2024 May Minutes

Commissioners of Barnesville

May 21, 2024

7:30pm

Call to Order (7:35pm), 11 attendees, 3 Commissioners, Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance

Past Minutes for February and April approved with minor revisions

Reports:

Financial Report–The funds from the ARPA program were utilized and the final report of expenditures were submitted to the US Dept of Treasury. Funds were utilized for Public Safety–patrols, sidewalks– and Beautification–park plantings and maintenance.

The expense for Traffic Enforcement has increased and is now $2850 per month with the new vendor, previously the expense was $1080 per month. The Montgomery County Police Dept provided a report showing a comparison of the citations issued on the town’s two existing cameras. This information, along with the gray box, will help the patrol officers determine when and where to stage patrols. The information from the MCPD will also be useful in comparing past citation fines within Barnesville.

Beautification and Sustainable Barnesville

Brightview Landscaping came out to Lillard’s Corner Park for a day of service and weeded and mulched the flower beds. Robin Synder with Rustic Roads Coffee provided coffee for the work crew. Thank you to Robin for providing this on short notice.

Lauren with Daybreak Farm had relocated several plants and replaced a redbud tree in the flower beds and replanted trees in the wildflower bed, in addition to removing invasive weeds.

Board of Appeals

No new business

Capital Improvements

Park Maintenance–Daybreak Farm completed some Spring Clean up at the park beds. They’ll prepare a proposal for annual maintenance of the planting beds. For watering at the park, the Tolberts had previously approved the use of their garden hose, and this needs to be checked for this year as well. Once the plants are established, they will not need watered regularly. The park committee decided not to use the town well as a well pump source because this may have put the historic structure at risk for damage. A simple pump in the well, with its limited water supply and historic stonework, would not be a long term solution. The costs of installing a new well and deciding where to locate it were may not be feasible either. A sustainable approach was proposed for using rain barrels, however there is no structure with a roof with which to collect the rainwater. Commissioner Shaina will research options.

The maple tree in the center of the park broke and fell. The interior of the tree had rotted. Lee’s Trees were able to clean up the tree immediately and will send a crew to remove the stump as well. Lauren at Daybreak will be contacted about planting a replacement tree.

Traffic calming (Jim Brown) April had 10 patrol shifts with patrols on weekdays and weekends throughout the day. The officer focused on speeding 80% of the time. There were 103 violations. Beyond the traffic violations, 1 vehicle was towed because the driver had an expired license and 1 vehicle was towed due to safety violation and 1 vehicle was towed due to the driver having an outstanding warrant.

The citation history of the two cameras was discussed and will be studied to determine the town’s portion of the ticket revenue. The ticket revenue goes towards Public Safety expenditures in Barnesville. After one year of operation, similar data should be available for the newest camera on Beallsville Rd.

Traffic Safety-Feedback Signs (M. Zuckerman). We are waiting for permission to install the feedback speed limit signs. There was a clerical error on the permit and it was updated. The data collection and feedback signs will not be used for citations. This is for information only. The information may be used in determining the time and placement of patrols.

Planning and Zoning

The unauthorized auto repair shop moved to Absolute Auto in Dickerson. There have been no recent concerns with the operations on Beallsville Rd. No other issues were mentioned.

Community Connections

Twilight in the Park is back this season. The first Event will be June 7th at 6:30pm. The information is posted at the post office and on the town website.

Town Hall

The hall has been used for the meditation event held monthly. There has not been much airflow with the change of outdoor temperature and the HVAC system not in use. The air fresheners in place to mask the stale building smell and occasional dead rodents may not be needed as the building is being used regularly.

New Business

The Sugarloaf Citizens Association will have their 50th Anniversary Event on June 1. The Town of Barnesville is one of the sponsors of the event.

Reminder the Bulk Trash Pick-up Day will be the First Wednesday Trash Day in June (June 5th)

Budget meeting for Fiscal Year 2025 needs to be held prior to the next town meeting. Once a date is set, it will be announced.

Resolution for the town to invest funds in the Maryland Local Government Investment Program (MLGIP) was formally passed. The program was discussed at town meetings last year and the formal resolution was needed to become a participant.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm