

Shepherdstown Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 10, 2019
Town Hall
104 North King Street
6:30 p.m.

Present: Jim Auxer (Mayor), Lori Robertson (Recorder), David Rosen, Cheryl Roberts, Deb Tucker, and Mark Everhart.

Absent: Dave Springer

Staff: Town Clerk Amy Boyd, Andy Beall Zoning Officer, and Public Works Director Frank Welch.

Visitors: Tabitha Johnston (Chronicle), Delegate John Doyle, Peter Smith, Jenny Haynes, Marianne Davis, Jan Hafer, Steve Pearson, Logan Wilhide, Bob Keller, Susan Menson, Giuliana Brogna, and Eric Lewis.

Agenda Items 1 and 2-Call to order/approval of Town Council Minutes (vote required):

Call to order by Mayor Auxer at 6:32 pm.

M. Everhart - If there are no objections, move to approve the Town Council Minutes of August 13, 2019. None noted.

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment Period:

a. Persons who have registered to address Town Council.

J. Hafer – September 14 there will be a candlelight vigil at the wall for the Days of Hope and Action for our community, hosted by the Shepherdstown Community Club and Trinity Episcopal Church. September 26 there will be free narcan training from 7-8 p.m. at the Shepherdstown Community Club.

Delegate Doyle – spoke to the construction on Rt. 45. Rocs and a medical center will be going in near the current Sheetz. He has expressed his concerns regarding potential traffic issues to the

Department of Highways (DOH). DOH engineers will let him and the corporation updated, and Roc's will help pay for it. Mayor mentioned that he has also been speaking with DOH.

Agenda Item 4 - Visitors:

Visitor's comments, if any, are logged in under the specific agenda items.

- a. Visitor's Center Report
 - M. Davis –
 - Boo Fest – needs volunteers
 - National Guard is coming in November
 - 30+ Rolls Royce's are coming to town
 - Lion's Club and the Shepherdstown Police Department are hosting a Shepherdstown Night Out September 21 in front of town hall. The Shepherdstown Fire Department and EMT's will also be present for the public to meet.

- b. Giuliana A. Brogna, Rural Agriculture Defenders
 - This group represents pro-smart and not anti-growth. Located at the Clarion Hotel September 28th in Harper's Ferry. There will be water education, water sampling and community action. The council is invited.

Agenda Item 5 – Public Hearings:

- a. First Reading of An Ordinance Amending Section 9-902 of Chapter 9 of the Code of Shepherdstown Section XIV Project Permit Fee Schedule.
 - Andy Beall – we are not charging two application fees – the process has changed over the last year. This amendment reflects some fees that go up and some going down.
 - Signs were \$35, now \$50.
 - Gutters were \$35, now \$50.
 - Category 3 is now only new construction.
 - He looked at other municipality fees and the corporation was overall lower. Trying to bring our fees up to par per the rest of the area.
 - Mayor – we have not raised fees in a very long time. Legal fees have increased the need for increased fees. Maintaining a home is not charged a fee.

D. Rosen – this feels severe. This will deter people from buying a house and investing in it to fix it up. Certain fee increases are too high. The increased percentage is astronomical in some cases. To be clear-he has no issue in raising fees but not like this-it's too fast and to extreme. Going from .1 to 2% is a 1900% increase.

S. Pearson – is shocked at the increase of \$1 per \$1,000 – that's 1900% increase and equates to a \$20,000 fee increase. We want people to invest here.

D. Rosen – move to send Ordinance Amending Section 9-902 of Chapter 9 of the Code of Shepherdstown Section XIV Project Permit Fee Schedule back to the Planning Commission to reassess and see what other cities are charging (there #'s per \$1,000). Seconded by D. Tucker. No objections noted.

Agenda Item 6 – Unfinished Business:

None

Agenda Item 7 – New Business:

- a. Marc Train support –
Delegate Doyle – he attended a recent public hearing regarding the Marc train's possible reduction in service to WV. Three hundred people attended with 71 speaking. Some in Charleston have expressed there might be more persuasion if the local municipalities are willing to give some money. He is here today to ask for money for the Marc train. If a special meeting were mandated, he would come back. The timeline is officially October 7. A short-term solution is needed to keep the trains running.
M. Everhart – also spoke to the Jefferson County Commission. Long term funding is needed and local money won't matter. He is against the corporation giving money. The JCC should take over the care and maintenance of Duffield's station.
Mayor – the corporation has already donated upwards of \$28,000 for the bridge lights.

D. Rosen – has ridden the train a lot. Feels the money is better spent to pay River Riders to run a bus to Brunswick. Is the train sustainable? More and more workers are teleworking with less people riding. It is expensive to run. Should survey residents in the area, who and how often.

D. Tucker – the train is also used for leisure.

M. Everhart – move to have the Mayor author letters to Governor Jim Justice requesting funding for the Marc train, and to the MDOT (Maryland Department of Transportation) requesting support for the Marc train. No objections noted.

b. Event Requests:

1. Christmas in Shepherdstown – November 29-December 24, 2019

J. Haynes – no changes –

M. Everhart – move to approve Christmas in Shepherdstown – November 29-December 24, 2019. No objections noted.

2. Christmas Parade – December 7, 2019

P. Smith – the parade starts at 10 a.m.

C. Roberts – move to approve the Christmas Parade – December 7, 2019. No objections noted.

Agenda Item 8 – Mayor’s Report:

Mayor –

- Ethics training – slated for the last Thursday and Friday of September at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. It should last 1 hr. 15 minutes.
- D. Rosen sent out a walkability plan that highlights signs that say 10 minute walk to the monument and 5 minute bike ride to Foodlion. The mayor asked him to bring it to the Planning Commission.
- This Friday Habitat for Humanity will meet at town hall’s council room from 11:30-1 p.m.
- Elmwood Cemetery caretaker’s house will have an Open House at 9 a.m. It needs \$250,000 in contributions for repairs.

- Day of Caring – was the cleaning off of the bridge by Rotary. The mayor mentioned that town hall needs to know when Rotary is here working on projects.

Agenda Item 9 – Reports of Committees:

A. Finance Committee:

1. No meeting August 30, 2019
2. Finance Reporting
 2. Recommendations
 - a. Litter Control Grant funding match (\$1,500)

Mayor – there is a correction to the match – it should be \$1,005 and not \$1,500. This money will be used within the corporation as well as the urban growth boundary.

Cheryl Roberts – move to approve the Litter Control Grant funding match of \$1,005. No objections noted.

- b. Library repairs (\$23,000)

B. Keller – the roof flashing is failing and water is softening the bricks. To maintain the integrity of the building, the bricks need to be done 1st and then the roof. The flowerbeds location on either side of the front door are also an issue as they are always wet and up against the building.

M. Everhart – move to approve the \$23,000 for the brick repairs. No objections noted.

B. Parking Committee

1. No meeting in August 27, 2019.
2. Recommendations: None

C. Police Committee

1. No meeting August 2019
2. Police Department Monthly Report – August 2019
3. Recommendations: None

D. Parks and Recreation Committee:

1. Meeting minutes of August 2019 – not available

2. Recommendations:
 - A. None

E. Public Works Committee:

1. Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2019
2. Recommendations:
 - None

F. Path Advisory Committee

Did not meet in August

Agenda item 10 – Report of Commissions, Authority and Boards:

A. Historic Landmarks Commission:

1. Meeting minutes of August 2019 –
2. Recommendations: None

B. Planning Commission:

1. Meeting minutes of August 2019
2. Recommendations:
 - None

C. Tree Commission

1. Meeting minutes of August 2019 –
2. Recommendations: None

D. Water and Sanitary Board:

- 1 –Meeting minutes of August 2019 – not available
- 2 – Recommendations: None

L. Robertson - if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 7:53 p.m. No objections made.

Draft Minutes respectfully submitted by L. Robertson, Recorder for the Corporation of Shepherdstown.

