

MINUTES OF THE STRASBURG TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 2021, AT 7:00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE STRASBURG TOWN HALL.

Call to Order:

Mayor Boies called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance: **Council Member Massoud** led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation:

Rev. John Haynes, Pastor of Strasburg United Methodist Church, offered the invocation.

Roll Call:

ROLL Called with the following members present: Mayor Boies, Vice Mayor Cherrix and Council Members Hooser, Massoud, Monahan, Nicholson, Ricard, and Weaver. Absent: Council Member Reynolds.

Public Hearings:

Introduction and Recognition of Visitors and Guests:

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Boies said the Resolution of Unity was removed from the agenda for tonight's meeting. She thanked all in attendance and said Council will continue to work on the resolution and receive input from citizens, but Council also felt it was important for all Council Members to be present when voting on this resolution.

Staff received notice on November 4th from the Government Finance Officers Association that the Town's Annual Comprehensive Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020 qualifies for the GFOA Certificate of Achievement in Excellence for Financial Reporting. This is the highest form of achievement in governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. **Mayor Boies** thanked **Director of Finance Fletcher** for her hard work on our budget and **Council Member Nicholson** for chairing the Finance and Personnel Committee.

Veterans Day is November 11. **Mayor Boies** thanked Veterans for their service and asked all to remember them on this special day. A Veterans Day Parade will be held on Saturday; **Mayor Boies** thanked **Council Members Hooser** and **Ricard**, along with **Interim Director of Community Development Hilton** for their work in putting this parade on.

Artwork once again is hanging in the Town Office. The work displayed this month is by the art student at Strasburg High School.

Citizen Comments:

William Todd Gess, Pastor of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church: Stated he was at the meeting on behalf of the church community and the things that have taken place in the community. He knows the Council is working hard to make a change or bring about a change in the community, so it doesn't have the stereotype that it has had for so many years when it comes to hate and racism. He said that this is the reason the Unity Resolution was so important tonight and he wished it had not been removed from the agenda. When he came here two months ago and heard some comments, he was shocked by some of the things that were being said. He believes that when things are addressed, we need to be very critical on how we address them; not to be confrontational

but to be critical in what we are saying. He challenged Town Council Members to go back and listen to the meeting from two months ago as there were comments that were made, and even at one point **Mayor Boies** even said that there was something that needed to be said but would not go there now. The atmosphere was different, and Council needs to be aware of it. He prays for his congregants daily who live in the same neighborhood where there has been vandalism and for all the things that are taking place rather it be the LGBTQ community or the African American community, it is critical. He even noticed some things before this Council even took office that are appalling to him, but he has kept quiet about it. But, in his silence and not saying anything, it is really a voice of acceptance. He is here today to say that as a pastor of this community, it is not acceptable. We need to do better; our nation needs to do better, and it begins with each and every individual here; not with the other person but with yourself.

Paul Rush, 444 Branch Street, Strasburg, VA: Stated that as all of you know, my house and my family were the targets of a hate crime twice within a 60 day period. As a life-long member of this community, it was heartbreaking. When **Council Member Hooser** showed him the first resolution, he had a very strong reaction. He thanked **Council Member Monahan** who wrote it, and all others for the work they have done. He thanked community members and members of the police force for their support and for listening to him and his family.

He said he was here to tell about the after effects of this type of hate crime. While this was not violent, he has no scars on his body. He and his partner share one thing in common; they both come from conservative homes; they are both LGBT; and they both struggle with depression and suicidal ideation. "It has been a long time since it has been this dark." That kind of affect is unimaginable for someone who has never been through this.

He continued by saying he has read the new draft of the resolution that Mayor Boies sent out. He implored Council to help him carry this weight. His wife and he and the community are fighting very harshly just to survive, and he would implore all Council to support this. He knows some of the wording might be strong, but they are not asking Council to start a socialist revolution; they are not asking for anything other than Council saying, "We love and embrace and protect the human rights of every single person in this community, regardless of if we agree or disagree with them, their life choices, we are here for them and we are put here by them." He ended by thanking **Council Member Massoud** for stopping by his house and offering his condolences and sympathy.

Eric Jurek, 132 Breckenridge Court, Strasburg, VA: He is newly back in the community. He has worked and graduated from LFCC. He moved to Arlington, but moved back when his mother had pancreatic cancer to take care of her. He was a president of a 2002 national LGBT group called Pro Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians and he worked very hard for John Panning for Mayor of Washington DC with the Democratic Party. He moved here in 2011, and in 2015, his husband died and he found the most caring, generous, pro-life human uniqueness, affirming human beings out here. One of these people was Steven Kurtz of the Warren County Republican Party who helped him get his husband's things from DC and helped him deal with the death. It was the Valley that helped him get back to what Eric Jurek was before. He showed a tattoo and said he wears his Gay Pride everyday. After living in DC and Arlington, they are the stereotypical people that people would believe of the south, but they are the stereotypical because he experienced his gay bashings in DC; "down here is where the love is and we do have a constructive way we deal with things in the Valley, even if we disagree with somebody." He implored people to reach inside and continue on because we are special here in Strasburg. He told **Mr. Rush** he was very sorry for the crime that happened to him.

Sheila Rice, 278 E. King Street, Strasburg, VA: She expressed her sincere sympathy and

support for the egregious crimes committed against him and his family, not once, but twice in 60 days. She is outraged for him and will show her support by hanging a gay pride flag outside her home on King Street and she encourages others to do the same, both residences and businesses, to let people know they are safe inside these establishments and that they will not tolerate or condone acts such as these within their walls. She wants to see that there is no tolerance for hate in her community. She wants to know that people feel safe and protected. She is a Virginia native and has lived in Shenandoah County off and on here entire life.

She and her fiancé moved to Strasburg a little more than a year ago, and she has been really angry and disturbed about something since the first time they took an evening walk around the town. She didn't know what to do; should she call the police or start a Facebook group? She said you think about it at the time and then forget about it until you go on a walk again. The hate crime reiterated to her that she needed to say something about this. Not three blocks from where she lives, a house displays vitriolic statements and symbols. At 588 East King Street, the front door displays Nazi and KKK symbols. Why are they allowed to display hate symbols, anti-black, anti-Semitic, anti-LGBTQ language and symbols that are clearly visible from the street? They proudly display multiple swastikas, iron cross, SS stickers, and more. As a straight white female, she feels unsafe walking by there, especially alone or at night. Why are they allowed to display hostile and malicious things on the front of their home? Why, on two separate occasions, people were allowed to feel safe enough to defile people in their own home? Paul has commented that they have been contacted by LGBTQ groups who have said they feel unsafe, just as she is sure Mr. Rush feels unsafe. She wants to feel safe in our community and she wants others to feel safe and for support to be shown, especially to the LGBTQIA+ community as well as for people of color which is under-represented by the people attending this meeting. She appreciates the sentiment of the Resolution for Unity and the community support that has been shown, yet she would like to know what the local government, police, and other civil servants will actually be doing about this. She believes some action needs to be taken and she would like for that action to start two-fold at 588 East King Street which she said is not protected under the first amendment and secondly, finding the criminals who defaced Paul's property.

Kim Bishop, 728 Crystal Lane, Strasburg, VA: "I didn't know what I wanted to say. There are so many things going through my head that three minutes could never be enough, but then again, I believe we are so polarized as a society that it doesn't matter what anyone says. However, what I am choosing to say is that there is more harassment in this town than to just the LGBTQ community. No one cared when my political signs and landscaping got destroyed during the Obama/McCann election. No one cared that a boy got sexually molested on a school bus. No one cares that children get bullied in our schools all the time. No one cares that Shirley Maddox got harassed out of town because she dared to think for herself. No one cares that David Lassiter and Sara Davis have been the subjects of harassment for over 15 years in this town. No one cared that Hispanic families got harassed and called "those people" for daring to congregate in our Town Park or open a church downtown. No one cared about the hate spewing signs on the fence during the Trump presidency. I could go on about the harassment in town, but I'll stop now, only to say that many people are and have been treated badly here.

I know that we have hateful people in our town (I am not one of them), but I also know that we have WAY more honorable, caring, loving, and wonderful people, far more than the haters. I don't know who painted the graffiti on the house with the pride flag. I don't know that they were even from Strasburg. I don't even know that they were actually against LGBTQ people. I do know that they have started a controversy in town. I do know that we've had pride flags in this town as long as I've lived here and nothing like this has happened before, so I question the timing of it. And, I question the purpose behind it. I always try and think, 'who profits from this?'

Whoever did it, and whatever their purpose was, it has brought a resolution before Council. I have seen two of those resolutions. One about “Bleeding Purple which was inclusive and positive... and one that was called “The Resolution of Unity” which was divisive. If the Council is going to do a unifying document, I would suggest the “We Bleed Purple” one be used. And, I hope that our town does not become the epicenter of political division in the county by a small group of activists. And, by the way, I would like to say to the person who came out, it took courage, and I will be praying peace for you and this whole situation.”

Laura Cascada, representative from Northern Shenandoah Valley Unites: She said this is a social justice activist organization representing the entire Northern Shenandoah Valley region, including the Strasburg area, Front Royal, and some other towns. She said she wanted to speak and encourage Council to keep moving forward with work on this resolution. She was disappointed to see that the timeline was pushed back because she feels it is important to take action on things like this quickly. These hate crimes can escalate and get worse. Now, they are putting messages on a person’s house and that is their sanctuary; that is extremely upsetting. Hearing Paul’s words of depression and suicidal ideation is heartbreaking. Imagine if that kind of act were more violent or more damaging or the kind of devastation that this could bring to our community. She doesn’t think we are so far away from seeing those kinds of acts. In the country, last year was the deadliest year of transgender people and this year there have already been 45 deaths which includes murder, suicides, and other violent deaths. Black and brown transgender people are the most vulnerable to these kind of hate crimes. Passing a resolution such as being considered, which commits the town to fighting and being vigilant against hate crimes, not only to the LGBTQIA+ community, but to all those who experience these types of crimes and one that would protect these people from the violence and condemn it and to celebrate diversity and inclusion and insure we are protecting all the town’s residents is needed. She encouraged all to keep moving forward with this.

Rev. Todd Gess lead all in prayer.

Action Items:

1.) Approval of Minutes: October 12th, 2021, Town Council Regular Meeting
The minutes of the October 12th, 2021, Regular Council Meeting were approved as presented.

2.) Nonexclusive Franchise Agreement to Comcast_

Description: Consideration of a request regarding a franchise agreement with Comcast.

Town Manager Coggsdale said a public hearing was held at the November 1, 2021 Work Session; no one addressed Council at the hearing. The agreement would authorize Comcast to construct and operate a cable system in the public ways within the town. The agreement would be for a period of 10 years from the effective date of the franchise.

Council Member Massoud moved the Strasburg Town Council accept staff’s recommendation and approve the Nonexclusive Franchise Agreement for Comcast as presented and adopt the uncoded ordinance related to the franchise agreement; second by Council Member Nicholson.

Discussion:

Council Member Massoud said this is a fascinating turn of events for him. When he lived in Arlington, people talked about exclusive franchise agreements and why we couldn’t have

competition. If people in the city could see what this town is doing, about 80 percent of those in Arlington County would be jealous. He could not over-emphasize how happy this makes him.

With no other discussion, the motion passed on a roll call vote with the following results:

Vice Mayor Cherrix	Yea
Council Member Hooser	Yea
Council Member Massoud	Yea
Council Member Monahan	Yea
Council Member Nicholson	Yea
Council Member Reynolds	Absent
Council Member Ricard	Yea
Council Member Weaver	Yea

3.) Amendment to Strasburg Town Code, Chapter 78, Article VII – Transient Occupancy Tax

Description: Recommendation from the Finance & Personnel Committee on an amendment to the Town Code for taxes on the gross proceeds arising from short-term rental property.

Town Manager Coggsdale said a public hearing was held and no one addressed Council at that time. The amendment would allow taxation of “short term rentals” in accordance with the Transient Occupancy Tax rate.

Council Member Nicholson moved the Strasburg Town Council accept the Finance and Personnel Committee’s recommendation and approve the ordinance text amendment to Chapter 78, Article VII – Transient Occupancy Tax Section 78-256 ‘Definitions’ and Section 78-262 ‘Exemptions’ of the Town Code as presented; second by Council Member Weaver.

Discussion:

Council Member Massoud said he was talking to a Bed and Breakfast owner, and he is sympathetic to the needs that if one party pays the tax, the others should, too. **Council Member Massoud** understands but cannot support it; **Vice Mayor Cherrix** said he will be voting against this, as well. There is a lot more involved that he never got answers to so he cannot support this.

With no further discussion, the motion passed on a roll call vote with the following results:

Council Member Reynolds	Absent
Council Member Hooser	Yea
Council Member Monahan	Yea
Council Member Massoud	Nay
Council Member Ricard	Nay
Vice Mayor Cherrix	Nay
Council Member Weaver	Yea
Council Member Nicholson	Yea

4.) Strasburg Fire Department Restructuring Committee

Description: Recommendation from the Strasburg Fire Department Restructuring Committee on the dissolution of the Restructuring Committee.

Town Manager Coggsdale said Town Council appointed a Restructuring Committee in 2018 to assist the Strasburg Volunteer Fire Department. The Restructuring Committee met recently and adopted revisions to the Strasburg Volunteer Fire Department's By-Laws. The Committee has requested that the Committee be dissolved at 12 a.m. on January 1, 2022. The new SVFD Board of Directors take office on that same day.

Council Member Massoud moved that the Strasburg Town Council accept the Restructuring Committee's request and approve the dissolution of the Committee on January 1, 2022, at 12 a.m.; second by Council Member Hooser.

Discussion:

Council Member Massoud said what happened at the department several years ago was a shame and an outrage. You cannot have a town without a first class police department and a first class fire and rescue department. He thinks we are there.

With no further discussion, the motion passed on a roll call vote with the following results:

Council Member Nicholson	Yea
Council Member Weaver	Yea
Council Member Massoud	Yea
Council Member Ricard	Yea
Vice Mayor Cherrix	Yea
Council Member Hooser	Yea
Council Member Reynolds	Absent
Council Member Monahan	Yea

Town Officer Reports:

Town Manager Coggsdale: Stated he continue to work on the projects on the Project's List. He is working on an agenda for the Recreation/Parks/Trails Committee which will be meeting on November 15. Staff has completed the loan documents for the VRA financing.

Clerk of Council Keller: Reminded all of the COIA Training which must be completed by December 31, 2021. She also recognized **Planning and Zoning Administrator Lee Pambid** as a Veteran of the Marine Corps and thanked him for his service.

Director of Finance Fletcher: Reported the auditors wrapped up their final fieldwork visit this week and their audit presentation is planned for January. Staff is busy working with the audit team to prepare and distribute the FY21 Annual Financial Report by year-end.

Second-half tax bills were sent out on November 1 and they are due on Monday December 6th since the 5th is a Sunday. The Evergreen Compensation/Benefit Study is well underway and it is hoped to have some draft reports by mid-January.

As discussed previously, the DHCD COVID 19 Municipal Utility Relief Program that was available from the state Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) is being finalized this month.

In October, staff applied for new funding offered via DHCD's COVID-19 ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Municipal Utility Assistance Program. Last week, we received a notice of award for \$35,082.22 which shall be used to directly assist residential municipal utility customers of Town of Strasburg with arrearages greater than 60 days for the time period between March 12, 2020, and August 31, 2021. There is a very limited timeframe to utilize these funds, as

they must be expended to cover such obligations no later than February 28, 2022.

Town Attorney Miller: nothing to report

Planning and Zoning Administrator Pambid: Thirteen zoning permits were issued during the past month with one being for a single family dwelling. The estimated monthly project costs were \$282,500 with fiscal year-to-date amounting to more than \$5.6 million.

Staff attended the Virginia Association of Zoning Officials' Fall Conference in Virginia Beach.

Staff hosted the Shenandoah 2045 comprehensive plan citizen engagement session for Districts 5 and 6 on October 26. Several issues of mutual interest were discussed in the main presentation and breakout session. A county-wide virtual meeting will be held on November 17.

No boards met in October, but the Planning Commission will be meeting on November 16. This was announced last month. The BZA and ARB will not be meeting. Two members of Boards and Commissions have term expirations at the end of the year.

Mayor Boies thanked **P&Z Administrator Pambid** for his service.

Chief Sager: The department responded to 1393 calls for service which resulted in 35 adult criminal charges, no juvenile charges, and 21 traffic violations. Four doses of Narcan were administered during the month.

It is November so officer are participating in No Shave November. **Chief Sager** said he participated in an addiction panel at Shenandoah University. Officers assisted with the Fighting for David event on October 16. National Drug Take Back was held on October 23 at the Town Hall. Officers participated in the mystery event at the Strasburg Library and also participated in the Trunk-or-Treat event at the Strasburg Christian Church. Halloween was uneventful for the department.

Council Member Massoud asked what is the legality of an out of region police officer to come into the town to make an arrest. Chief Sager stated when this could happen legally and when it should not. **Council Member Massoud** asked if something like this happened in town, and it did happen, and it is being investigated by the State Police. **Chief Sager** said **Town Manager Coggsdale** knows about this and he will keep him apprised of the situation.

Mayor Boies thanked the department for all the community work they do. Community engagement is top notch.

Interim Director of Community Development Hilton: ShenGo has had a very positive kick-off and had 454 riders during the month of October for the entire county. North ridership is doing better than the southern end.

Rev-up has wrapped up and the Strasburg funding was awarded to RetailVR.

Regarding economic development, UPS will be moving into a portion of the old LSC building before the holidays as part of a two-year lease.

The Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup Festival was a huge success. Valley Milk won the ultimate trophy. The Strasburg Police Department was given best presentation award. An ad will be going in the NVDaily thanking for all the help.

Strolling Strasburg featured "Amy's Lush and Local" and Artisan Avenue during October.

The pool has been winterized. **Park and Pool Manager Danni Leigh** will be in attendance at the Recreation/Parks/Trails Committee meeting to report on the season.

The Request for Bids for Wayfinding Signage will be issued soon.

Council Member Monahan said she really enjoyed the festival. Her son will now eat grilled cheese and tomato soup.

Council Member Hooser said he has only heard good things about ShenGo. It is a huge quality of life addition for citizens.

Mayor Boies thanked **Mr. and Mrs. Hilton** for all their help with festivals and said the Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup Festival was wonderful. **Council Member Nicholson** said in following Facebook, it is good to see how many want to come.

Council Member Massoud asked where the money goes that comes from the ticket sales. **Interim DCD Hilton** said every restaurant that does not run out of food, gets back \$500 for participating. Other money is used to off-set expenses of putting on the festival.

It was also announced that the “Mayor’s Choice” went to Strasburg Farmer’s Market. It was good to see several small businesses came together as a team.

Director of Public Works McKinley: Both the Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment Plants operated as expected. Staff has negotiated the scope of design with Pennoni for the Sandy Hook water line project. The Jalisco project is complete, and the AMI Water Meter Replacement Project procurement package is in draft form and will be issued soon. Staff attended a training in Woodstock on November 3.

Director of Public Works McKinley reported that a sink hole opened up on Thompson Street due to the water leak. A section of Thompson Street will have to be closed until repairs can be made.

Mayor Boies thanked the department for all their work. She noticed how the department picked up trash throughout the entire event.

Director of Public Works McKinley said with the department’s timeline for getting projects done, we have started putting up holiday decorations now to have in place by the parade.

Standing Committee Reports:

Finance and Personnel Committee: **Council Member Nicholson** said the committee will be meeting before the end of the month.

Infrastructure Committee: No report

Public Safety and Ordinance Committee: In the absence of **Chairperson Reynolds**, **Council Member Monahan** read the report.

The Public Safety and Ordinance Committee met on October 20th. All committee members were in attendance and we had an impressive amount of citizen participation during this meeting.

Chief Dan Rothstein, gave a report for the rescue squad. **Jeff Dean**, President of the rescue squad, was also in attendance. The following items were reported:

- The company ran 99 calls in September.
- The company is looking to purchase a second chase vehicle to assist with calls and to pull rescue boats.
- The company recently gained four new members.

- The company will host an EMT basics course open to the county and surrounding counties and is also partnering with Virginia State Police to recertify EMT and medic State Troopers.

Chris Ritenour reported for the Fire Department. The following items were reported:

- The fire department responded to a total of 28 calls in September. As of October 1st, the fire department had responded to 389 incidents in 2021.
- The fire department's aerial ladder truck is in need of an engine rebuild and will be out of service for the foreseeable future.
- **Mr. Ritenour** reminded council and citizens that fall is the time to check the batteries in your smoke detectors, make sure you have carbon monoxide detectors, and to have your heating systems inspected to make sure they are running safely.
- The fire department reported no new members. **Council Member Massoud** asked if the fire department had an adequate number of volunteers. **Mr. Ritenour** reported the department has 14 active volunteers with 38 members on the volunteer roster. He would love it if all 38 members were active, but the time commitment required makes volunteering too tough for most people. The department must utilize career supplementation during business hours.

The Committee made a recommendation to council to adopt amended language for code section on sidewalk and crosswalk prohibitions. The council discussed the amendment during the November 1st work session, and the first reading of the amendment will take place tonight.

Town Manager Coggsdale introduced the draft update of the Use Matrices done by the Berkley Group. Discussion on the matrices will take place at a future meeting. During the discussion of this item, he recommended the Council consider replacing the UDO. The committee recommended staff prepare to continue the discussion of replacing the UDO at the next Council Work Session, and Council took up the discussion at the November 1st work session.

Town Manager Coggsdale reported that the Council adopted a Property Maintenance Code in 2011. The code requires hiring a person to enforce the code, but the town has never done so. Staff requested direction on whether to remove the section from the code or to fund the position, adding that we could table the discussion until budget season. The committee recommended deferring the discussion to full Council to consider during the budget discussions.

The Committee reviewed the July 28th discussion on the Limit of the Number of Livestock, Animals or Fowl allowed on a property. Further discussion on this topic is planned for the next committee meeting.

The committee reviewed the discussion on the Sign Ordinance held at the July 28th committee meeting and removed the item from the project list.

Chief Sager recapped the following officer retention items:

- The Hybrid take-home car policy is still popular among officers.
- The department has started tracking monthly fuel reports. Data will be broken out from 2020 and early 2021, and the department will continue collecting this data moving forward.
- The pay and compensation study will help inform staff on what a competitive salary for our officers should be.
- The police department spacing assessment, which will help determine the amount of space our department needs for their offices and operations, is moving forward.

Council Member Hooser was in attendance and asked if the exit interviews conducted for the police department identified any trends. **Town Manager Coggsdale** said exit interviews from all departments are analyzed to try to understand why folks leave and to determine what can be done to avoid staff turnover.

Chief Sager also reviewed the Urban Archery program. The committee did not recommend participating in the program and Urban Archery was removed from the projects list. To follow up on the topic, **Chief Sager** would like the committee to consider adding the prohibition of high-powered compressed air rifles to the code. More information will be presented at a later meeting.

Vice Mayor Cherrix asked why Urban Archery changed and **Chief Sager** said hunting regulations changed so that you can start hunting sooner and continue later in the season. This would be for doe. If you mirror the hunting regulations, you are able to hunt without having the urban archery regulation. You can follow the current regulations.

Vice Mayor Cherrix thought urban archery was something you could do inside town limits. **Chief Sager** said we do not have a prohibition of hunting in town except for with firearms.

Recreation/Parks/Trails Committee: **Vice Mayor Cherrix** said the committee will be meeting on November 15 to discuss the bathrooms at the park and get a report on the pool season.

Special Committee Reports:

Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission: **Council Member Weaver** said the commission did not meet.

Outreach Council: **Council Member Ricard** said the Veteran's Day Parade will be on November 13. **Council Member Hooser** said he cannot take any of the credit for the parade and added that **Council Member Ricard** and **Ms. Hilton** have worked hard on this. **Council Member Ricard** said this was about the veterans. They wanted it to be small. The last truck is for the fallen soldiers. **Poet Laureate Rich Follette** will be reading a poem written for the occasion and Strasburg High School band will be in attendance; **Rev. John Haynes** will be offering the prayer.

Vice Mayor Cherrix asked if we have talked more with the VFW and the street banners. **Mayor Boies** said she has spoken to them several times and they are very interested. We need to figure out the best direction to go with this. **Vice Mayor Cherrix** likes this idea. **Barbara Plitt** said the VFW in Edinburg was helpful with this and has lots of information on it. **Council Member Ricard** said the American Legion has ceiling tiles that show the people who have served.

Planning Commission: **P&Z Administrator Pambid** reviewed what will be on the agenda.

Old/Unfinished Business:

Town Manager Coggsdale said this is a procedural item. The Public Safety and Ordinance Committee reviewed the proposed ordinance text amendment Section 82-8 – Sidewalk and crosswalk zones where bicycles, skateboards and other devices on wheels or runners are prohibited; and recommended approval (4-0). Council reviewed this item at their November 1 Work Session and set a public hearing for Monday, December 6, 2021 at 7 p.m. Tonight will serve as the "First Reading" of the proposed ordinance text amendment. No additional action is necessary.

New Business:

Council Member Weaver announced his resignation from Town Council, effective December 31, 2021. After January 1, 2022, his primary residence will no longer be within the town limits, thereby disqualifying him from serving as a Member of Council.

Vice Mayor Cherrix said we will really need to get behind this now. **Council Member Massoud** said the last time someone resigned, seven people applied.

Town Manager Coggsdale said he was given a heads up so he looked into a few things. Basically, once there is a vacancy, Council has 45 days to fill the vacancy. We can get the process going now. If we wait until the next meeting, you have lost three weeks of the process. A deadline should be set for when people can apply. Council can either just appoint or have interviews with those who have applied. Staff would like to know if we are ready to move forward. The sooner we get it out there, the better off we are.

Vice Mayor Cherrix said the appointment is not for the rest of Council Member Weaver's term, and it is not. The person chosen will only serve until the next general election (November 2022) and then there will be a special election to fill a two-year term.

It was decided to advertise and then review the applications at the December 6th Work Session. **Council Member Nicholson** said she would like to advertise all three vacancies.

Council Member Massoud said when former **Council Member Maddox** resigned, all applicants got an oral interview with Council.

It was decided the application deadline would be December 5th.

Mayor Boies thanked **Council Member Weaver** for his service to the Town of Strasburg.

The Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be served as a drive-thru dinner on November 24th. Dinners will also be delivered to those not able to come. About 350 meals are being prepared.

Council Member Nicholson said her son broke his leg during the Central game. It is bad, but not as bad as it could have been. She thanked the fire and rescue departments for all their help. She added that she saw **Town Manager Coggsdale** at the East Rockingham game, supporting the team.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.