

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF STEPHENS CITY**  
**Tuesday June 15,2021**  
**7:00pm**

At 7:00 pm, Mayor Diaz called the Special Meeting of the Town Council to order.

The following members were present:

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

Staff Present: Mike Majher, Town Manager; Kelly Thatcher, Town Clerk; Steve Rickards, Town  
Treasurer-Remotely, Officer Chris James, Officer Jason Nauman

Guests: Mariah Smith, Dr. J. E. Carter, Minister R. Farmer, Viola and Stanley Auberry

Mayor Diaz asked if there were any comments from the Public. Dr. Carter addressed council; she is interested in using the Commons on Sundays. She would like to get different churches and religions to come together and have services there. It would be nondenominational with music and events to bring the community together. Council thought it sounded like a good idea and that Dr. Carter should contact the Town Office once she had events planned.

**ACTION AGENDA**

**3<sup>RD</sup> Reading of Amendments to Chapter 19 Article III of Town Code**

Mayor Diaz asked the Clerk to do the third reading of the Amendment by title only. The Clerk read, "An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 19 Article III of the Code of Ordinances for the Town of Stephens City, Virginia to Increase the Real Estate Tax to 0.15 Per \$100 Valuation." Vice-Mayor Fravel made the Motion to Adopt the Third reading of the Amendment. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

Bowers- Aye	L. Fravel-Aye
P. Fravel-Aye	Swygert-Smith-Aye
Stevens-Aye	

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Amendments to Chapter 9 Article II of Town Code**

Mayor Diaz asked the Clerk to do the third reading of the Amendment by title only. The Clerk read, "An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 9 Article II of the Code of Ordinances for the Town of Stephens City, Virginia to Increase the Business License Fee to \$20 Per Annum and the License Tax to 0.16

Per \$100 of Gross Receipts.” Councilman Fravel made the Motion to Adopt the third reading of the Amendment. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

Bowers- Aye	L. Fravel-Aye
P. Fravel-Aye	Swygert-Smith-Aye
Stevens-Aye	

### **3rd Reading of FYE 2022 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance**

Mayor Diaz asked the Clerk to do the third reading of the Ordinance by title only. The Clerk read, “An Ordinance to Budget and Appropriate Funds for the Town of Stephens City, Virginia for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022.” Vice-Mayor Fravel made the Motion to Adopt the third reading of the Ordinance. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

Bowers- Aye	L. Fravel-Aye
P. Fravel-Aye	Swygert-Smith-Aye
Stevens-Aye	

### **Resolution in Support of Juneteenth2021**

Mayor Diaz read the following resolution:

#### **Town of Stephens City**

#### **Resolution in Support of Juneteenth 2021**

#### **BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the Town of Stephens City Virginia supports the commemoration of Juneteenth on Saturday June 19, 2021. For more than 150 years, Juneteenth National Freedom Day continues to be the most recognized African-American holiday observance in the United States. Also known as Emancipation Day, or Emancipation Celebration, this day commemorates the day freedom was proclaimed to all slaves in the south by Union General Gordon Granger, on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, more than two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln.

Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions and countries-of-origin, share a common love and respect for freedom. They share a determination to protect their right to freedom through democratic institutions. The Town of Stephens City celebrates this unadulterated pure freedom, both by remembering its past, its mistakes, and its successes, so that every citizen may be equal under the eyes not only of the law but of their neighbor. In an imperfect world with imperfect people, the citizens of the Town of Stephens City will continue to strive in this little corner of Northwest Virginia to recognize that freedom is precious and sacred. Juneteenth remains a vitally important day to commemorate freedom in every sense of the word for all people.

Councilman Bowers made the Motion to pass the Resolution in Support of Juneteenth 2021. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

Bowers- Aye	L. Fravel-Aye
P. Fravel-Aye	Swygert-Smith-Aye
Stevens-Aye	

**Resolution of Thanks to Handley Library and Staff**

Mayor Diaz read the following Resolution:

**Resolution of Thanks to Handley Library and staff**  
**For their Support and Assistance to the NewTown Heritage Festival**  
**During the COVID pandemic**  
**From the Officials, Staff and Citizens of the Town of Stephens City**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Common Council of the Town of Stephens City hereby proclaims its **THANKS** to the Handley Regional Library Board and staff for its remarkably generous assistance to the New Town Heritage festival in 2021.

The Town, now celebrating its 263<sup>rd</sup> year, has sponsored a local festival celebrating the unique history of the Northern Shenandoah Valley and its people, places and talents. With public health and safety always at the forefront of Town actions, the 2021 festival was moved primarily to a virtual format with little advance notice and no way to produce the festival in this format.

John Huddy, the Handley Library Systems Director with his team came to the rescue. Their aspiration and dedication to sharing reaches far beyond just the sharing of books and reading. They flung open the physical and electronic doors to the community and stretched their information systems and facilities to reach Stephens City. The library's physical stage and auditorium were made available, with true combat support from the staff, to host music and presentations which were streamed and posted both through social media and the Town's website.

Without the accommodations, support and assistance of this most amazing team, the festival would have been cancelled in 2021. The collaboration by the Handley Library system with the Town was nothing short of spectacular.

The Town proclaims its sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Handley Regional Library system and directs that this Proclamation of Thanks be posted to the Town and New Town Heritage Festival websites.

Vice-Mayor Fravel made the Motion to pass the Resolution of Thanks to the Handley Library and staff. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

Bowers- Aye	L. Fravel-Aye
P. Fravel-Aye	Swygert-Smith-Aye
Stevens-Aye	

**Motion to Delay Tax Due Date from July 5 to August 9**

Councilman Bowers made the Motion to delay tax due date to August 9<sup>th</sup>. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

Bowers- Aye	L. Fravel-Aye
P. Fravel-Aye	Swygert-Smith-Aye
Stevens-Aye	

**Motion to Authorize Repair of AC Unit for Town Office**

Town Manager Mike Majher informed Council that the AC unit had died, three companies had been contacted for estimates After multiple attempts to get the estimates Furlongs was the only one that sent theirs in. The cost of a new unit will be \$9,900. Mr. Majher would like the Council to authorize the new unit.

Councilman Fravel made the Motion to purchase the new AC unit. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

Bowers- Aye	L. Fravel-Aye
P. Fravel-Aye	Swygert-Smith-Aye
Stevens-Aye	

**Interim Appointment to Fill Vacancy on Council**

Town Manager Mike Majher informed Council that there had been a few people interested in filling the seat vacated by Julia Young, only one of those candidates fulfilled all the requirements. Mr. Majher recommended that the Vacancy be filled by Mariah Smith.

Councilman Bowers made the Motion to Appoint Mariah Smith to the Vacancy on Council. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

Bowers- Aye	L. Fravel-Aye
P. Fravel-Aye	Swygert-Smith-Aye
Stevens-Aye	

Mayor Diaz asked if there were any other matters that needed to be discussed.

There being no more business, Councilman Fravel made a Motion to adjourn at 6:25 pm and the Motion carried unanimously.

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Michael Diaz, Mayor

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Kelly Thatcher, Town Clerk