

1 **Minutes of the New Market**
2 **Town Council Meeting**
3 **Monday, April 18, 2016**
4 **7:30 pm**

5
6 The New Market Town Council met in the Council Chambers of the Arthur L.
7 Hildreth, Jr. Municipal Building on Monday, April 18, 2016 with the following members
8 present: Mayor Douglas Bradley, Vice-Mayor John Blosser, Peggy Harkness, Scott
9 Wymer, Gary Comer, Tim Palmer and Eddie Litten.

10
11 Town Attorney – Jason Ham
12 Town Manager – Mike Ritchie
13 Town Treasurer – Teresa Green
14 Administrative Assistant – Donna Lohr

15
16 Mayor Bradley called the meeting to order and established a quorum. The Pledge
17 of Allegiance was recited in unison.

18 Mayor Bradley welcomed all visitors and guests.

19
20 **Approval of the Agenda:**

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22 **Mr. Comer made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Palmer**
23 **seconded the motion which carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

24
25 **Consent Agenda:**

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27 **Mr. Comer moved to approve the consent agenda which included the**
28 **minutes from the March 21, 2016 Meeting of the Town Council and the Financial**
29 **Statements for March 2016. Mrs. Harkness seconded the motion which carried on a**
30 **unanimous voice vote.**

31
32 **Public Hearing:**

33
34 No public hearings scheduled.

35
36 **Citizen Comments and Petitions:**

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38 There were no citizen comments nor petitions.

39
40 **Committee Reports:**

41
42 **Finance & Personnel:** Mr. Litten stated that the Finance and Personnel
43 Committee met on Thursday, March 17th, 2016 with two members present. The meeting
44 was primarily a FY 17 budget work session. Committee members heard reports from
45 several area non-profit organizations requesting funds for FY 17. Committee members
46 discussed several line items from the budget as well as suggested a few changes. With
47 nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

48 The Finance and Personnel Committee also met on Monday, April 4, 2016 with
49 all members present. A motion was made to send the second draft of FY 17 to full

50 Council for the April meeting. The Committee then went into Closed Session. After
51 coming out of Closed Session, Mrs. Harkness made a motion that Town Manager, Mike
52 Ritchie, receive a 3% raise for the upcoming year. The motion was seconded and passed
53 on a unanimous voice vote of the committee. With no other business to discuss the
54 meeting was adjourned.

55
56 **Public Works:** Mr. Blosser stated that the Public Works Committee met on
57 Monday, April 4th, 2016 with two members present. There was no new business on the
58 agenda. With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

59
60 **Public Safety:** Mr. Comer stated that the Public Safety Committee met on
61 Monday, April 4th, 2016 with two members present. Mr. Comer thanked Mr. Blosser for
62 chairing the committee in Mr. Comer's absence. The first item on the agenda was the
63 discussion and consideration of repealing New Market Code Section 38-21: Begging or
64 soliciting alms in public places. Following a brief discussion, Mrs. Harkness made a
65 motion, based on New Market Town Attorney's legal advice to repeal New Market Code
66 Section 38-21. The motion was seconded and passed on a unanimous vote of the two
67 members of the committee who were present. Mr. Ritchie made a brief update on the
68 New Market Fire and Rescue Department. He also reported that the Town had received
69 grant funds to install a security camera system at the New Market Pool. Under other
70 business, Chief Rinker provided a brief report on statistics and items to note for the
71 Police Department for the month of March 2016. Mr. Comer commented that he really
72 liked the report and appreciated Chief Rinker providing it. With no other business to
73 discuss the meeting was adjourned.

74
75 **Tourism, Economic Development, and Historic Preservation:** Mr. Palmer
76 stated that the Tourism, Economic Development and Historic Preservation Committee
77 met on Monday, April 4th, 2016 with all members present. The first item on the agenda
78 was an update from the Events and Marketing Director on upcoming activities planned in
79 the Town of New Market. The next item on the agenda was the discussion and
80 consideration of a request of the Rebels Fireworks Association to waive the Itinerant
81 Merchant's Fee for their event on July 3rd, 2016 as well as a few other requests presented
82 in a letter to the Committee. Mr. Litten made a motion to grant the request of the Rebels
83 Fireworks Association to waive the Itinerant Merchant's Fee for their event on July 3rd,
84 2016 and to accept the requests from the letter, but eliminating items 5 and 6 which have
85 already been resolved. The motion was seconded and passed on a unanimous voice vote
86 of the committee. Mr. Peter Hughes made a presentation to Council with a proposal to
87 offer panel discussions which would include local business owners, real estate experts,
88 builders, developers, and town leaders. Topics open for discussion would include
89 challenges impacting downtown businesses, real estate trends in the area, builder and
90 developer trends for new construction, and a review by Town leaders on what has been
91 done in recent years to address the economic climate. Committee and Council members
92 agreed that Mr. Hughes should discuss his proposal with Mr. Ritchie so that it can be put
93 on the May Committee Meeting agenda. With no other business to discuss, the meeting
94 was adjourned.

95
96 **Action Items:**

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98 The first action item was the discussion and consideration repealing New Market
99 code Section 38-21: Begging or soliciting alms in public places. Mr. Ritchie mentioned
100 that there have been some recent court cases involving panhandling ordinances. Some
101 neighboring jurisdictions have been sewed over their panhandling ordinances. Town
102 Attorney, Jason Ham, has advised that we repeal New Market Code Section 38-21 for the
103 time being. **Mr. Comer made a motion to repeal New Market Code Section 38-21:**
104 **Begging or soliciting alms in public places. Mrs. Harkness seconded the motion**
105 **which passed on the following roll call vote:**

106				
107	Mrs. Harkness	Aye	Mr. Blosser	Aye
108	Mr. Wymer	Aye	Mr. Palmer	Aye
109	Mr. Comer	Aye	Mr. Litten	Aye
110				

111 The second item on the agenda was the discussion and consideration of a request
112 from the Rebel Fireworks Association to waive the Itinerant Merchants Fee for vendors
113 during the July 3, 2016 event. Mr. Ritchie advised that there was a list of 8 items
114 included in the request, most of which had been previously agreed to by Council. The
115 waiving of the Itinerant Merchant's Fee has routinely been waived by Council for events
116 of this nature. The Tourism, Economic Development and Historic Preservation
117 Committee has recommended that Council waive this fee. **Mr. Palmer made a motion**
118 **to grant the request from the Rebel Fireworks Association to waive the Itinerant**
119 **Merchant's Fee for vendors during the July 3, 2016 event. Mr. Litten seconded the**
120 **motion which passed on the following roll call vote:**

121				
122	Mr. Litten	Aye	Mr. Comer	Aye
123	Mr. Palmer	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye
124	Mr. Blosser	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
125				

126 **Mayor's Comments:**

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128 Mayor Bradley made the following comments:

- 129 • Coffee with the Chief was a success with lots of people in attendance
- 130 • The Mayor and several council and staff members attended the Town and
131 County Dinner at The Yellow Barn in Mount Jackson. This was an
132 evening of good food, music and hospitality.
- 133 • The citizens pancake and sausage breakfast went very well. Seventy-eight
134 people attended this event.
- 135 • The Rebels for Fireworks is selling cash party tickets at this time. Anyone
136 interested should see Mr. Ken Shomo, or Kelli Penstock, or any other
137 member of the committee. Basket Bingo is the next fundraiser for this
138 group.

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140
141 **Council Comments:**

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143 Mr. Comer asked Chief Rinker if the police report provided will be a monthly
144 report. Chief Rinker advised that he hoped to provide it every month. Mr. Comer
145 commented that he thought this report was outstanding. He said that he really liked the

146 report and congratulated Chief Rinker and his entire department for doing an outstanding
147 job.

148 Mrs. Harkness commented that everyone is encouraged to visit New Market
149 Community Park and utilize the exercise equipment. The equipment is a great
150 investment for the Town. The pieces of equipment are multi-generational and are a great
151 asset to the Town Park.

152

153 **Staff Comments:**

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155 Mr. Ritchie made the following comments:

- 156 • Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Hughes have been discussing Mr. Hughes' proposal
157 and the first panel discussion will be at the Town Office in June in
158 conjunction with the committee meetings at that time. By holding the
159 panel discussions in conjunction with the committee meetings, these panel
160 discussions meet "Open Meeting" requirements. Mr. Ham advised that
161 because these meetings pertain to Town business and because more than
162 two members of Council will be present, notice needs to be provided to
163 the public regarding these meetings. Procedure must be followed
164 regarding the Freedom of Information Act. So rather than following the
165 procedures for Open Meeting requirements twice, it makes more sense to
166 piggy-back the panel discussions on the Council Meeting, or particularly
167 on the Committee Meetings.
- 168 • The public hearing for the FY '17 budget is scheduled for May 9th, 2016
- 169 • In conjunction with the Library, the Town is holding an Arbor Day
170 Celebration scheduled for Saturday, April 30th at 3:00 p.m. Mrs. Harkness
171 advised that Mr. Ritchie will be talking about the fact that New Market is
172 going to become a Tree City. Mayor Bradley will read a proclamation
173 about Arbor Day. Someone from the Park Service will talk about what
174 Arbor Day is. Mrs. Karen Whetzel will be reading The Lorax by Dr.
175 Seuss. There will be tree-shaped cookies available as refreshments. There
176 will be tree-related "give-aways" for adults and children. This is the first
177 annual Arbor Day Celebration. This event is necessary in order for the
178 Town to become a Tree City. Future grant funds may be available to the
179 Town through becoming a Tree City.
- 180 • Mr. Ritchie read an email complimenting the Town on the streetlights that
181 are in the downtown streetscape area.

182

183 **Closed Meeting:**

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185 No Closed Meetings scheduled.

186

187 **Adjournment:**

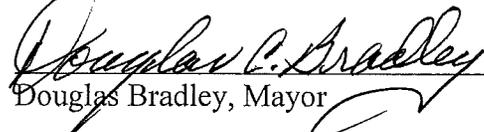
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189 **At 8:56 p.m. Mr. Comer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Palmer**
190 **seconded the motion which carried on a unanimous voice vote.**

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Douglas Bradley, Mayor

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Mike Ritchie, Town Clerk