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**Minutes of the New Market
Town Council Meeting
Monday, July 20, 2015
7:30 pm**

The New Market Town Council met in the Council Chambers of the Arthur L. Hildreth, Jr. Municipal Building on Monday, July 20, 2015 with the following members present: Mayor Douglas Bradley, Vice-Mayor John Blosser, Peggy Harkness, Scott Wymer, Gary Comer, Tim Palmer and Eddie Litten.

- Town Attorney – Jason Ham
- Town Manager – Mike Ritchie
- Town Treasurer – Teresa Green
- Administrative Assistant – Donna Lohr

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

Mayor Bradley welcomed all visitors and guests.

Approval of the Agenda:

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

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Comer moved to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from the June 15, 2015 Meeting of the Town Council, the minutes from the July 1, 2015 Special Called Meeting of the Town Council, and the Financial Statements for June 2015. Mr. Palmer seconded the motion which carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Hearing:

No public hearings scheduled.

Citizen Comments and Petitions:

Mr. David George, introduced himself and announced that he is running for Clerk of Court in Shenandoah County.

Committee Reports:

Finance & Personnel: Mr. Litten stated that the Finance & Personnel Committee met on Monday, July 6th, 2015 with all members present. There was no new business on the agenda. Under other business, Mr. Ritchie announced that the Town had received funds for the Local Government Challenge Grant in the amount of \$1,000. Ms. Clem will announce the recipients of funds from this grant in the coming weeks. With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

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Public Works: Mr. Blosser stated that the Public Works Committee met on Monday, July 6th, 2015 with two members present. There was no new business on the agenda. With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Public Safety: Mr. Comer stated that the Public Safety Committee met on Monday, July 6th, 2015 with two members present. Chairman Gary Comer was absent. Councilman John Blosser acted as chairman in Mr. Comer's absence. There was no new business on the agenda. With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Tourism, Economic Development, and Historic Preservation: Mr. Palmer stated that the Tourism, Economic Development and Historic Preservation Committee met on Monday, July 6th, 2015 with all members present. The first item on the agenda was an update on the Façade Enhancement Grant. Mr. Chad Neese advised that 2 out of 3 applicants had completed the work listed in their 2015 applications for façade enhancement grant funds. The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and the Schultz Theatre were recipients of those funds. Mr. Neese stated that the application process is now open for the 2016 façade enhancement grant. To date, the Town has received one application. The deadline for grant applications is Monday, August 3, 2015. Mr. Chad Neese also provided a website report for January – June 2015. Councilmembers discussed the possibility of offering a fireworks show in New Market in future years.

The next item on the agenda was the Events & Marketing Director's report. Ms. Clem was not present at the meeting so her report was distributed in printed form.

Under other business, Mr. Ritchie introduced two ladies from the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary who would like to raise funds for a Veterans Memorial to be placed in New Market behind the Town Office. Mrs. Driver, President of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary provided details regarding the Memorial and their plans to raise funds. With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Action Items:

The only action item was the awarding of the Virginia Commission for the Arts Local Government Challenge Grant. Ms. Brittany Clem announced that the Schultz Theatre was the recipient of funds from the Virginia Commission for the Arts Local Government Challenge Grant. Ms. Clem presented a check in the amount of \$2,000.00 to Mr. Neil Merrin, representing the Schultz Theatre. The funds are a matching fund grant, with \$1,000 coming from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and \$1,000 coming from the Town of New Market. The Schultz theatre plans to use the funds to increase advertising.

Mr. Neil Merrin thanked the Town Council for supporting the Schultz Theatre.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Bradley thanked Town staff and volunteers for their service during the Cross Roads Fest music events. He also announced the following upcoming events and dates:

- Route 11 Yard Crawl will be held on August 8, 2015

- 98 • National Night Out will be held on August 4, 2015
99 • Senior Citizens Day scheduled for August 21, 2015

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Council Comments:

Mrs. Harkness made the following comments:

- The Façade Enhancement Grant and the Local Government Challenge Grant are indicators of the Town of New Market's support of tourism, economic development and historic preservation.
- The Cross Roads Fest events have been well organized and well attended.
- Thanks to the Town staff for their partnership with the Library for the summer reading program.

Mr. Palmer encouraged everyone to attend the Schultz Theatre. He also thanked Mr. David George for attending this evening's council meeting.

Staff Comments:

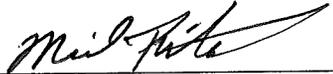
Ms. Clem provided an update on upcoming events, reported on the success of the music series events, and mentioned a conference she had recently attended regarding the Virginia Main Street Program. She also provided some statistics from the Town's Facebook page.

Closed Meeting:

There were no closed meetings held.

Adjournment:

At 7:55 p.m. Mr. Litten made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Comer seconded the motion which carried on a unanimous voice vote.


Mike Ritchie, Town Clerk


Douglas Bradley, Mayor