

**BEAUTIFICATION/CEMETERY/STREET LIGHTS
COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2021**

PRESENT: Vice Mayor Jones, Committee Members Tinley and Williams, City Manager Valerie Kirkland, Asst. City Manager Trinetta Skinner, City Clerk Jermaine Evans, Water Superintendent & Public Works Superintendent J.C. Ellison, Mike Bickley-Independent Contractor, Downtown Development Director Don Lively, Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Rex Gerlinger, Community Betterment Council Rep. Ms. Carol Jones, Mr. Bill Tinsley (Stump Knockers)

ABSENT: Committee Member Byne

1. The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Williams at 10:00 a.m.
2. The invocation was completed by Committee Chair Williams
3. Vice Mayor Jones led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Chairman Williams announced the first item of business for discussion being the clean-up efforts undertaken by the Community Betterment Council. Ms. Carol Jones presented a handout providing financials, projects, fundraising efforts and topographical maps illustrating property owned and near the boundaries of the Lake. Mr. Mike Bickley helped present the information detailing the work completed this year thus far and proactive steps that could be taken to improve the Lake's aesthetics and ability to remain in compliance with The Army Corp. of Engineers standards for wet lands. The presentation was completed with a request for additional funding from the City to support maintenance improvement efforts. Chairman Williams questioned City Manager Kirkland about available funding. City Manager Kirkland responded stating that funding was not currently available but she requested that Ms. Jones and Mr. Bickley provide her with the work estimates for the projects they discussed and she can consider it while completing the budget for next year. Ms. Jones and Mr. Bickley agreed to do so. Committee member Tinley and Supt. Ellison discussed other potential funding opportunities.
5. Chairman Williams requested representatives from the DDA discuss their agenda item. DDA V.P. Rex Gerlinger announced that in consideration of enduring a difficult year for the city's elected officials in a show of appreciation, the DDA will provide a laser light show on Dec. 3rd, 2021 during the "Christmas on Liberty" annual event. The cost is approx. \$5,500 and will be funded by the DDA.
6. Chairman Williams requested that Mr. Bill Tinsley the representative from the company Stump Knockers discussed tree removal efforts on the property near the Burke Medical Center. Mr. Tinsley provided insight on the removal, replanting and trimming tree limbs of the dead and diseased trees and the healthy trees that will remain on the property. City Manager Kirkland confirmed that Mr. Tinsley was seeking to gain permission from the Tree Board to move forward

with the removal of the dead and diseased trees where necessary and to trim those in need of maintenance. Mr. Tinsley agreed that is the purpose of his attendance at this meeting.

7. After informing the committee about a complaint made by a citizen concerning a dead tree on her property then consulting with City Manager Kirkland, Asst. City Manager Skinner became aware that as regulated by ordinance, a Tree Board exists and should be consulted in such matters. Asst. City Manager Skinner provided information to the committee from the Arbor Day Foundation designating Waynesboro as participating in the "Tree City USA" program. One of the four requirements of the program is the creation and maintaining of a Tree Board which is a collective of individuals whom will take responsibility for the care of trees in the municipality. As recommended by committee, Tree Board members will be Committee Chair Williams, Committee member Tinley, Vice Mayor Jones, DDA President Lively and one other individual to be determined.
8. With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.