

Shepherdstown Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 10, 2020
Town Hall
104 North King Street
6:30 p.m.
DRAFT

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

Absent: None

Staff: Chief of Police Mike King, Public Works Director Frank Welch, Town Clerk Amy Boyd, Officer Billy Carper, and Accounting Clerk Deb Nickerson.

Visitors: Tabitha Johnston (Chronicle), Marianne Davis, Megan Webber, Natalie Grantham Friend, Trisha Jackson, Holly Frye, Linda Spatig, Marty Amerikana, Becky Bochler, Jen and Steve Wabnitz, Jim Gatz, Lee O’Neill, Dr. Reedy, Corinne Airgood, and Christy Kessler.

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

Call to order by Mayor Auxer at 6:31 pm.

M. Everhart - If there are no objections, move to approve the Town Council Minutes of February 11, 2020. None noted.

Mayor Auxer introduced those present running for town council in the June election: Corinne Airgood, Marty Amerikana, David Rosen, Deb Tucker, Cheryl Roberts, and Lori Robertson for Recorder.

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment Period:

- a. Persons who have registered to address Town Council.

Dr. Reedy – Jefferson County Health Department – spoke to the Covid-19 virus. The virus that started in December is very likely

here. The virus affects mammals, and the common cold is a minor form of coronavirus. SARS was highly infectious, and the Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome could be contained.

C-19 – many infected people have no symptoms but it is still contagious. The mortality rate is unknown. One estimate is 2%. Test kits will become more available in the coming weeks. Don't panic, there is still a lot we don't know. The standard flu is also going around now and many may think they have C-19. Do not touch your face, shake hands, and maintain a distance of 6 feet. If it hits here schools may have to shut down or we may have to self-quarantine. CDC.Gov has lots of good information. Use caution and help out your neighbors.

Mayor – thank you for coming on short notice. He wanted to provide the public and the council with as much information as possible

M. Davis – what about labs in WV and the unemployed getting tested?

Dr. Reedy – as of today, every state lab can do it. Test kits are still not 100% available. Hopefully by next week they will be more available and be available to all at no cost.

L. Spatig – what about events?

Dr. Reedy – event organizers will have to make that call. Airplanes are still ok.

If positive, stay home or you may be hospitalized. Call your doctor- don't go to the doctor's office. Stay hydrated and wear a facemask to not infect anyone else.

J. Gatz – we need to think about how to support those who are ill.

Also, call, text or email your neighbors.

Mayor – the town is pretty innovative and we will come together to figure this out – we are good at that. Information will be on the town website. We will work with the Shepherdstown Fire Department and the 1st Responders. Be confident in our ability to handle this.

Dr. Reedy – people look to Shepherdstown to lead.

Agenda Item 4 - Visitors:

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

a. Visitor's Center Report

M. Davis – the VC is getting busier. Check our website for events.

* Dog Fest – may get postponed due to the virus.

* Tickets are available for the Back Alley Tea and Tour.

* The VC is hopeful to be moving back to German St.

* Shepherdstown Shares is a newly formed group that helps those out of work like restaurant workers, military, etc.

D. Rosen – has family in Italy. No one is shopping there. How do we help our small businesses here? Do we speak to the landlords regarding suspending rent? Can we reduce the water bills? We need to come up with a plan.

Mayor – we have an SBA and they can help.

D. Tucker – the SBA is not representative of all of the businesses. Are there short-term loans available?

Mayor – SU may go online for their spring semester-not definite yet.

- b. J. Gatz – Jefferson County Development Authority –
Mr. Gatz – the JCDA is recruiting for a new executive director and hopes to have one by mid-summer.
Strategic Planning – the goal is to rebuild the JCDA with positive economic development. There will be surveys and public forums.
Sustainable Development – Trying to make the JCDA self-sufficient and to rely less on the county government.

J. Gatz chairs the Governmental Affairs Committee. They support power purchase agreements to support solar power – it would sell power back to the power companies.

Tourism Development Districts – the JCDA voted on this and could be very positive for the county. Regulations are due the 1st of July – they address the power grab from state governments.

D. Rosen – need to look at development zones – parts of the county are very different from one another. It could allow each zone to do what they need and what's best for that zone.

Mayor – we are concerned about the outskirts of the corporation. We could sponsor a forum for it.

J. Gatz – noted that his term ends in April and would like to continue. The town may need to once again nominate three candidates.

- c. L. Spatig – Age-Friendly Shepherdstown – presented the results of the community assessment that was an online survey from mid-Dec to February. There were 5 listening sessions where 5 areas of concern were identified by participants across the groups:
- 356 participated

- 1 - lack of public transportation
- 2 – need for better sidewalks, alleys, bike and pedestrian paths
- 3 – need for better communication about town events
- 4 – need for more mixed-income housing
- 5 – need for more public green space

Results:

- 88% rated the town as excellent to live in
- 93% said it was very important to live independently at home
- 87% stay socially connected
- 70% rarely feel lonely
- Sidewalks were rated fair or poor
- Bike paths rated fair or poor
- Public transportation rated fair to poor
- Public information was rated fair to poor

d. J. Wabnitz – Shepherdstown Community Club Secretary –

- The SCC protects the Elm trees at Morgan’s Grove Park
- They focus on the War Memorial building – there are new A/C units, walls have been painted, and the floors have been sanded.
- D. Rosen procured a contract with Chuck Lynch to mow Morgan’s Grove Park
- They have received a grant
- The Back Alley Garden Tea and Tour is coming up
- There is an Eagle Scout Project at Morgan’s Grove Park where the town helped out by providing a dump truck for trash/debris removal.

D. Rosen – the SCC is a member based organization who helps to sustain the War Memorial building and Morgan’s Grove Park. An individual can become a member of \$35. To help raise money there is a St. Patrick’s Day dinner on 3/17. There is also a work at the park day 3/22 if anyone can help.

Agenda Item 5 – Public Hearings:

- a. None

Agenda Item 6 – Unfinished Business:

None

Agenda Item 7 – New Business:

- a. Event Requests –
- Relay for Life – April 3, 2020
D. Tucker – move to approve Relay for Life – April 3, 2020. No objections noted.

 - Farmers Market – March 29 – December 20, 2020
N. Friend and M. Webber – new vendor will sell maple syrup and some new veggie vendors, a Dog Treat vendor as well. They have a new logo to be unveiled soon.
M. Everhart - – move to approve the Shepherdstown Farmers Market – March 29-Dec. 20, 2020. No objections noted.

 - Stronger With Each Step – September 5, 2020
L. O’Neill – the goal is to raise money. A 5K – will have port-a-potties available. The band will face the monument at Rumsey Park.
C. Roberts – move to approve Stronger With Each Step September 5, 2020 and to waive the \$500 fee. No objections noted.

 - Back Alley Garden Tea and Tour – May 16-17, 2020
C. Kessler – would like to place banners on the street poles – will reach out to Amy Boyd, Clerk
L. Robertson – move to approve the Back Alley Garden Tea and Tour – May 16-17, 2020. No objections noted.

Agenda Item 8 – Mayor’s Report:

- Chief King – the VFW sponsored a Certificate of Appreciation for a local police officer. He nominated Officer Billy Carper, who was

selected. The Mayor stated that Officer Carper cares about our community and thanked him for his service.

- Please be supportive of those dealing with the virus.
- He is meeting with the SU and the Health Department regarding the virus
- The trees on German St. will be trimmed March 13-20.

Agenda Item 9 – Reports of Committees:

A. Finance Committee:

1. Meeting minutes of March 5, 2020
2. Finance Reporting
3. Recommendations
 - a. 2020-2021 Budget Levy Estimate

M. Everhart – move to approve the recommended 2020-2021 Budget Levy Budget. No objections noted.

B. Parking Committee

1. No meeting February 2020.
2. Recommendations: None

C. Police Committee

1. No meeting February 2020.
2. Police Department Monthly Report – February 2020
3. Recommendations: None

D. Parks and Recreation Committee:

1. No meeting February 2020
2. Recommendations:
 - A. Apply for an AARP Community Challenge Grant
 - L. Spatig – spoke to an informational board to be placed in a central location in town. The design and location will be determined if the grant is procured.

D. Rosen – move to approve the application of the AARP Community Challenge Grant. No objections noted.

E. Public Works Committee:

1. Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2020.
2. Recommendations:
None

F. Path Advisory Committee

Did not meet in February

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

A. Historic Landmarks Commission:

1. Meeting minutes of February 2020 – not available
2. Recommendations: None

B. Planning Commission:

1. Meeting minutes of February 2020 – not available
2. Recommendations: None

C. Tree Commission

1. No meeting February 2020
2. Recommendations: None

D. Water and Sanitary Board:

- 1 –Meeting minutes of February 27, 2020
- 2 – Recommendations:
 - a. None

M. Everhart moved to adjourn. Mayor - if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 8:03 p.m. No objections made.

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

