



CORPORATION OF HARPERS FERRY

Town Council

MINUTES

Special Meeting

Tuesday, 19 May 2020

5:00 p.m.

Town Hall • 1000 Washington Street, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425 • VIA ZOOM

Called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Mayor Bishop. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted through Zoom and live-streamed on social media, in compliance with the State's emergency guidance on the Open Governmental Meetings Act.

Member	Title	Status
Wayne Bishop	Mayor	Present
Kevin Carden	Recorder	Present
Barbara Humes	Councilmember	Present
Hardwick S. Johnson, Jr.	Councilmember	Present
Christian Pechuekonis	Councilmember	Present
Jay Premack	Councilmember	Present
Charlotte Thompson	Councilmember	Present

The agenda was approved as amended. Item 2 was moved ahead of item 1.

1. Task Force update, discussion, and action on path forward regarding parking, sanitation, and the limited opening of businesses in the Corporation of Harpers Ferry.

Parking was opened on Potomac Street last week. There were many visitors to the town during the weekend. Many or most visitors were not wearing masks or practicing social distancing.

Ms Humes recommended that the proposal offered by Mr Premack last week be considered (one-way traffic on High / Washington Street to allow pedestrians to use one lane as an extension of the sidewalk), which would provide more room for social distancing. There was discussion of making the sidewalk a one-way route for pedestrians, then returning downhill via the stairs. Chief Brown noted that the WV Division of Highways did not approve making Washington Street one-way.

It was observed that parking at Camp Hill and other areas may not have been properly enforced; many visitors parked in that area. Mayor Bishop said he spoke to Chief Brown, and citations were issued over the weekend for parking in areas that are still closed.

It was recommended that the Town work to coordinate with the National Park Service, which has not yet reopened its parking areas. Superintendent Brandyburg said he has just received this afternoon a document from the National Park Service regarding guidelines for reopening parks.

Mr Premack felt that it would not be appropriate to reopen the town on a large scale until guidance is received from the Jefferson County Health Department. There was a question of whether the Health Department may be able to do an on-site visit to make recommendations for the Town to follow, especially with Park restrooms still being closed.

Main motion	Motion to send an email to the National Park Service recommending that it open all parking and restrooms to visitors by 23 May 2020. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED)
Main motion by	Christian Pechuekonis
Second – main motion	Hardy Johnson
Amended motion	Motion to open the train station parking lot and restroom facilities, to be maintained by the National Park Service (striking “all parking and restrooms” from main motion). (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED)
Amended motion by	Jay Premack
Second – amended	Barbara Humes
YES – amendment	Humes, Premack, Johnson, Thompson, Pechuekonis, Carden, Bishop
NO – amendment	<i>none</i>
Result – amendment	MOTION APPROVED
Yes – main motion	Humes, Premack, Johnson, Thompson, Pechuekonis, Carden, Bishop
No – main motion	<i>none</i>
Result – main motion	MOTION APPROVED

Motion	Motion to make a statement encouraging safe social distancing and wearing of masks, given the large number of visitors from out-of-state, and inform the public that there are no public restroom facilities, with only limited parking available. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED)
Motion by	Jay Premack
Second	Charlotte Thompson
YES	Humes, Premack, Johnson, Thompson, Pechuekonis, Carden, Bishop
NO	<i>none</i>
Result	MOTION APPROVED

Motion	Motion to open parking on Washington Street, effective 23 May 2020. (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED)
Motion by	Charlotte Thompson
Second	Christian Pechuekonis
YES	Humes, Premack, Johnson, Thompson, Pechuekonis, Carden, Bishop
NO	<i>none</i>
Result	MOTION APPROVED

2. Update on Town Hall administration staffing.

The Town Clerk was off work for several days, but she has returned.

Motion to adjourn by Charlotte Thompson, second by Jay Premack. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

The above minutes are true and correct, as approved.

Mayor: _____ Date: _____

Recorder: _____ Date: _____