

Shepherdstown Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 9, 2022
Town Hall
104 North King Street
6:30 p.m.
Mask Wearing is Optional
Also being streamed on the town’s Facebook page “Shepherdstown,
West Virginia”
DRAFT

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

Absent: None

Staff: Town Clerk Amy Boyd, Director of Public Works Frank Welch, Police Chief Mike King, Sergeant Jake Jeffries, Corporal Casey Yonkers, Officer Doc Moats, and Officer Bryce Dickens

Visitors: Steve Pearson, Hank Walters, Mary Fortuna, Rachael Meads, Jim Ford, D.W. Gregory, Linda Spatig, Sgt. Dave Kelvington, and Lexi Dickens.

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.

Approval of the Town Council Meeting Draft Minutes of July 12, 2022.

C. Stroech- move to approve Town Council Draft Minutes of July 12, 2022. Second by L. Rampy. No objections noted.

Mayor Auxer took this time to recognize a citation presented to Officer B. Dickens - Crois de Negotiation Laurel Citation-Awarded for maintaining the presence of composure, alert talk-down and wit under extreme circumstances which prevented a life threat.

Sgt. J. Jeffries – Officer Dickens went above and beyond the call of duty October 7, 2021 when he responded to a potential suicide on the bridge

overlooking the Potomac River. The individual was a former Marine and SU student and was very distraught. After 40-minutes, Officer Dickens, along with two bystanders, were able to get the individual off the railing saving his life. Officer Dickens had only been with the SPD 45 days when he got the call.

Chief King – also recognized all of the officers for their police coverage during the pandemic. Each officer received a pin.

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment Period:

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

D.W Gregory – read a statement regarding the unofficial Market House survey from Shepherdstown Votes. They had 47 responses, of which 9 are businesses and 27 residents of town. 90% responded that respondents wanted to be kept informed, and the public should be involved in developing plans for use and management of the building. Have there been any discussions to date regarding the use?

Mayor – no, there have not been. This is the first time in many years that the building has been empty to be able to get in there to assess it. The 2nd floor is a challenge to access as there is no elevator.

D. W. Gregory – will there be public commentary?

Mayor – the town will be releasing the official survey for those wishing to respond. There will possibly be a public forum as well.

M. Fortuna – no plans have been made as to the use?

L. Robertson – we have been saying that online and right now.

Mayor – many have expressed an interest for a visitor’s center to be there.

J. Ford - gave a report for the CVB – there is a new exhibit at the Smithsonian Portrait Gallery about John Brown. There are links online for the Smithsonian Magazine for the dates.

Also, the CVB has picked Shepherdstown for sign upgrades to the tune of \$9,000.00.

A. Boyd was asked about financials, as we haven’t gotten any since December. She stated the general fund is being worked on first and should have updated financials for the Council in a month or so.

Agenda Item 4 - Visitors:

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

- a. Rachael Meads – Event Request for Shepherd University – Homecoming Parade – October 15, 2022
The parade will start at 10 a.m. and last an hour. The alumna of the year is Cheryl Roberts.

L. Robertson – move to approve the event request for the Shepherd University Homecoming Parade – October 15, 2022 (noting the date correction). Second by M. Amerikaner. No objections noted.

Agenda Item 5 – Public Hearings:

- a. None

Agenda Item 6 – Unfinished Business:

- a. None

Agenda Item 7 – Old Business:

- a. None

Agenda Item 8 – New Business:

- a. Age Friendly Action Plan –
M. Amerikaner – is the Chair – we are in an age-friendly community – they are all over the country, however, we are the 1st in WV to submit an action plan. We utilized a survey from AARP and had 360 residents respond, and we did 6 listening sessions. The data received identified themes for proposed actions.

The themes/domains are Communication and Information, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Transportation, Social Participation, Housing, Respect and Social Isolation, and Community Support and Health Services.

The action plan will go through the regular town review process and Marty will author a letter for the Mayor to sign regarding the action plan.

- b. Flexi-Pave Proposal – this to put flexi-pave around the two trees in front of the Devonshire. In order to install it, they will also fix the curbing there. The cost is \$1849.40. Once complete, it will allow safe passage for walkers and wheelchairs.
M. Amerikaner – move to approve the Flexi-Pave proposal and to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract to move forward. Second by C. Roberts. No objections noted.
- c. Canal Trust – thank you letter – Our membership in the Canal Towns Partnership was renewed for \$500.00.
- d. Short term rentals
 C. Stroeck – read a prepared letter for the record.
 Mayor – we’ve asked our town attorney for more clarification regarding STR’s.

Agenda Item 9 – Mayor’s Report:

- Thanked M. Amerikaner and David Rosen for working on the unused phone lines around town. They are trying to tidy up the town.
- There will be a Mayor’s meeting August 31 at the new Shepherdstown Library.
- We have a hired a new Operator in Training at the water plant.
- To our friends and neighbors – the members of the Council are trying to make things better in town. The issues do not have to be adversarial. It is incumbent upon us to look out for the whole community – the east & west ends as well as the center of town. Everyone here is the town.

R. Meads – she appreciates our core values in looking out for the town’s needs. Shepherdstown Street Fest is happy to announce that it is donating \$5K to Shepherdstown Shares, \$5K to the Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center, and \$500.00 to the Shepherdstown Fire Department. She thanked the Council for its continued support.

Agenda Item 10 – Reports of Committees:

- A. Finance Committee:**
 - 1. No meeting July 2022
 - 2. Finance Reporting:
 - 3. Recommendations

a. None

B. Parking Committee:

1. No July 2022 meeting
2. Recommendations: None

C. Police Committee:

1. No July 2022 meeting
2. Recommendations: None

D. Parks and Recreation Committee:

1. Meeting minutes of July 2022 - not available
2. Recommendations:
 - a. NONE
C. Roberts – the next BookMark the Park will be August 20th, noon, at Bane Harris Park with a guest author. The next P&R meeting is the 4th Tuesday.

E. Public Works Committee:

1. Meeting minutes of July 2022 – not available
2. Recommendations:
 - a. Garbage rate increase –
Mayor – the proposed garbage rate increase – our rates are significantly lower than the surrounding areas and we offer more services.
M. Amerikaner – we haven't had an increase since 2015.
C. Roberts – the Apex apartments near her home has been putting the trash along the building and not in the cans.
F. Welch – we can provide extra large bins for them.
L. Rampy – our Public Works guys are the best!
Mayor – they get a 2% increase each year.
L. Rampy – recommended the garbage rate increase for the 1st reading in September. Second by C. Roberts. No objections noted.

F. Path Advisory Committee

1. No meeting in July 2022

2. Recommendations:
 - a. None
 - b. Report – L. Robertson – the Mayor, myself, and Matt Mullenax go in front of the Jefferson County Commission Thursday, September 1st at 3 p.m. to request \$300,000 for the path.

G. Grants Committee

1. No meeting in July 2022
2. Recommendations:
 - a. None
3. Appointment of new member

L. Robertson – move to approve the appointment of Kay Schultz to the Grants Committee. Second by L. Rampy. No objections noted.

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

1. Historic Landmarks Commission:

1. Meeting minutes of July 2022 – not available
2. Recommendations:
 - a. None

2. Planning Commission:

1. Meeting minutes of July 2022 – not available
2. Recommendations:

None

Mayor – the members will discuss the applications for the comprehensive plan.

3. Tree Commission

1. Meeting minutes of July 2022
2. Recommendations:
 - a. None

Report – L. Robertson – Viking Tree Service has been hired by Hank Walters, as a gift to the town, to clear the

brush/weeds/junk trees on the embankment side of the wall in Rumsey Park. They are to start tomorrow. Lori acknowledged Hank's generosity and also thanked him for his gift of the newly constructed staircase in the rear of the park. The staircase is being treated with timber oil to keep it looking natural.

Mayor – mentioned the graffiti couldn't be removed yet due to all of the rain.

Chief King – the SPD is looking at solar vs. powered cameras for the park. A line could be run for lights that would be motion censored.

4. Water and Sanitary Board:

- 1 – Meeting minutes of July 2022
- 2 – Recommendations:
 - a. None

4. Path Advisory Committee

- 1- No meeting held in July 2022
- 2- Recommendations
 - a. None

5. Board of Appeals

1. None scheduled.

L. Rumpy – move to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. Second by C. Roberts. No objections noted.

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