

Shepherdstown Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 10, 2021
Community Club – 102 East German St.
6:30 p.m.
DRAFT

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

Absent: None

Staff: Town Clerk Amy Boyd, Public Works Director Frank Welch, and Police Chief Mike King.

Visitors: Joe Spurges, Cam Secrist, Denny Barron, Bondy Gibson, Joyce White, Randy Jones, Ken Lowe, Allen Lueck, Malcolm Ater, Derek Gallapher, Hoy Shingleton, Toni Milbourne, Rachael Meads, Steve Pearson, Tabitha Johnston, Jan Hafer, John Doyle, Donna Joy, Adam Shively, Jeff Feaga, Mark Cucuzzella, Liz McGowen, and Sallie Mickey.

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.

Approval of the Town Council Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2021

C. Stroeck- move to approve the Town Council Meeting Minutes of June 8 2021 with a correction to pg. 4 Agenda Item 7 – Old Business a under Website redesign update - C. Stroeck to reflect the addition of “RFP is close to being done.” Second by C. Roberts with the correction. No objections noted.

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment Period:

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

Agenda Item 4 - Visitors:

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

a. Bondy Shay Gibson, Jefferson County Schools Superintendent - Resolution-

B. Gibson – reviewed the history of the school project – did a 2-year public input period, held many public meetings, and then went to a public vote. The vote was 2 to 1 for funding the project – they got full funding from Charleston.

R. Jones – gave a fiscal analysis – \$2.7 million to keep the Shepherdstown Middle School functional. There is a challenge to converting the SMS to an elementary school. Additions would be \$1-12 million.

J. White – the survey of how many kids walk to the Shepherdstown Elementary School is approximately 10

C. Stroeck – would the acquired funding go away if a conversion were to take place?

Bondy – yes

J. Spurgas – ridiculous to be discussing this – vehemently against it

D. Barron – the new location will be better for the elementary school.

Ken Lowe – Shepherdstown Elementary School

K. Lowe – it is wrong to move it. He has had calls and emails wanting the school to stay where it's walkable. Currently, students can walk to these schools. He questions the school board costs. Parents and kids have historically walked to Shepherdstown Elementary School for years. He is dedicated to the town and the community and wants to see it stay where it is, and to repurpose the middle school for the elementary school – it is cheaper to do this.

Derek G. – loves walking his 3 kids to school and wants it to stay here. It has a connection to the community.

M. Cucuzzella – there is a study showing that kids don't/can't walk to school anymore contributing to high obesity rates. Long bus rides are detrimental to kids.

S. Mickey – she bought her house in town so her son can walk to school.

A. Shively – school campuses are the future. They save money on transportation. We can't afford to lose the bond money.

M. Ater – is all for the middle school being repurposed for the elementary school.

Mayor – is there any action the council wants to take? No one moved to take any action. He wanted to allow people to speak their minds

Agenda Item 5 – Public Hearings:

- a. Consideration of and action on first reading of a Bond Ordinance authorizing the issuance of the Corporation of Shepherdstown Water Revenue Bonds, Series 2021, in an original aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,250,000 to finance costs of the acquisition, construction, and equipping of certain additions, betterments, and improvements to the waterworks system of the Corporation of Shepherdstown, including without limitation the renovation and improvement of the water treatment plant and related facilities.

H. Shingleton – there has to be 3 readings. The 1st reading of the Bond Ordinance addresses the borrowing of the money. The financing has to be approved from Jefferson Security Bank (JSB); the Council then needs to establish a Special meeting for the 2nd reading. The bid opening in July with 5 bidders. The Council can then award to the lowest bidder. Construction costs are high – \$2.5 million. We can borrow at a tax-free rate.

Mayor Auxer called Cam Secrist who went over the proposed terms of the bond, when the 2nd and 3rd public hearings should be, bank terms and insurance.

- a. **J. Ford – move to approve Consideration of and action on first reading of a Bond Ordinance authorizing the issuance of the Corporation of Shepherdstown Water Revenue Bonds, Series 2021, in an original aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,250,000 to finance costs of the acquisition, construction, and equipping of certain additions, betterments, and improvements to the waterworks system of the Corporation of Shepherdstown, including without limitation the renovation and improvement of the water treatment plant and related facilities. Second by L. Robertson. No Objections noted.**
C. Roberts – Move to approve the commitment letter from Jefferson Security Bank (JSB). Second by J. Haynes. No objections noted.
J. Ford – move to have a Special Council meeting August 26 at 1 p.m. for the Second Reading. Second by J. Haynes. No objections noted.

- An Ordinance to Amend Section 12C-503 of Chapter 5, Title 12C of the Code of Shepherdstown Pertaining to Reckless Driving
- An Ordinance to Amend Section 12C-601 of Chapter 6, Title 12C of the Code of Shepherdstown Pertaining to Speed Limitations Generally

Chief King – Attorney Chazz Printz received our ordinances and these are the amendments for us to come into line with the state laws.

C. Roberts – move to approve all ordinances for the first reading. Second by C. Stroech. No objections noted.

Agenda Item 6 – Unfinished Business:

- ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION – Business Owners – to be held in September? Are other Council members interested in helping?
C. Stroech – the goal is get a mission statement to the business owners, to designate individuals to speak on behalf of the businesses, and to invite the public in-person here in October. J. Haynes offered to help.
- IT EQUIP FOR STREAMING MEETINGS FROM TOWN HALL – Status – the goal is to be able to live-stream meetings from council chambers. The equipment was on backorder.
- LED lights – Mayor – no decision has been made yet. No light will be over 90 watts.

Agenda Item 7 – Old Business:

- Website redesign update – Draft RFP
J. Ford – almost done. We should be able to put it to a vote next month.

Agenda Item 8 – New Business:

- a. Planning Commission Member Appointments/Re-appointments – Roger Munro, Chris Cafiero, Terry Fulton Mayor – all fulfill the requirements to serve.
L. Robertson – move to approve all three individuals to the Planning Commission. Second by C. Roberts. No objections noted.
- b. Historic Landmarks Commission Member Appointments/Re-appointments – Nicole Saunders/Meske, Carmen Slater
L. Robertson – move to approve the two individuals to the Historic Landmarks Commission. Second by J. Haynes. No objections noted.
- c. Event Requests:
 - Shepherd University Homecoming Parade event request R. Meads – will be celebrating 150 years of leadership/learning. C. Stroech suggested they encourage those in the crowd to mask up; R. Meads stated SU veers towards safety. They can tell the participants to mask up but can't control what the crowd does.
C. Roberts – move to approve Shepherd University Homecoming Parade, COVID contingent and following CDC guidelines. Second by J. Haynes. No objections noted.
 - Panhandle Free Narcan Day Chief – this a free training – September 1, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
J. Ford –move to approve Panhandle Free Narcan Day. Second by J. Haynes. No objections noted.

Agenda Item 9 – Mayor’s Report:

- Shepherdstown Museum - open from 12-4 on the weekends. Do go and see it and encourage people to visit.
- Shepherdstown Library – moving along. We are in the process of finding people to do the inside work.
- A postcard will be going out soon detailing the recycling/trash parameters.
- He read his message to the Shepherdstown Community

Agenda Item 10 – Reports of Committees:

A. Finance Committee:

1. No July meeting
2. Finance Reporting:
3. Recommendations
 - a. None

B. Parking Committee:

1. No July meeting
2. Recommendations: None

C. Police Committee:

1. No July meeting
2. Recommendations: Non

D. Parks and Recreation Committee:

1. No July meeting
2. Recommendations:
 - a. None

E. Public Works Committee:

1. Meeting minutes of July 2021
2. Recommendations:
None

F. Path Advisory Committee

1. No meeting in July
2. Recommendations:
 - a. None

G. Grant Committee

1. Meeting minutes of August 2021
 - a. Recommendations:
None

Agenda item 11 – Report of Commissions, Authority and Boards:

A. Historic Landmarks Commission:

1. Meeting minutes of July 2021
2. Recommendations:
 - a. None

B. Planning Commission:

1. Meeting minutes of July 2021
2. Recommendations:
 - a. None

C. Tree Commission

1. Meeting minutes of July 2021
2. Recommendations: None

D. Water and Sanitary Board:

- 1 –Meeting minutes of July 2021
- 2 – Recommendations:
 - a. None

E. Board of Appeals

1. No meeting scheduled

J. Haynes – move to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Second by C. Roberts. No objections noted.

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