

Shepherdstown Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 13, 2021
Community Club – 102 East German St.
6:30 p.m.
DRAFT

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

Absent: None

Staff: Town Clerk Amy Boyd and Public Works Director Frank Welch.

Visitors: Mark Cucuzzella, Tabitha Johnston, Nancy Strine, Lindsay Cobb, Chase McKitrick, Austin Slater, Jan Hafer, Kenny Lowe, Dr. Christine Wimer, Susie Wimer, Steve Pearson, Sean Feigo, and Dennis Jarvis.

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

Call to order by Mayor Auxer at 6:30 pm.

Approval of the Town Council Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2021

C. Stroech- move to approve the Town Council Meeting Minutes of June 8 2021 with a correction to pg. 3 Agenda Item 9 – Mayor’s Report, b under Mayor - C. Stroech to reflect the addition of “he asked to be recused and put in the Zoom waiting room”. Second by J. Haynes 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. Dr. Wimer – Jefferson County Foundation (JCP)
Prior to the presentation and discussion, at 6:33 p.m. C. Stroech asked to be recused and left the meeting room.

Dr. Wimer – handed out materials that the council had not had time to review. She stated that there are flaws in the permit and she is addressing the change in the operating parameters regarding coal vs. natural gas. Rockwool wants to change its use to natural gas but keep the technology to use coal if needed. The WVDEP approved the changes requested by Rockwool. Her group would like for Rockwool to use natural gas and remain within the parameters of that use, and would to see a new permit issued by the WVDEP.

L. Robertson asked why JCP wasn't successful with WVDEP?

Dr. Wimer - WVDEP cited no further action was required from Rockwool, and that they can continue with the current limitations. JCP disagrees and is requesting a letter of support from the council.

J. Ford – there is no reason to think there is a reason for them (Rockwool) to exceed their limits.

Dr. Wimer – JCP wants them to do better with the technology based on the Clean Air Act. JCP wants Shepherdstown support for Rockwool to use natural gas in their production, not coal. Rockwool has a duty to inform.

Mayor – have JCP author a letter outlining these concerns for Rockwool to use the best technology for the cleanest air and to enforce the laws.

M. Amerikaner – move to have Dr. Wimer author a letter to enforce the law getting it to the Mayor, have our attorney review the letter, and then have the Mayor sign it. Second by J. Haynes. No objections noted.

7 p.m. after all discussion and vote, C. Stroech returned t the meeting room.

b. Katie Thompson/Mark Cucuzella – Freedom's Run

M. Cucuzzella – this is Freedom's Run 13th year. Have simplified the road usage starting at Midway field on Shepherd University, going across the bridge to the canal. The kid's run will stay in town for safety reasons starting at 11 a.m. and will run primarily on the sidewalks.

C. Roberts – move to approve Freedom's Run October 16, 2021. Second by J. Ford. No objections noted.

c. Ken Lowe – Shepherdstown Elementary School

K. Lowe – has questions about the new elementary and middles schools being built. Currently, students can walk to these schools. He

went in front of the school board and made a presentation suggesting the Shepherdstown Elementary School move into the current Shepherdstown Middle School building. They should build the new middle school first, and then retrofit it so the elementary school can move in. It would save a lot of money in regards to water and sewer hook ups. Bonds are already committed for the elementary school, but this can be changed. Shepherdstown is a destiny site. He is asking council to sign a resolution stating that the middle school be repurposed.

M. Cucuzzella – there is a study showing that kids don't/can't walk to school anymore contributing to obesity.

J. Ford – do others agree with the resolution, if so whom? He would like council to hear from the school board and invite the public.

J. Ford – move to put this on August Town Council agenda and invite the Jefferson County School Board and the public. Second by M. Amerikaner. No objections noted.

d. Nancy Strine – Home Consortium

N. Strine – we do this every three years. The City of Martinsburg is the grantee for housing for low-income households. A recent COVID grant was in Shepherdstown. She is requesting we sign the 2-page resolution stating that we are still willing to participate. The mayor read the resolution.

L. Robertson – move to sign the resolution for the Home Consortium. Second by C. Roberts. No objections noted.

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.

Mayor – the low bidder withdrew his bid. This will go back to the Water Board - no vote tonight.

Agenda Item 6 – Unfinished Business:

- a. None

Agenda Item 7 – Old Business:

- a. Website redesign update – Draft REP
 - J. Ford – the website is close to being done.

Agenda Item 8 – New Business:

- a. None

Agenda Item 9 – Mayor’s Report:

- Broadband – the town is collaborating with Jefferson County Commission to place small antennae on our water tanks, hopefully by July 11, 2021.
- Shepherdstown Library – timeframe –
The bid should be accepted by this Friday
2 weeks for new shoring and bracing for safety and the integrity of the building.
The masonry will start soon.
A moving company will place the library contents in an onsite container.

J. Ford – attended the Jefferson County Visitor’s Board meeting – the marketing plan for Shepherdstown is really impressive – it will include the DC area targeting 50,000 running in the Washington Post.

Agenda Item 10 – Reports of Committees:

A. Finance Committee:

- 1. Meeting minutes of June 2021
- 2. Finance Reporting:
- 3. Recommendations
 - a. None

B. Parking Committee:

- 1. No June meeting

2. Recommendations: None

C. Police Committee:

1. No June meeting
2. Recommendations: None
3. Police Officer Interviews

Mayor – interviews and background checks are being conducted now.

D. Parks and Recreation Committee:

1. Meeting minutes of June 2021 – not available
2. Recommendations:
 - a. None

Cheryl Roberts – next Bookmark in the Park is July 24 at 11 a.m. at Riverfront Park. Other events include: Cullison Park – Aug. 20 – 5:30 p.m., and Bane Harris Park – Sept 12 – 2 p.m.

Also, Friends of Shepherdstown Library (FOSL) has an event July 17, 1:30 p.m. at Morgan’s Grove Park. There is a survey going out from P&R inquiring about use of the parks.

E. Public Works Committee:

1. Meeting minutes of May 2021
2. Recommendations:

None

Mayor – LED lights – there are 4 conversions around town looking for input. So far the input has been positive. The LED Task Force is working with First Energy.

The locations are:

Church/E. German

Sage Place/E. German

King St./German

King St./Washington

F. Path Advisory Committee

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

- b. L. Robertson – the Temporary Construction Easement (TCE) Forms have been sent to us in preparation of reaching out to landowner’s along Rt. 480. We are looking for funding for the grant match.

G. Grant Committee

- 1. Meeting minutes of June 2021
 - a. Appointment of new member
 - Lori Robertson – move to approve Matt Jividen to the Grants committee. Second by J. Ford. No objections noted.**
 - b. C. Stroech – they are waiting to hear about the first block grant. There is a special council meeting to move forward on updating the tree inventory (the last one was in 2003) and AED’s for the police department vehicles. (The Shepherdstown Fire Department will conduct the training)

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

A. Historic Landmarks Commission:

- 1. Meeting minutes of June 2021
- 2. Recommendations:
 - a. None
 - Mayor – Dr. Keith Alexander to provide training July 20, 6 p.m. at the Community Club. Topic – maintaining and protecting our historical standards based on the Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation.

B. Planning Commission:

- 1. Meeting minutes of June 2021 – not available at this time
- 2. Recommendations:
 - a. None

C. Tree Commission

- 1. Meeting minutes of June 2021
- 2. Recommendations: None

L. Robertson – thanks to Frank Welch for maintaining Tree City USA for the 15th year. The commission has been keeping the trees trimmed with all of the rain.

D. Water and Sanitary Board:

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

E. Board of Appeals

1. No meeting scheduled

L. Robertson – move to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. Second by J. Haynes. No objections noted.

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