

Shepherdstown Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 8, 2020
Shepherdstown Community Club
102 East German Street (second floor)
6:30 p.m.
DRAFT

Present: Jim Auxer (Mayor), Lori Robertson (Recorder), Chris Stroeck, Marty Amerikaner, Jenny Haynes, Cheryl Roberts, and Jim Ford

Absent: None

Staff: Chief of Police Mike King, and Town Clerk Amy Boyd,

Visitors: Tabitha Johnston (Chronicle), Dawn Auxer, Deb Tucker, and Mary Bell.

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. He thanked everyone for coming.
C. Roberts - If there are no objections, move to approve the Town Council Minutes of August 11, 2020. None noted.

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment Period:

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

Agenda Item 4 - Visitors:

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

- a. Visitor's Center Report
 - None given

Agenda Item 5 – Public Hearings:

- a. None

Agenda Item 6 – Unfinished Business:

- a. None

Agenda Item 7 – New Business:

- a. Boofest – the Mayor addressed Boofest and Halloween together. Boofest has been cancelled. We have been careful in terms of our population wearing masks and distancing. The Visitor’s Center is looking for guidance for these events. No other towns in Jefferson County have taken any action regarding Halloween trick-or-treating.
- b. Halloween – J. Ford stated no to endorsing Halloween as did C. Stroeck.
C. Stroeck – we shouldn’t sponsor any Halloween events.
Mayor – can’t see endorsing Halloween and discourages it as well – but it’s up to individual households if they choose to have their lights on.
L. Robertson – has concerns if the street is not closed and businesses still hand out candy, especially as the date falls on a Saturday. People will come in droves and it will be a hazard.

C. Stroeck – the Town Council does not endorse any Halloween events and Boofest and discourages any Halloween activities, including town-wide trick-or-treating based upon Covid-19 safety concerns. No objections noted.

- c. Christmas in Shepherdstown – J. Haynes – what do we do without having people gather? Shepherd University has said that McMurrin Hall is off limits. Rotary can do a tree lighting, Judy and the mayor could still read.
C. Stroeck – the tree lighting and the readings will still draw a crowd.
L. Robertson – is a no on the parade.

L. Robertson – move that we don't have the Christmas Parade, cancelling it the first week of December. No objections noted.

C. Roberts – made a motion to close German Street for Santa the Friday after Thanksgiving. No objections noted.

Mayor – the council will help Deb Tucker craft a statement to encourage visitor's to come to Shepherdstown. Lighting the tree is beacon of hope. Let's let Christmas in Shepherdstown come up with ideas with limited or no gatherings.

(C. Roberts left the meeting room at 7:20 p.m. and returning 7:40 p.m.)

- d. Grant Committee – C. Stroeck spoke to this. He would like to form a committee to find grants of any nature; including housing, marketing, and capital improvements, to bring to council to get them approved to move forward. He will take the lead on getting people and getting them approved.

L. Robertson – mentioned the Monarch Waystation has received another grant and she will be picking up the plants this Saturday. They will be planted in a new bed near the current bed in Rumsey Park.

M. Amerikaner – noted that the Age Friendly group did not get the grant they applied for regarding a kiosk.

- e. Roundtable discussions – C. Stroeck would also like to take the lead on this. The discussions can include Shepherd University, residents, landlords, businesses, and the police. He would like to have the first one before the end of 2020. He will take questions ahead of time and there will be one topic per discussion.

Agenda Item 8 – Mayor's Report:

- Mayor – the census – we are at 72% response rate in the county.
- C. Stroeck – suggested we create a mailer detailing what the corporation uses the money for-could be mailed out.

M. Amerikaner – spoke to the motorcycle noise. Chief King noted that there are also loud trucks and one was ticketed recently.

D. Tucker – can the police sit at the 4-way to monitor the noise?

Chief – we have and can continue to do so.

M. Amerikaner – would like to see an email list for the town to inform people of meetings, the census, water repairs, etc. They could have the option of opting out.

Agenda Item 9 – Reports of Committees:

A. Finance Committee:

1. Meeting minutes of August 2020
2. Finance Reporting
3. Recommendations

a. Increase the annual salary of all current officers by \$1,000 and to increase nightshift differential by \$1.50 per hour, both effective September 1, 2020 with D. Nickerson directed to determine an appropriate budget update to accommodate the increase in the Police salary budget.

L. Robertson – move to approve the increase the annual salary of all current officers by \$1,000 and to increase nightshift differential by \$1.50 per hour, both effective September 1, 2020 with D. Nickerson directed to determine an appropriate budget update to accommodate the increase in the Police salary budget. No objections noted.

B. Parking Committee

1. No August meeting
2. Recommendations: None

C. Police Committee

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

D. Parks and Recreation Committee:

1. No August meeting
2. Recommendations:
 - A. None

E. Public Works Committee:

1. Meeting Minutes of August 2020.
2. Recommendations:
 - None

F. Path Advisory Committee

Did not meet in July.

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

A. Historic Landmarks Commission:

1. Meeting minutes of August 2020
2. Recommendations:
 - a. None

B. Planning Commission:

1. Meeting minutes of August 2020
2. Recommendations:
 - a. None

C. Tree Commission

1. No meeting August 2020
2. Recommendations: None

D. Water and Sanitary Board:

- 1 –Meeting minutes of August 2020
- 2 – Recommendations:
 - a. None

E. Board of Appeals

1. Member appointment –

Mary Bell stated that she is an attorney who previously served on Bd. of Appeals before moving away. She would like to be back on the board as she understands the rules of the board and likes to serve.

J. Ford – move to approve the appointment of Mary Bell to the Board of Appeals. No objections noted.

L. Robertson - if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 7:45 p.m. No objections noted.

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