

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE STEPHENS CITY TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021
6:00 PM**

Mayor Diaz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Diaz asked that we observe a moment of silence.

Roll was called with the following members present remotely:

Mayor Diaz, Councilman Bowers, Councilman Fravel, Councilwoman Stevens, Councilwoman Swygert-Smith, Councilwoman Young

Staff present: Mike Majher, Town Manager; Kelly Thatcher, Deputy Town Clerk

Staff present remotely: Steve Rickards, Town Treasurer; Dave Griffin, Town Attorney; Bill Copp, Police Chief

Guests: Josh Janney, Winchester Star

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Diaz asked if anyone from the public had comments. There were no comments.

MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 2020

Councilor Swygert-Smith moved for approval of the minutes of the regular Town Council Meeting of December 1, 2020. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

Bowers- Aye	Fravel-Aye
Swygert-Smith-Aye	Stevens-Aye
Young-Aye	

TREASURER'S REPORT – Report attached

Town Treasurer Steve Rickards reported once again that it had been a robust month. He noted that with expenses being low and the bottom line high that the Town had ended the year on a very strong note.

POLICE REPORT – Report attached

Chief Copp read his report. He informed council that even though things have been challenging he was looking forward to the new year. He reported that Jason Nauman would be starting the academy next week and that new hire Chris James being already certified should be on the road soon.

SCVFD REPORT- Timothy Vaught

Fire Chief Timothy Vaught read his December report. He stated that COVID is still quite prevalent and everyone should be diligent using all precautions to stay safe. He also wanted it to be known that the Fire Department does not have a link to the vaccines and that citizens should contact the Health Department for info. He requested that Council approve the officer selections for 2021. Councilor Fravel made the Motion to approve the officer selections. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

Bowers- Aye	Fravel-Aye
Swygert-Smith-Aye	Stevens-Aye
Young-Aye	

ACTION AGENDA

INTERIM APPOINTMENT TO TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor Diaz informed Council that Pete Fravel had been recommended to fill the seat on Council, that Jason Nauman had vacated, until a Special Election could be held. Councilor Bowers made the Motion to appoint Pete Fravel to Council. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

Bowers-Aye	Swygert-Smith-Aye
Stevens-Aye	Young-Aye

Councilman Linden A. Fravel Jr. abstained from the vote.

VICE-MAYOR APPOINTMENT

Mayor Diaz asked if there were any nominations for the position of Vice-Mayor. Councilor Bowers made the Motion to appoint Councilor Fravel to the position of Vice-Mayor. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

Bowers-Aye	Swygert-Smith-Aye
Stevens-Aye	Young-Aye

COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Diaz asked Council to look at the committee assignments included in the agenda packet and asked if there were any questions or adjustments. As there were none, Councilor Bowers made the Motion to accept all committee appointments. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

Bowers- Aye	Fravel-Aye
Swygert-Smith-Aye	Stevens-Aye
Young-Aye	

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN OFFICERS

Mayor Diaz asked that there be a Motion to reappoint Mike Majher, Town Manager; Steve Rickards, Town Treasurer; Dave Griffin, Town Attorney and to appoint Deputy Town Clerk Kelly Thatcher to Town Clerk. Councilor Bowers made the Motion to appoint the Town Officers. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

Bowers- Aye	Fravel-Aye
Swygert-Smith-Aye	Stevens-Aye
Young-Aye	

ACCEPTANCE OF DEED OF GIFT

Town Manager Mike Majher informed council that John P. Good, Jr. managing member of Stickley Farm, L.C. wants to deed five acres of land, located next to the school, to the Town. Vice-Mayor Fravel made the Motion that the Town accept the gift of the five acres of land. The Motion carried with the following Roll Call VOTE:

Bowers- Aye Fravel-Aye
Swygert-Smith-Aye Stevens-Aye
Young-Aye

SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING FOR UPDATES TO CHAPTER 23

Town Manager Mike Majher informed Council that we needed to schedule a Public Hearing and a Special Meeting to adopt the newly issued Floodplain maps and add some new language to the Chapter 23 Ordinance. Council decided that the Public Hearing would be held on January 19th and the Special Meeting would be held on January 26th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance Committee – Joseph Hollis, Chair

No Meeting: No Comments

B. Personnel Committee –Ronald Bowers, Chair

No Meeting: No Comments

C. Public Safety Committee

No Meeting: No Comments

D. Public Works Committee –Tina Stevens, Chair

No Meeting: No Comments

E. Ordinance and Governments Committee- Regina Swygert-Smith Chair

No Meeting: No Comments

F. Parks and Recreation Commission- Ronald Bowers, Chair

No Meeting: No Comments

G. Planning Commission- Linden A. Fravel Jr. Chair

No Meeting: No Comments

H. Newtown Heritage Festival Committee

No Meeting: No Comments

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

Councilor Swygert-Smith made a Motion to approve the committee minutes. The minutes were approved with the following Vote

Bowers- Aye Fravel-Aye
Swygert-Smith-Aye Stevens-Aye
Young-Aye

Mayor Diaz made this statement to Council and the Public.

Since assuming the office of mayor 2 years ago, I have noted a large amount of progress being made that I believe we should be proud of and acknowledge. I believe this is especially important given the times we have been living in and the number of hurdles that have been placed before us and other municipalities throughout the Commonwealth and the country. Some of these achievements include: Having exited litigation with Frederick Water and that we have already made over \$250,000 in required improvements to our system; Started engineering studies and planning for the conversion of the old school to a community center and municipal office as well as starting the process of securing funding for those improvements; Installed new leadership for our police and strengthened our relationship with the FCSO; Eliminated our town's personal property tax and restructured our taxes; Made sidewalk improvements at the Newtown Commons and are prioritizing other improvements throughout the town; Passing a resolution proclaiming that discrimination based on race, creed, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or age has "no place" here in Town. This is just a very short list highlighting some things that I am most proud of this council and staff for achieving over these past 2 years, and I am especially excited to see what the coming years have to bring for the future of the town. I will leave it to the Town Manager to highlight any other achievements I may have missed as well as shed some light on future projects and goals for the town.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Town Manager Mike Majher reported:

1. He wanted to thank the Town staff for all their work during this pandemic and wanted them to know how much he appreciated them.
2. He is looking forward to all that will be happening in this new year with improvements to the town most especially the renovation of the Old School.
3. He also wanted to thank the Town's citizens for their cooperation and understanding over the last few months.

COUNCIL COMMENTS/CALENDAR

Mayor Diaz asked if there were any comments from council. Vice-Mayor Fravel addressed the trash problem and asked if a letter or flyer could be sent out to the residents in hopes of alleviating some of the trash issues. Councilor Stevens stated that she was happy with all that has been accomplished in the past year and she was excited to be a part of this team. Mayor Diaz welcomed Councilor Young and congratulated Councilor Bowers and Councilor Stevens on their reelection.

There being no further business Councilman Fravel made a motion to adjourn at 6:31 pm and the motion carried unanimously.

Michael A. Diaz, Mayor

Kelly Thatcher, Deputy Town Clerk