

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE STEPHENS CITY TOWN COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, January 14, 2020  
7:00 PM**

Mayor Diaz called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Boy Scout Troop 15.

Councilor Swygert-Smith offered the Invocation.

Roll was called with the following members present:

Mayor Diaz, Vice Mayor Nauman, Councilman Bowers, Councilman Fravel, Councilman Hollis,  
Councilwoman Stevens, Councilwoman Swygert-Smith

Staff present: Mike Majher, Town Manager; David Griffin, Town Attorney, Kelly Thatcher, Deputy Town Clerk; Steve Rickards, Town Treasurer; Steve Hawkins, Interim Chief of Police; Timothy Vaught, Fire Chief

Guests: Josh Janney, Winchester Star; Ben Vogt, 5095 Barley Drive; Jim Vogt, 5095 Barley Drive; Zach Pendzich, 5089 Barley Drive; Cooper Fitch, 5083 Barley Drive

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Diaz asked if anyone from the public had comments. Scout Master, Jim Vogt from Boy Scout Troop 15 introduced the Boy Scouts in attendance and stated that they were working on their Community Merit Badge and would like to stay after the meeting to ask Council questions.

**MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2019**

Councilman Fravel moved for approval of the minutes of the regular Town Council Meeting of December 3, 2019. The Motion carried with the following Recorded VOTE:

Aye – Bowers, Fravel, Hollis, Nauman, Stevens, Swygert-Smith

Nay - None

Abstain - None

Absent – None

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Town Treasurer Steve Rickards reported that December was a very robust month, one of the strongest we have had. He also stated that late notices for taxes would soon be sent out and that water bills were due February 3. After stating that we were half way through the Fiscal Year, Councilman asked how things were looking for the town. Treasurer Rickards stated that things were looking good with the General Fund at around \$200,000 plus and Utility at \$80,000 plus.

**POLICE REPORT – Report attached**

Interim Chief Major Hawkins wanted to commend Officer Bill Copp for spreading the joy over the Christmas Holiday. He wanted to thank Evelyn Partlow for the pizza's for Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Major Hawkins also commended Officer Tyler Payne on assisting FCSO with a driver on Passage and Marlboro Roads. The driver had run into fences and had fled the scene. Officers recovered weapons and alcohol and apprehended the suspect. Mayor Diaz stated that he has seen the FCSO presence in town and thanked Major Hawkins for the extra patrols.

**SCVFD REPORT- Timothy Vaught, Fire Chief-Report attached**

Fire Chief Timothy Vaught went over his report. Councilman Nauman then made a motion to approve the

selections made by the Fire Department for Operational Officers, Administrative Officers and Board of Directors. The Motion carried with the following recorded VOTE:

Aye-Bowers, Fravel, Hollis, Nauman, Stevens, Swygert-Smith

Nay-None

Abstain-None

Absent-None

An invitation from President Lenny Peters was issued to Council and staff to attend the annual banquet to be held on February 1<sup>st</sup> at the fire hall.

### **ACTION AGENDA**

No Items

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **A. Finance Committee – Joseph Hollis, Chair**

No Meeting: No Comments

#### **B. Personnel Committee –Ronald Bowers, Chair**

Meeting: No Comments

#### **C. Public Safety Committee –Jason Nauman, Chair**

Meeting: Vice Mayor Nauman stated that a joint meeting was held with the Town of Middletown. This meeting was held to discuss Fire & Rescues issues with Chapter 89 and also to discuss working together with police departments. Vice Mayor Nauman stated emphatically that there was NO MERGER between the two towns. They are exploring the possibilities of joint purchasing, scheduling and staffing.

#### **D. Public Works Committee –Butch Fravel, Chair**

Meeting: No Comments

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

Meeting: Councilwoman Swygert-Smith made a motion to change regular Town Council Meetings to 6 pm. After the motion was made Mayor Diaz asked if there was any discussion. Councilwoman Stevens expressed concern for commuters that might want to attend the meetings. Councilwoman Swygert-Smith stated that when Public Hearings needed to be held that the time could then be switched to 7pm. Vice Mayor Nauman offered the suggestion that when there was a Public Hearing that the regular meeting could still be held at 6 pm and the Public Hearing could be held after. Mayor Diaz then asked for the vote and the Motion carried with the following recorded VOTE:

Aye-Bowers, Hollis, Nauman, Stevens, Swygert-Smith

Nay-Fravel

Abstain-None

Absent-None

#### **F. Parks and Recreation Commission- Ronald Bowers, Chair**

No Meeting: No Comments

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

No Meeting: Councilman Fravel stated that there would be a Planning work session on January 15<sup>th</sup> and a regular meeting discussing the North End on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Fravel made a motion to reappoint Paul Culp to the Commission. The Motion carried with the following recorded Vote:

Aye-Bowers, Fravel, Hollis, Nauman, Stevens, Swygert-Smith

Nay-None  
Abstain-None  
Absent-None

### **H. Newtown Heritage Festival Committee**

Meeting: Mayor Diaz reported that things are moving forward on the 2020 Festival.

### **APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS**

Councilor Swygert-Smith made a Motion to approve the committee minutes, all were in favor.

### **TOWN MANAGERS REPORT**

Town Manager Mike Majher gave the report

1. Mr. Majher wished all a Happy New Year and wanted to thank council for the extra time off over the holidays. He and the staff are looking forward to the New Year.
2. Staff anticipates the conclusion of the School Study and looks forward to revitalizing the property.
3. Utility improvement are being planned for later this year as the I&I Study continues.
4. Public Works will soon be starting the repair and install of new sidewalks, with the area in front of the Commons being the starting point.
5. The town manager and the treasurer have started the early phases of the budget and are looking for input from department heads and council members.
6. Town taxes are now overdue and late notices will be going out.
7. Business license renewal letters will be mailed tomorrow.
8. A public hearing will be held proposal to extend water and sewer over the railroad tracks. There are 5 residents and 2 businesses that will be hand delivered invites to attend.
9. A blight grant is also being explored for the west entrance into town.
10. No notable developments with Peed and Bortz. Work continues on the new utility mapping.
11. Staff is happy to announce a new way of communicating with citizens through a SMS notice system.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS/CALENDAR**

Mayor Diaz asked if there were any adjustments to the calendar or Council Comments. Councilor Nauman needed to switch the Public Safety meeting to the 30<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Swygert-Smith would like to see the flag at the town offices lit up 24/7. Councilman Fravel commented that the dusk to dawn lights around the workshop were not functioning and should be fixed. There was some trash discussion and it was stated that it would be good if we could have some type of robo call. It would also be a good thing to have in our next trash contract that if there is a snow day the trash should be picked up next day.

There being no further business, Councilman Fravel made a Motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm and the Motion carried unanimously.

  
Michael A. Diaz, Mayor

  
Kelly Thatcher, Deputy Town Clerk