

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE STEPHENS CITY TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, September 4, 2018
7:00 PM**

Mayor Grim called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Boy Scout Troop 15, offered the invocation.

Roll was called with the following members present:

Mayor Mike Grim, Vice Mayor Ronald Bowers, Councilman Linden Fravel Jr., Councilman Joseph Hollis, Councilman Jason Nauman, Councilwoman Regina Swygert- Smith, Councilwoman Kelly Thatcher

Absent: None

Staff present: Michael Majher, Town Manager; Steve Rickards, Town Treasurer; Charles Bockey Jr., Chief of Police; Michele Stone, Town Clerk

Absent: J. David Griffin, Town Attorney

Guests: Michael Diaz 5207 Pan Tops Road Stephens City VA, Jim Vogt 5295 Barley Drive Stephens City VA, Josh Janney; Winchester Star, Dee Williams 5336 Water Street Stephens City VA

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Grim asked if anyone in the public had any comments. Mrs. Dee Williams from Water Street commented that she had recently visited the Town of Strasburg who had done some improvements to beautify their main street through town and would like for the Town of Stephens City to do the same as well. Dee asked Council to consider a work group that would be responsible for the Stephens City Main Street beautification project which she volunteered to head. Council commented that the idea is a very good one and that this will go to the Public Works Committee for consideration. Mr. Jim Vogt from Barley Drive addressed Council. Mr. Vogt is the Assistant Scout Master for Troop fifteen, Mr. Vogt stated that the two Scouts accompanying him, Ethan and Elijah Gordon, are currently working on a project for their citizenship merit badges and would like to interview members of the Town Council after the meeting.

MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 7, 2018

Councilman Hollis moved for approval of the minutes of the regular Town Council meeting of August 7, 2018, the Motion carried with the following Recorded VOTE:

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

Nay - None

Abstain - None

Absent – None

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Steve Rickards reported that currently the accumulative collection rate for Real estate taxes stands at ninety seven point four zero percent. Property collection rates stand at eighty one point four nine percent which is the highest it has ever been.

POLICE REPORT – Charles Bockey, Jr., Chief of Police

Police Chief Charles Bockey reported that last month in August, the Middletown, Lord Fairfax and Stephens City Police Departments hosted a National Night Out event at the Lord Fairfax College Campus and was a great success considering it was the first year they have hosted the event. As part of the National Night Out attractions, present at the event were, Frederick County k-9 division, a medical helicopter, VDOT, and the Virginia State Police. Sargent Baber has gotten his new Police vehicle. The Police Department received a three thousand six hundred dollar DMV grant.

SCVFD REPORT- John Jones, Fire Chief

Fire Chief John Jones did not have a report typed up due to extreme call volume, but did comment that the house fire in Frederick County was the second time the house had caught fire.

ACTION AGENDA

Public Hearing to Amend Chapter 22 of the Town Code of Stephens City to Reflect the Approved Utility Rate Increase

Mayor Grim opened the Public Hearing at 7:14 pm for public comment on the matter, there was no comment. Mayor Grim closed the Public Hearing. Councilman Nauman made a Motion to approve the Amended Ordinance for the amended rate structure. Mayor Grim asked the Clerk to read the Ordinance by title only for the first reading and the Clerk read "Ordinance to amend Chapter twenty two of the Code of the Town of Stephens City Section 22-101 schedule for in town water and sewer rates Section 22-102 minimum in town rates. Councilman Fravel made a Motion to approve the first reading and the Motion passed with the following recorded VOTE:

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

Nay- None

Abstain- None

Absent- None

Mayor Grim asked the Clerk to read the Ordinance by title only for the second reading and the Clerk read "Ordinance to amend Chapter twenty two of the Code of the Town of Stephens City Section 22-101 schedule for in Town water and sewer rates Section 22-102 minimum in town rates.

Councilwoman Swygert- Smith made a Motion to approve the second reading and the Motion passed with the following recorded VOTE:

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

Nay- None

Abstain- None

Absent- None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance Committee – Joseph Hollis, Chair

No Meeting: Chairman Hollis made a Motion to put reallocate the surplus funds from the Heritage Festival back into the Heritage Festival account so that it could be used toward future Festivals. And the Motion carried with the following recorded VOTE:

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

Nay- None

Abstain- None

Absent- None

Chairman Hollis Made a Motion to approve the Annual Appropriation Accounts to separate General Funds and Utility Funds so that all money is allocated to the appropriate funds. The Motion carried with the following recorded VOTE:

Aye- Bowers, Fravel, Hollis, Nauman, Swygert- Smith
Nay- None
Abstain- None
Absent- None

B. Personnel Committee –Kelly Thatcher, Chair

No Meeting: No Comments

C. Public Safety Committee – Ronald Bowers, Chair

Meeting: Minutes Attached- No Comments

D. Public Works Committee – Regina Swygert-Smith Chair

Meeting: Minutes Attached- Chairwoman Swygert- Smith commented there was nothing to add.

E. Water /Sewer Committee - Jason Nauman, Chair

Meeting: Minutes- Chairman Nauman commented that the Town had entered negotiations with Frederick Water.

F. Parks and Recreation Commission- Ronald Bowers, Chair

No Meeting: No Comment

G. Newtown Heritage Festival

Meeting: Adrian O'Connor from the Festival Committee was present to report that the Festival Finance Committee is very pleased that the surplus funds from the 2018 Festival will be reallocated to go back to the Festival Committee. Adrian reported that the Festival Committee will now be able to pay for an entertainment

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

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

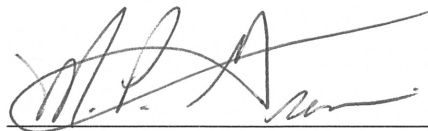
TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

1. Public Works will be conducting smoke testing once rain stops and soil is less saturated.
2. The Town was awarded the litter grant for the current fiscal year.
3. Water bills will be mailed out this week with the new rates in effect.
4. The Police Department firing range is almost completed just waiting for the ground to dry out.
5. Office staff have been busy working to supply documents related to litigation.

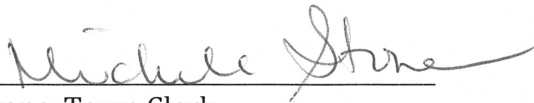
COUNCIL COMMENTS/CALENDAR

Mayor Grim asked if there were any adjustments to the calendar or Council Comments.
Vice Mayor Bowers moved the Parks and Recreation meeting from Wednesday September 5, to Thursday September 13, 2018.

There being no further business, Councilman Fravel Made a Motion to adjourn at 7:25 pm and the Motion carried unanimously.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. P. Grim", written over a horizontal line.

Michael P. Grim, Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Stone", written over a horizontal line.

Michele Stone, Town Clerk