

**BOLIVAR
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, March 6, 2018 @ 7:30p.m.**

**Helen Dettmer, Mayor
Sarah Gordon
John Paul Heafer-Mayor Pro Tem
Stephen J. Paradis
Jerry Powell
Scott Whetsell-Absent
P. Jean Reed, Recorder**

Councilperson Scott Whetsell was not present for this meeting due to illness. Mayor Dettmer asked everyone to remember him. Mayor Dettmer asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Bolivar Town Council was called to order by Mayor Helen Dettmer on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 @7:30p.m.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurers Report for July 1, 2017-February 28, 2018 was presented by Accountant Eric Lewis. Mr. Lewis reported, to date, our total income is \$279,724 and our total expenses are \$256,025 leaving a net income of \$23,699. Our target % is 66% and we are at 63%. Mr. Lewis mentioned Gaming Income is at a surprising 68% and Video Lottery is at 126%. **Councilperson John Paul Heafer moved to approve the Treasurers report as presented. Councilpersons Sarah Gordon and Jerry Powell seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

New Business

1. Discussion and Possible Approval of Hotel Motel Tax

Mayor Dettmer asked Mr. Lewis to explain the Hotel Motel Tax

Mr. Lewis said Bolivar is the only Municipality that does not collect a Hotel Motel Tax. All areas of Jefferson County that collect this tax including Hotels, Bed & Breakfasts, AirBnB's collect 6% except Harpers Ferry and they collect 5%. These Businesses are supposed to collect this tax from the customers and remit it to the town. Mr. Lewis continued with information about the Hotel Motel Tax.

- *50% of collected Occupancy Tax is remitted to the Jefferson County Convention & Visitors Bureau for Marketing Jefferson County and its municipalities*
- *According to Chapter 7 Article 18 state code, municipality can use the other 50% of the 6% collected for projects like:*
 1. *The construction, operation or maintenance of public park*
 2. *The promotion of the arts*
 3. *Historic sites*
 4. *Beautification projects – just to name a few*

Other Advantages:

- *Bolivar Mayor (or designee) has seat on JCCVB Board of Directors*
 - *Bolivar becomes part of all JCCVB messaging, brand and marketing strategy along with the municipalities*
 - *Over the past four years, the JCCVB has spent over \$1,000,000 on advertising*
 - Annual printing of 150,000 vacation guides*
 - Hotels, Bed & Breakfasts and AirBnB's that contribute to the occupancy tax receive listing in vacation guide and website*
 - All shops and restaurants listed in vacation guide and website*
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*125,000 vacation guides inserted into Sunday Section of Washington Post
Co-Op program with WV Division of Tourism and other Panhandle counties for Station
Domination at DC Metro stop*

Over \$70,000 in digital media and social media buys

Mr. Lewis said based on the number of rooms, occupancy of these rooms per day, week, month, Bolivar could receive as much as \$17,000 to \$20,000 per year as their (3%) portion. The other (3%) goes to the JCCVB. All is collected by Bolivar.

AirBnB's need to collect this if they rent even one room more than 10 times per year. The State is working on AirBnB's.

Councilperson Sarah Gordon asked about why Bolivar has never had the Hotel Motel Tax. Mayor Dettmer said back in 2014 we chose to have 1% Sales Tax and not the Hotel Motel Tax.

Mr. Jacob Stattus said we need a trail through the National Park Service (Tattersall Property) to the Quality Motel. Lots of hikers stop at the Quality Motel.

Councilperson John Paul Heafer said several years ago we talked about a Beer, Wine & Liquor Tax. What about that?

Councilperson Steve Paradis asked about the timing of this Tax. Mr. Lewis said if we get the Ordinance ready and we have the readings and approve this, this could start in July.

Councilperson Steve Paradis said he would like to get a better sense of what we would be doing with the revenues. Mayor Dettmer said we would be in all advertising by JCCVB. Right now, we receive no advertising. Also, Mayor Dettmer said we could use this for our public park. Mr. Lewis said this would free up some of the money now being spent for the park, beautification and the arts.

Councilperson Sarah Gordon said she manages several rentals and Bed and Breakfast and does not feel this tax would hurt or deter anyone from coming here. Because of the National Park Service we are going to get that business. We are turning down at least a dozen calls because we are full. This would not hurt any rentals.

Councilperson Sarah Gordon moved to prepare a draft Ordinance for the Hotel Motel Occupancy Tax for Bolivar. Councilperson Jerry Powell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Minutes

Approval of Minutes for February 6, 2018 Regular Meeting

Recorder Reed corrected two spelling errors. **Councilperson John Paul Heafer moved to approve the February 6, 2018 Regular Minutes with Recorder Reed's two spelling corrections. Councilperson Jerry Powell seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Attendee Concerns

None

Town Attorney, Dave Hammer

Attorney Hammer said he would check with some other Municipalities on the development of the Ordinance for the Hotel Motel Tax. Attorney Hammer will also check with Charles Town about the boundary.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor set a budget workshop meeting for Wednesday, March 14 @ 7:00p.m. This meeting is open to the public but they do not have input.
 - Received from Mr. Johnson, Councilmember of Harpers Ferry, a note that he is doing well
 - Recognized Lucille Allen of Union Street and Bolivar Member to the Bolivar-Harpers Ferry Library Board. She wrote a letter to the editor about the importance of the Library and their programs.
 - Attended County Commission Meeting concerning Marc Rail Service and the fact this service may end this summer. We would like to know how many Bolivar Residents use Marc Rail Service.
 - Bolivar Farmers Market starting 4/3/18 for the third year in a row. Laura said we have 10 confirmed vendors and possibly 5 more.
 - Flip Flop Festival will hold their event on 4/28/18 in the Bolivar Children's Park. We will have 15 to 20 vendors as well as a climbing wall and food trucks
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- Harpers Ferry Half Marathon will be 5/19/18, 8:00a.m. to 11:30a.m. Katie Thompson is looking for volunteers to help with this event.

Sheriff's Department Report and Public Comment (Mr. Conway)

REPORT: There were a total of 118 recorded calls of service from February 1-February 28, 2018. The breakdown included: 72 direct patrols, 1 911 hang-up call, 1 Animal Bite Complaint, 1 Attempt to locate, 1 Fellow-up Investigations, 1 Intoxicated Driver, 2 Noise Complaints, 5 Public Service Calls, 1 Reckless Driver, 1 Suspicious Vehicle, 8 Traffic Violations, 5 Welfare Checks, 1 Alarm Call, 1 Animal Cruelty Complaint, 1 Burglary Not in Progress, 1 Destruction of Property, 5 Disturbance Calls, 1 Harassment Complaint, 4 Motor Vehicle Accidents no injury, 1 Parking Complaint, 1 Shoplifter, 1 Theft not in Progress, 1 Unconscious Person, 1 Writ Service. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office continues to provide the high quality service to Bolivar. This does not include directed patrols by Jefferson County Animal Control or Reserve Deputies. If members of the Council and Citizens have a general concern about law enforcement they are asked to call the Sheriff's Office during business hours Monday-Friday 8 AM to 5:30PM and anytime there is an emergency to call 911.

Someone asked about a man with a wheel-barrow putting his trash on other peoples trash pick-up. Sheriff's Dept. took care of this on the night shift. Also, Councilperson Sarah Gordon mentioned someone, on Taylor Street, putting spikes in their yard to keep people from driving on their yard. Mr. Conway will check with Sheriff Pete about this matter.

Street Committee (John Paul Heafer)

- We have a pot hole on Taylor Street. That belongs to the State and they will repair. We had Mr. Garza put some gravel in it until the State can get to it.
- Also, we had a fallen tree on Downing Spur. Mr. Garza took care of that.

Bolivar Planning Commission (Steve Paradis)

No News

Parks and Recreation Committee

No meeting

Old Business

1. Approval of Urban Deer Hunt

Councilperson Sarah Gordon said she talked to one person concerned because they have small children. Laura Clark talked to this person herself. The person feels better about this situation now.

Councilperson Steve Paradis said he thought the National Park Service was exploring ways to try to control the deer.

Councilperson John Paul Heafer said if the Park Service would do something, then he would be in favor of the Urban Deer Hunt. Bolivar would have to change their Ordinances concerning the deer hunt.

Councilperson Sarah Gordon would like to help folks in Bolivar receive some of the deer meat when we start the Urban Deer Hunt. This would be a good way of making use of the meat.

Councilperson Sarah Gordon moved to approve the Bolivar Urban Deer Hunt. Councilperson Steve Paradis seconded the motion. Motion passed. Councilperson John Paul Heafer voted against this motion. (4 in favor, 1 against)

New Business

2. Discussion of Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Merchants Association Donation

Mr. McGee from Harpers Ferry spoke to Mayor Dettmer and Council Members concerning three documents that advertise our towns. For advertising, Harpers Ferry will be paying \$1000 and Mr. McGee is requesting \$400 from Bolivar. **Councilperson Sarah Gordon moved to give a donation of \$400 to the Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Merchants Association to publish Bolivar Merchants/Businesses in the Appalachian Trail Alliance. Councilperson Steve Paradis seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

NOTE: The check will be made out to Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Merchants Association. The \$400 donation will be sent to Appalachian Trail Alliance for advertisement of Bolivar Merchants/Businesses. We are focusing on both towns and their activities.

3. Introduction of Sandi Marra-Representative from Bolivar to Harpers Ferry Water Commission

Sandi Marra was unable to make this meeting. Sandi Marra will be moved to the April agenda.

4. Introduction of Candidates running for office

- **Kevin Carden-Running for Jefferson County Commission (Harpers Ferry District)**

Kevin talked about Marc Rail Service and the possibility of losing this transportation service.

If Marc Rail Service leaves, CSX will never allow it to come back. Rt. 340 in 10 years will be outdated. Harpers Ferry can maybe contribute \$5000 and the State can contribute \$500,000.

Councilperson Sarah Gordon asked about bus service to Brunswick, MD for the folks that live in Bolivar.

Councilperson Steve Paradis said Jefferson County Commission is doing nothing.

- **Dave Hammer-Running for Judge representing Jefferson County and replacing Judge John Yoder who passed away.**

Mr. Hammer has served Bolivar since 2003 as their legal council

Mr. Hammer said his opponent is from Morgan County and if she wins will probably return to Morgan County to live. Mr. Hammer lives in Shepherdstown and feels we need someone right here in the County that has ties to this community.

Running for Judge, Mr. Hammer will not accept any money toward his campaign. Mr.

Hammer does not want any conflict when a person comes before him as the Judge.

Mr. Hammer wanted everyone to know the 3 County Election will take place Tuesday, May 8.

He also wanted everyone to know a Voter ID is required.

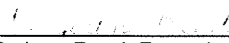
The Election for Judge is one and done.

- Kimberly Crockett and Gary Cogle were unable to attend. They will be placed on the April Agenda.

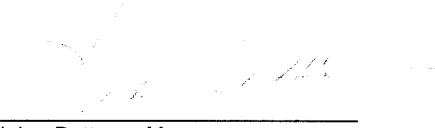
Adjournment

Councilperson John Paul Heafer moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Sarah Gordon seconded the motion. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



P. Jean Reed, Recorder



Helen Dettmer, Mayor