

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE STEPHENS CITY TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2022
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:

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

Staff present:

Mike Majher, Town Manager; Kelly Thatcher, Town Clerk; Steve Rickards, Town Treasurer; Dave Griffin, Town Attorney Timothy Vaught, Fire Chief

Guests:

Adam Packham, Winchester; Eileen & Jeff Miller, Purcellville; Brian Woodruff, Decatur Circle

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Diaz asked if anyone from the public had comments. Adam Packham from Heroes on the River came to speak to Council. He would love to work with the Town on getting banners for Main Street. He is proposing a project that includes Winchester, Stephens City, Middletown and Strausburg. The banners would be veterans that live in those towns. He will get together with Councilors Smith and Stevens. Adam also wanted to let Council know that on September 5th at 8 am, Heroes on the River would be having their 5k here in town, starting and ending at the Commons.

Eileen Miller, owner of Black Shutter West, came to the meeting to invite Council and the Citizens of Stephens City to the Grand Opening on August 6th at 10 am.

Brian "Woody" Woodruff of Mountain Valley Estates came to discuss water usage. He would like the Town to explore ways to adjust bills for those residents that have irrigation systems or to find some other way to mitigate the cost since that water is not going into the sewer system. He feels that they should only be charged for the water portion, not the sewer.

Town Manager Mike Majher informed Council that he would like to explore possibly putting separate meters on irrigation systems.

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 5, 2022

Vice-Mayor Fravel moved for approval of the minutes of the regular Town Council Meeting of June 7, 2022 with the addition of his comments to reserve the right of way and space for a potential round about. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT – Report attached

Town Treasurer Steve Rickards reported that the fiscal year had started out rather robustly. He stated that the new adjusted water/sewer rates would be applied to the next utility bill at the end of the month. He also stated that with Frederick Water raising their rates even with our adjustment we would be under what is needed. He also noted that it has been necessary to replace 43 meters and there would be more in the future.

POLICE REPORT – Report attached

Chief Copp was not present as he and his staff were at National Night Out.

SCVFD REPORT- Report attached

Chief Vaught read his report. He stated that the call numbers are higher than normal and will continue to go up. He stated that they have been working on the many ongoing upgrades to the property. He also commented that appreciated that the Town is now including their events in the Town newsletter.

ACTION AGENDA

Public Hearing License to use ROW

Mayor Diaz opened the Public Hearing to give Torch Energy the license to use the right of ways known as Deer Lane and Turkey Lane. There being no comments from the Public, Mayor Diaz closed the Public Hearing.

Resolution of support for Ukraine

Councilwoman Stevens read and made the Motion to approve the following Resolution:

Town of Stephens City

Resolution in Support of Ukraine August 2022

WHEREAS:

The United Nations in March of this year overwhelmingly passed a resolution strongly condemning the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and demanding an ending to hostilities. Democracies worldwide that were not beholden to Russia or China have spoken and marked their words with actions to support the nation of Ukraine. Yet the slaughter of innocent people and the destruction of a nation, its schools, hospitals, industries and farms continue unabated.

WHEREAS:

The Town of Stephens City for 264 years has stood for a common love and respect for freedom and the rule of law. The citizens share a determination to protect their right to freedom through democratic institutions. Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining and strengthening peace founded upon freedom, equality, justice, and a respect for human rights, the Town looks to stand with Ukraine.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

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, and the Town proclaims it stands with Ukraine.

The Town citizens proudly built a memorial to those citizens who served in our Armed Forces and sacrificed themselves to fight for peace and freedom in two world wars and many other overseas conflicts. This recent memorial in the Town stands as a

strong reminder that freedom is not free and people wherever they may live must keep a constant watch for despots.

The Town calls upon its citizens and neighbors to work individually and collectively to press the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States to more fully open its borders to allow American charities to accept and resettle Ukrainian refugees; The Town recalls efforts of its citizens in the early 1980s that worked on a boycott of companies that did business with apartheid South Africa which spread nationwide and was a large factor in the end of apartheid — each action building upon another. The Town recalls the outpouring of support to West Germany that led to the falling of the Berlin wall, all to promote peace and prosperity across our planet; The Town calls upon its citizens and neighbors to not financially support companies that support Russia and countries that facilitate the ongoing murder of innocent people in Ukraine and to use its remarkable personal ingenuity to aid our brothers and sisters from Ukraine.

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED:

Until peace comes to Ukraine the Town will display the flag of Ukraine at rotating locations within the Town as a reminder to all that there are always despots who refuse to accept the rule of law and continue their attacks on peace loving countries and Towns such as ours. May peace be with us all someday.

The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

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

Invitation to submit town flag designs

Town Manager Mike Majher explained that the Lions Club of Stephens City would like to put up flag poles at the Commons and they would like to include a Town Flag. He stated that the Town did not have a Town Flag. He invited the residents to submit designs to the Town.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance Committee - Linden A. Fravel, Chair

No Meeting: No Comments

B. Personnel Committee - Pete Fravel, Chair

No Meeting: No Comments

C. Public Safety Committee - Ron Bowers, Chair

No Meeting: No Comments

D. Public Works Committee - Mariah Smith, Chair

No Meeting: No Comments

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

No Meeting: No Comments

F. Parks and Recreation Commission - Tina Stevens, Chair

No Meeting: No Comments

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

Meeting: Vice-Mayor Fravel made the motion to hold a Public Hearing to remove the alleyways from the site plan for the Valley Pike Subdivision. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

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

H. Newtown Heritage Festival Committee

No Meeting: No Comments

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

Councilwoman Swygert-Smith made the Motion to approve the Minutes and Reports. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

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

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Town Manager Mike Majher reported:

1. Encouraged everyone to go support our Police department by attending National Night Out.
2. The office has been quite busy with tax and utility payments coming in.
3. Delta Systems has been in town repairing and relocating sewage meters to better isolate INI sources.

CLERK'S REPORT

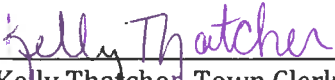
Town Clerk Kelly Thatcher reiterated what the Town Treasurer stated that the new utility rates would be on the next bill.

COUNCIL COMMENTS/CALENDAR


Mayor Diaz suggested that Ordinance and Public Works have a joint meeting to discuss the water/sewer usage issue. This was suggested because if any action is taken it will mean an ordinance change.

Mayor Diaz asked if there were any comments or if there were any changes to the calendar. There were no comments or adjustments.

There being no further business, Vice-Mayor Fravel made a motion to adjourn at 6:48 pm and the motion carried unanimously.



Kelly Thatcher, Town Clerk



Michael A. Diaz, Mayor