

Shepherdstown Town Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

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"**

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

Absent: None

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

Visitors: Jack Shaw, Terrence Reedy, Christine Wimer, Annette Gavin-Bates, Abby Bowman, Emily Walker, Kim Tummolo, Connie Heyer, and Jim Ford.

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

Call to order by Mayor Auxer at 6:29 p.m.

Approval of the Town Council Meeting Draft Minutes of September 12, 2023.

L. Rampy - move to approve Town Council Draft Minutes of September 12, 2023 as written. Second by M. Amerikaner. No objections noted.

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment Period:

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

Agenda Item 4 – Public Hearings:

- a. None

Agenda Item 5 - Visitors:

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

- a. Dr. Terrence Reedy - Respiratory viruses/mental health issues -

He is the Health Officer for Jefferson County. Regarding viruses: it's been four years since Covid showed up in China, and gave a brief history of the coronavirus. We've learned that the virus is not just seasonal, and although not as severe, it's going around again. The virus has changed and is not as bad, and there is a new covid vaccine. The older you are the older your immune system is, so not a bad idea to get a booster. For infants, speak to your pediatrician. For the first 2 years of Covid we saw almost no RSV or influenza, RSV and the flu are back. There is now a vaccine for RSV and it decreases the incidences by 1/2 to 2/3's. RSV is funded through Medicare part D.

Suicides during the last 20-30 years have become higher between 34-54 years of age - a disease of despair. Drug addiction - social interactions, support groups, a healthy community are very important. Can try to get people in need into treatment centers as well as other options. Old meds/old narcotics - get rid of them. Fentanyl is very prevalent and potent and can be fatal. Hospice offers grief counseling, you can go online and get Covid tests.

Mayor - the Shepherdstown Police Department has Narcan - each officer carries it. It's important to help people have a better life.

M. Amerikaner - historically, older men have been a risk by suicide by firearms.

C. Roberts - always check the Covid expiration dates.

b. Chrissy Wimer - President of the Jefferson County Foundation - there will be a special meeting in 10 days regarding Rockwool's emissions. Chrissy is asking for a letter from the Corporation asking that emission's be enforced by the DEP. Rockwool is saying that they are a minor emissions source. The DEP didn't really obtain information to confirm this. The Clean Air Act requires the stipulation of changes by Rockwool to obtain minor emissions source status. There are several issues of notability: the prohibition of putting materials outside to vent, there is no prohibition in the permit to use coal, and there is no prohibition on venting the building.

The DEP will enforce these if asked and our letter can ask that. It is due October 23rd by 5 p.m.

Rockwool does a lot of their own testing by hiring a private company, which they are allowed to do. The DEP does testing and inspections as well. Rockwool's permit states they have to maintain their data and are required to report to the EPA every 6-months.

Mayor - Chrissy has authored a letter for him and he has it via email. He can sign it now and we can ratify it at the next council meeting in November. Each individual council member can also send a letter. There was a special consensus to have a special meeting.

Agenda Item 6 – Unfinished Business:

a. Market House Update – the bid documents are being formulated now.

b. Website Update –

A. Boyd - looking at changing the logo to incorporate the town seal.

c. Rt. 340 Traffic Detour -

Chief King - we are trudging through it. S. Grove made a request for a traffic director for prime times at night.

d. Franchise agreement between the Corporation of Shepherdstown and Shenandoah Cable Television, LLC. - Discussion/Action
Second by C. Roberts with changes. No objections noted.

C. Stroeck - still has concerns regarding pole overcrowding. The pole owners don't really respond in any meaningful way. He likes the competition, but we should make a stand now - go to the owners and get these poles cleaned up and until that effort takes place, will vote no. He offered to canvass the town and look at the poles and engage with the owners. He will author a letter to Shentel.

M. Amerikaner - Shentel should go to the pole owners and try to get them to address the wires on the poles as there will be 4 miles of extra wire. Are there people in the community asking for another entity?

S. Grove - the PFC doesn't allow the language to change, it's for cable tv and internet.

Mayor - we can table it to keep it on the table.

L. Rampy - move to table the motion we put forth. Second by C. Stroeck. No objections noted.

Agenda Item 7 – Old Business:

_____a. None

Agenda Item 8 – New Business:

_____a. Event Requests - Jefferson County Convention and Visitors Bureau - Frostyfest - Discussion/Action

A. Gavin-Bates - requesting a street closure behind the Market House to Back Alley - Dates are 1/27 & 1/28 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We want visitors to go downtown into the businesses. Adding a scavenger hunt, magician, a possible bonfire, and more. EMS will be onsite and the event insurance is covered. The iceskating rink is artificial, so not as hard as a real rink, and inclement weather is ok.

C. Roberts - move to approve Frostfest. Second by L. Robertson. No objections noted.

b. Stormwater Grant - Discussion/Action

C. Stroeck - sent a form to be filled out for the process. Andy Beall, Zoning Officer did it, Chris read it and then sent it.

M. Amerikaner - made a motion to move forward with the grant with the money paying for design and engineering. Second by C. Roberts. No objections noted.

Agenda Item 9 – Reports of Committees:

A. Finance Committee:

1. No Meeting September 2023
2. Recommendations: None
3. Review and approval of General Fund Financials - forthcoming discussion of timing of statements -

S. Grove - took the time to clean it up so it took a little longer to get it to us. Made it easier to read and accurate.

C. Roberts - move to approve the Corporation Financials as written. Second by C. Stroeck No objections noted.

B. Parking Committee:

1. No meeting September 2023
2. Recommendations: None

C. Police Committee:

1. Meeting minutes of September 2023
2. Recommendations: None

D. Parks and Recreation Committee:

1. Meeting minutes of September 2003 - not available
2. Recommendations: None

E. Public Works Committee:

1. Meeting minutes of September 2023 - not available
2. Recommendations: None

F. Path Advisory Committee

1. No meeting September 2023
2. Recommendations: None

G. Grants Committee

1. No meeting September 2023
2. Recommendations: None

H. Age Friendly Committee

1. Meeting minutes of September 2023
2. Recommendations: None

I. Personnel Committee

1. Meeting minutes of September 2023 - not available
2. Recommendations: None

J. Recycling Committee

1. No meeting of September 2023
2. Recommendations: None

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

A. Historic Landmarks Commission:

1. Meeting minutes of September 2023
2. Recommendations: None

B. Planning Commission:

1. Meeting minutes of September 2023 - not available
2. Recommendations:
 - a. Appointment of Ebonee Helmick - Discussion/Action

L. Robertson - move to approve the appointment of Ebonee Helmick to the Planning Commission. Second by L. Rampy. No objections noted.

C. Tree Commission

1. Meeting minutes of September 2023
2. Recommendations: None

D. Water and Sanitary Board:

1. Meeting minutes of September 2023 - not available
2. Recommendations: None

E. Board of Appeals

1. September 19 - High Street - Mickey Duncan - variance request.

Mayor - the decision was handed down today and we can get a copy of that. It was denied.

Agenda Item 11 - Mayor's Report:

- * Go to the Visitor's Center and the Shepherdstown Historic Museum
- * Halloween night - German St. will be closed for 6-8 p.m. trick or treating.
- * We hired another police officer, Allen Thomas, and bought two hybrid vehicles for police cars.
- * Market House is still moving along.
- * For Christmas in Shepherdstown, the meters will be free from December 1st to January 1st.
- * Homecoming is October 21 - 10 a.m.
- * The 2021 Audit brought forth no issues and the 2022 Audit will go out to bid.
- * The Bike Path is in the budget bill and has been approved from Congressional Spending funds for \$535,000, and the 20% match is to come from the Governor's Office.
- * The water plant project is coming to a close.
- * The waste water plant has seen many improvements.
- * The paving is to be done soon with no issue for Halloween night.

L. Robertson – move to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Second by M. Amerikaner. No objections noted.

