

Special Town Council Draft Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

5:00 p.m.

Town Hall - 104 N. King Street

Present: Mayor Jim Auxer, Lori Robertson (Recorder), Leah Rampy, Chris Stroeck, Marty Amerikaner, and Jenny Haynes.

Absent: Cheryl Roberts

Staff: Town Clerk Amy Boyd, Town Administrator Stephanie Grove, and Chief of Police Mike King

Visitors: Diane Niedzialkowski, Chazz Printz, Deb Tucker, Phil and Charlotte Baker Shenk, Linda Spatig, Gail and Dave McMillian, and Steve Pearson.

Agenda:

1. Call meeting to order

Call the meeting to order by Mayor Auxer at 5:01 p.m

2. Market House Renovation Contract - Discussion/Action

Chazz has reviewed the contract.

L. Robertson - move to approve to have Mayor Auxer sign the contract and move forward with the renovations. Second by J. Haynes. No objections noted.

3. Proposal of “An Ordinance To Enact Chapter 8, Title 8 Of The Code Of Shepherdstown As The Special Events Ordinance” - Discussion/Action

M. Amerikaner - in regards to Spontaneous Events - political rallies, etc., the 48 hours advance notice, can they still do it without the 48 hour notice? Sometimes rallies can pop up quickly. How much judgement is given to the police department?

Chazz - the purpose behind this is to give the Shepherdstown Police Department (SPD), residents, and businesses an awareness of what is going on in town. The SPD needs some advance notice in case they need to have any extra staff - this notice gives protection to the town. As long as the event is peaceful, there are always exceptions.

L. Robertson - we have seen over the years spontaneous events with only a few hours' notice like vigils.

Chazz - that's ok, just let the SPD know.

L. Rampy - questioned the Spontaneous Public Event 8-801 s regarding the 5-days notice. Chazz mentioned again that the effort has to be made to let the SPD know allowing that there will be exceptions.

Chief King - there was a rewording of the fee schedule to allow a re-evaluation each year for costs that are subject to change.

M. Amerikaner - move to approve to the the Special Events Ordinance to Council for the First Reading next week. Second by J. Haynes. No objections noted.

4. Jay Hurley Last Will and Devise to the Town - executive session to discuss and to confer with legal counsel - Discussion/Action

D. Niedzialkowski - spoke to use - would like to see it used as a park for adults or a meditative setting. Maybe remember Jay with some kind of sculpture.

P. Baker-Shank - to be creative with the space - move cautiously. He has heard many ideas and concerns regarding the use. He urges creative collaboration with Genevieve to reserve low-income housing with a park setting.

Chazz - feels like the discussion can happen without going into executive session.

Mayor - there are some options - we can move forward as it's presented and entertain a motion to accept it at the next council meeting on Tuesday.

Chazz - if council moves forward, there will be time to have for the two required readings before the deadline. The question is do you want to use the land as a park after 2 years? Remember, the current residents stay there for 2 years if you accept.

D. Tucker - has heard that we should reject it, buy it, and turn it into a parking lot.

M. Amerikaner - if we accept, do we accept it as a park?

Chazz - yes, as the Will stipulates. The only way to not do it as a park is if the 4 primary beneficiaries decided to make those changes. We would at least have to proceed with a first reading. The town would become landlords for 2 years if we accept.

M. Amerikaner - Genevieve has an idea that we leave one trailer on the land.

L. Rampy - I'm hearing here that we need to get the process started.

Mayor - Genevieve is starting the survey process and has a google map.

C. Stroeck - if all 4 primary beneficiaries agree, can we extend the time for us to accept to get more public input? He has concerns with the displacement of those living there. Can we extend the 2 years to 3 years?

Chazz - yes, potentially. We have to accept the terms of the Will and then negotiate around it.

C. Stroeck - or we can get a quick answer to extend to 3 years.

Chazz - we want to make sure the four primary beneficiaries are in agreement with any extensions. An extension has to have a good reason to get good input on how to use the land and the costs involved.

P. Baker-Shenk - we need to have a conversation with Frank (Hill) to have a clear understanding of extending the housing issue. A fallback could be to reject it, then offer to buy it without the strings attached to it.

D. Tucker - hope it's advertised with an open meeting for input for the public to comment. Maybe put a home on non-conveyed land to meet Jay's wishes.

Mayor - the plan is to put this on Tuesday's agenda where we will vote to move forward with the first reading.

C. Stroeck - move the Hurley Devises be placed on Tuesday's (March 12, 2024) council meeting agenda for discussion/action on accepting the Devises and authorize the preparation of an ordinance. Second by L. Robertson. No objections

5. Adjournment

M. Amerikaner – move to adjourn at 5:54 p.m. Second by L. Rumpy. No objections noted.

Draft Minutes respectfully submitted by L. Robertson, Recorder for the Corporation of Shepherdstown.