

**CITY OF WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2009**

QUORUM:

A meeting of The Mayor and Common Council was held in the John Street Quarters of the Westminster Fire Engine and Hose Company, 28 John Street, on the evening of December 14, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Utz; Council President Halstad; Council Members Albert, Pecoraro, Chiavacci, and Wack; City Administrator and Acting City Clerk Wolf, Acting City Treasure Ehlers; Deputy Chief of Police Stevens, Director of Planning, Zoning, and Development Review Beyard, Director of Recreation and Parks Schroers; and City Attorney Walsh were present. Director of Public Works Glass and Chief of Police Spaulding were excused from attending.

President Halstad recognized City Attorney Walsh, who will be retiring at the end of the year after thirty years of service to the City. Mayor Utz presented Mr. Walsh with a plaque as a thank you for his dedication to the City.

Lynn Wheeler, Director of the Carroll County Public Library, recognized the Library representatives that were in attendance. She discussed the Library projects that were completed in the past few years such as the new roof and shelving, as well as the complete interior renovation. Branch Manager Christina Koontz highlighted on some of the plans for the exterior. Finally, Ms. Wheeler introduced "Wild Imaginings," a sculpture by Bart Walter. The library is looking for \$100,000 in public funding to purchase a full size sculpture for their park.

Mayor Utz recognized the Fallfest Board of Directors for their time and effort in planning the event. He announced that the 2009 Fallfest raised \$34,773.56, and then presented a check in the amount of \$8,693.39 to each of the FallFest charities.

Mr. Schroers presented the Key Club from Winters Mill and Westminster High School with a \$1,000 check for their services during Fallfest that.

Mayor Utz thanked Glenn Bair, Blythe Sewer and Septic, Lt. Ott, Larry Bloom, Wayne Reifsnider, the City of Westminster Recreation and Parks employees, and all of the media sources for their efforts in planning and promoting the First Annual Holiday Electric Parade. He then announced the parade winners and presented their awards:

- *Jingle Bell Award* for a traditional float without lights was presented to Thurmont Heritage Days.
- *Snowflake Elves Award* for best walking group was presented to High Voltage Drum and Baton Corps.
- *Kris Kringle Critter Award* for best animal entry was awarded to the Feather Fund Chincoteague Ponies.

- *Sparkly Sleigh Award* for best vehicle group was presented to the Westminster Ravens Roost.
- *Miracle on Main Street Champion* for the highest vote getter went to Esquire and the Lady Salon.
- *Glisten Award Best* for best electric float overall was awarded to Women's Initiative Supporting Health.
- *Cool Yule Award*, the judges' choice, went to Undersea Outfitters.
- *Silver Bell Award* for community spirit was awarded to Westminster Fallfest.
- *Spirit of the Season Award* for holiday spirit was awarded to the Carroll County School of Performing Arts.
- *Peppermint Stick Award* for best children's group went to Special Olympics of Maryland.

Mayor Utz presented a Mayor's Recognition to Lyndi McNulty, Lori Welsh-Graham, and Eileen Gist for all their hard work and commitment to making the parade happen.

Terry Smack of Terry's Tag and Title presented the Mayor and the City of Westminster with a \$1,000 donation to help with the necessary ADA improvements to the City parks.

MINUTES:

Upon Motion of Mrs. Albert, seconded by Mr. Chiavacci and unanimously passed, the minutes of the meeting of November 23, 2009 were approved.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Dr. Wack moved to approve the Consent Calendar, which consisted of the approval for Departmental Operating Reports. Mr. Chiavacci seconded the Motion and it passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

Mrs. Albert reported that Sandra Oxx, Executive Director of Carroll Arts Council, sent a letter on behalf of the Board of Directors expressing thanks for the continuous generous support from the Mayor and Council of their mission to provide outstanding cultural opportunities to the citizens of Westminster.

Mr. Chiavacci reported that he received a phone call from Geary Milliken, President/CEO at Carroll Lutheran Village. Mr. Milliken wanted to extend his thanks to the Westminster City Police Department for going above and beyond the call of duty recently during a stolen vehicle incident in the City. Mr. Chiavacci recognized Karen Bullock and Captain D'Antuono for their help in the matter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None as of December 11, 2009

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Beyard summarized the deed from Lowe's Home Centers, Inc. for Center Street, now Market Street. He reported that all work has been completed and inspected by City inspection staff. He recommended that the Mayor and Council accept the deed that would establish the one-year maintenance period from December 14, 2009 to December 14, 2010. Upon Motion of Mr. Chiavacci, seconded by Mr. Pecoraro and unanimously approved, the deed was accepted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

City Attorney Walsh expressed his thanks to the Mayor and Council for his time with the City of Westminster.

Mr. Beyard wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Mr. Schroers recognized and thanked the Westminster Lions Club for the roof they replaced on the pavilion at King Park and for all their help with the Santa's Treat event. He also wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Mr. Ehlers reported on that the fieldwork on the annual audit should be completed this week.

Major Stevens reported that the Police department recently promoted one Corporal to the rank of Sergeant and three Officers to the rank of Corporal. He invited the Council members to the promotional ceremony. He also reported on the patrol increase for the holiday season. Each City officer will be teamed up with an officer from the Sheriff's department to patrol the Route 140 corridor and shopping centers. Finally, he announced that the Police department was awarded \$597,440 in grant funding to install computers into all patrol cars so that they will have total mobile report writing from the vehicle.

President and C.E.O. of the Westminster Fire Engine and Hose Company No. 1 Bill Brehm reported that the EMS and Fire calls are up with 40% of the calls coming from within the City. He also reported that the Fire department is currently on their Santa-detail, escorting him to various neighborhoods. Finally, Mr. Brehm introduced Bob Cumberland as the upcoming President for 2010.

Ms. Wolf thanked the Community Media Center for their work on filming the parade, Santa's Treat, and the tree lighting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

President Halstad recognized former Council President Roy Chiavacci was in attendance.

Lori Graham, of 118 Pennsylvania Avenue, thanked the Westminster Police Department for allowing her to be involved the recent Shop with a Cop event.

ADJOURN:

Council President Halstad adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth L. Fahey