

## **Special Town Council Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 29, 2025**

**6:30pm**

**Town Hall (and on Zoom)**

**1. Call to Order: 6:35pm**

Council member attendees: Mayor Gatz, Marty Amerikaner, Shannon Thomas, Linus Bicker, Cheryl Roberts, Marcy Bartlett

Staff: Gino Sisco

Visitors: Jim Auxer, Nancy Stewart, Mark Kohut, Greg Welter, Carrie Blessing

Zoom attendees: Harriet Pearson, Chris Stroeck,

**2. Selection of New Town Council Members for Vacancy- Remainder of term**

a. Community Members Questions for Candidates- there were none sent in via email. Jim Auxer asked one question for candidates to answer.

b. Council Member Questions for Candidates: Mayor Gatz requested that Council members ask no more than 2 questions. Each candidate (Carrie Blessing, Nancy Stewart, Greg Welter) had an opportunity to reply to each question asked by TC members.

c. Council Discussion and Vote:

i. Marty moved and Marcy seconded that we move into Executive Session for the discussion. Mayor Gatz clarified that under WV Code 6-9A-4(b)(2)(A), such a deliberation is an appropriate exception to the Open Meetings Act. The Vote was unanimously in favor. We entered Executive Session at 7:45 and exited at 8:05 (Cheryl moved, Shannon seconded)

ii. The vote of Council was conducted as follows:

1. Marcy moved and Cheryl seconded the motion to conduct a vote of TC members to select a candidate to fill the open, unexpired TC term. Vote to proceed was unanimous.

2. Each TC member announced her/his vote. The votes were as follows:

a. For Carrie Blessing: (4) Cheryl Roberts, Linus Bicker, Shannon Thomas, Marcy Bartlett

b. For Nancy Stewart: (2) James Gatz, Marty Amerikaner

c. For Greg Welter: (0)

Carrie Blessing won the vote and will assume the open seat upon being sworn in.

3. Mayor's Report:

- a. Mayor Gatz noted the upcoming May 2 debut of "First Friday" events in town organized by Experience Shepherdstown.
- b. He also reported that the new Comprehensive Plan is almost ready for TC to review, and he expects that it will be on the agenda for our May meeting.
- c. Last, he asked Marty to discuss a survey form regarding resident's interest in a shuttle bus service in and around Shepherdstown. Marty noted that the survey form grew out of a collaboration between the Shepherd Age Friendly University committee, our Age Friendly Shepherdstown Committee and the head of the Eastern Panhandle Transportation Agency. The purpose is simply to assess area residents' interest in and likelihood of making use of a shuttle bus service to and from various places in and near town if such a service is ultimately feasible to create. To maximize access to the survey by area residents, it will be distributed via several email lists, (including the Town's) and the link will be posted on the Town's website.

4. Adjournment: 8:40 pm: Linus moved, Shannon Second