

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE STEPHENS CITY TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 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:

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

Staff present: Mike Majher, Town Manager; Kelly Thatcher, Town Clerk; Dave Griffin, Town Attorney; Steve Rickards, Town Treasurer

Guests: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

Councilwoman Swygert-Smith moved for approval of the minutes of the regular Town Council Meeting for September 7, 2021. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT – Report attached

Town Treasurer Steve Rickards reported that the Town had an outstanding month ending with a strong net positive. The first quarter of the fiscal year outperformed by over \$300,000.00. This was due to the amount of Tap Fees that keep rolling in. Due to internet issues the late notices were a day late going out. The second half tax bills will be going out next week.

POLICE REPORT – Report attached

Chief Copp was out on a call and was not in attendance at the meeting.

SCVFD REPORT- Report attached

Chief Vaught was not in attendance. Mayor Diaz wanted to remind everyone that it was Fire Prevention Week and that the Fire Station would be having a Breakfast/Open House this coming Saturday the 9th. The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week is "Learn the Sounds of Safety".

ACTION AGENDA

Appointment of Stephen Happek to Planning Commission

Vice-Mayor Fravel informed Council that Stephen Happek was interested in being appointed to the Planning Commission. Stephen Happek had served on the Commission before and Vice-Mayor Fravel stated that he

had been an asset. Vice-Mayor Fravel then made the Motion to appoint Stephen Happek to the Planning Commission. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

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

Resolution of support for "I'm Just Me Movement"

Councilwoman and Founder of the "I'm Just Me Movement", Tina Stevens read the following resolution.

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF STEPHENS CITY
Recognizing October 2021 as the
"I'M JUST ME BECAUSE" MONTH**

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Tina Stevens in 2013 began a movement to assist and support a college opportunity for a challenged young man whose family was going through hard times. This movement impacted their family and their community in unexpected ways. As their outreach of inclusion grew, the movement became a nation-wide non-profit organization in 2015 with a mission of spreading positive acceptance of others and breaking down stereotypes. The organization works to encourage a celebration of the rich scopes of diversity contained within each individual through acceptance and respect for one another.

WHEREAS, because the "I'm Just Me" Movement works to spread understanding of others and healing, the organization began an initiative known as "Live Life Forward" with a goal of breaking down stereotypes; and

WHEREAS, through the Live Life Forward Initiative and related workshops, mentoring programs, and presentations at schools and businesses, the "I'm Just Me" Movement speaks out to advocate for inclusion and diversity and to raise awareness about bullying and self-esteem issues in order to positively impact youth, families and communities and to guide, teach, train, and mentor them for a better future; and

WHEREAS, the "I'm Just Me" movement works to remind everyone that the concept of diversity encompasses civility, acceptance, mutual respect, and understanding that each individual is unique; and

WHEREAS, during the month of October, the "I'm Just Me Because" movement is focusing on promoting individual development, creating environments that break down stereotypes, and embracing individuality by recognizing the diversity around us and moving beyond simple tolerance to celebrating all of humanity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Stephens City proclaims the month of October 2021 as "I'M JUST ME BECAUSE" month and encourages all citizens to express their individuality and embrace the positive aspects of who they really are.

Councilwoman Swygert-Smith made the Motion to pass the Resolution to recognize October 2021 as the "I'm Just Me Month". The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

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

1st & 2nd Reading ordinance to amend Ch. 13 Nuisances

Mayor Diaz asked the Town Clerk to read the ordinance by title only. The Town Clerk read, "An Ordinance to amend and revise chapter 13, nuisances of the town of Stephens City Virginia to further regulate invasive species as outlined by the Virginia General Assembly". Vice-Mayor Fravel pointed out that in Sec. 13-26 (b) there was a random south that needed to be deleted. He then made the Motion to adopt the 1st & 2nd Readings with the corrections stated. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

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

1st & 2nd Reading ordinance to amend Ch. 19 Sec. 5 Taxation and Finance

Mayor Diaz asked the Town Clerk to read the ordinance by title only. The Town Clerk read, "An ordinance to relocate fees for passing bad checks and increasing penalty to \$50." Vice-Mayor Fravel made the Motion to adopt the 1st & 2nd Readings. The Motion carried with the following VOTE:

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

Public Hearing on ordinance to amend Ch. 17 Sec. 15 Streets

Mayor Diaz opened the Public Hearing to amend Chapter 17. There were no comments from the Public. Mayor Diaz closed the Public Hearing.

Schedule Public Hearing on ordinance amend Ch. 23 Sec. 4 Zoning

The Public Hearing was scheduled for the next regularly scheduled Council meeting on November 9, 2021 at 6:00pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance Committee – Linden A. Fravel, Chair

Meeting: Councilman Fravel let Council know that Finance had approved raising the limit on Rich's credit card and also on the police officer's cards.

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

Meeting: Councilwoman Smith thanked Mike Majher, Dave Griffin and Mike Diaz for meeting with her to get her up to speed on things she would need to know as the Public Works Chair.

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

No Meeting: No Comments

F. Parks and Recreation Commission- Tina Stevens, Chair

Meeting: Councilwoman Stevens wanted to thank everyone that helped to make the Sherando Homecoming Parade a hit. Councilwoman Swygert-Smith voiced her concern that the Mascot had painted his face red and felt that it was offensive. She suggested that we inform them of our concerns.

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

No Meeting: Vice-Mayor Fravel

H. Newtown Heritage Festival Committee

Meeting: Mayor Diaz stated that they are quite busy planning next year's festival.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

Councilwoman Swygert-Smith made a Motion to approve the committee minutes. The minutes were approved with the following VOTE:

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

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Town Manager Mike Majher reported:

1. A Thank you card was sent Margel Hawkins to the Town thanking everyone especially Rich Runion for the repairs to the fence on Bel Air.
2. That he and the mayor had attended the VML conference.
3. Water bills are due.
4. Leaf collection will start the first Monday in November and will be each Monday of the month.
5. A big Thank You to the Police Department, VDOT and the many volunteers that made the parade a success.
6. Public Works has a new F150 Hybrid truck. The old truck was 12 years old.
7. Movies on Main did quite well.
8. A new trash can will be purchased thanks to the DEQ litter grant.
9. The week of the 25th the new traffic camera will be installed.
10. We are going to try to get Stephens City involved in a community bus service.
11. Since Estep Road is our road, it is suggested that there be a speed limit sign. Vice-Mayor Fravel made the motion to put a 15mph sign on Estep Road. The Motion passed with the following VOTE:

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS/CALENDAR

Mayor Diaz asked if there were any comments from Council or changes to the calendar. Councilwoman Smith reminded Council that applications are still being taken for the EDA.

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



Kelly Thatcher, Town Clerk



Michael A. Diaz, Mayor