyclers	American Legion Post 194
National Penn Bank		

Mr. Bonenberger reported on a recent Executive Session that was held to discuss pending litigation, contracts and personnel issues

Historical Preservation Commission – Diane advised that they had not been very busy. They are still getting good comments about the displays at the Perryville Outlets. Private tours are available. Two groups have been here from Cecil College because of the great write up in the Whig. Tom has 2 home school classes coming on Thursday. They will have a booth at Sunfest and the Epics will do 2 performances. There is no dance this spring, but will be one in the fall. The museum will be open during Sunfest. They still do not have a place to erect the old barn. Bill Meehan has most of it torn down. It is the barn that was originally behind NBRS Financial. She thanked Chris Callahan for help with the heavy stuff.

Old Business – The secretary reported that the repairs to the 3 phase converter were done at a cost of \$1,000 rather than the reported \$1,500. A thank you letter was sent to Chris McGonigle

New Business – None

CITIZEN'S INPUT:

Jane Bellmyer asked the Board to do more to embrace the Rising Sun High School. Even though the school now has a North East address, it is still the Rising Sun High School and needs our support..

With no other business coming before the Board a motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra D. Didra,
Secretary