

1 **Minutes of the New Market**
2 **Town Council Meeting**
3 **Monday, December 21, 2015**
4 **7:30 pm**
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6 The New Market Town Council met in the Council Chambers of the Arthur L.
7 Hildreth, Jr. Municipal Building on Monday, December 21, 2015 with the following
8 members present: Mayor Douglas Bradley, Vice-Mayor John Blosser, Peggy Harkness,
9 Scott Wymer, Gary Comer and Tim Palmer. Councilman Eddie Litten was absent.

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11 Town Attorney – Jason Ham
12 Town Manager – Mike Ritchie
13 Town Treasurer – Teresa Green
14 Administrative Assistant – Donna Lohr
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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.
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20 **Approval of the Agenda:**

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22 **Mr. Comer made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs.**
23 **Harkness seconded the motion which carried unanimously on a voice vote.**
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25 **Consent Agenda:**

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27 **Mr. Comer moved to approve the consent agenda which included the**
28 **minutes from the November 16, 2015 Meeting of the Town Council and the**
29 **Financial Statements for November 2015. Mr. Palmer seconded the motion which**
30 **carried on a unanimous voice vote.**
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32 **Public Hearing:**

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34 No public hearings scheduled.
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36 **Citizen Comments and Petitions:**

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38 There were no citizen comments nor petitions.
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40 **Committee Reports:**

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42 **Finance & Personnel:** In Mr. Litten's absence, Mr. Palmer reported that the
43 Finance & Personnel Committee met on Monday, December 7th, 2015 with all members
44 present. There were no action items on the agenda for this committee so the meeting was
45 adjourned.
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47 **Public Works:** Mr. Blosser stated that the Public Works Committee met on
48 Monday, December 7th, 2015 with all members present. There was no new business on
49 the agenda and no other business to discuss, so the meeting was adjourned.

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Public Safety: Mr. Comer stated that the Public Safety Committee met on Monday, December 7th, 2015 with all members present. There was no new business on the agenda and no other business to discuss so 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, December 7th, 2015 with all members present. There was no new business on the agenda. Under other business Mr. Ritchie commented on the Town's 'Tis the Season event, progress on a Quality of Life Piece, the winners of the Christmas business window decorating contest, and Mr. Neese's work on the sign ordinance. With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Action Items:

The first action item was the discussion and consideration of authorizing the Town Manager to repay the Town of Mount Jackson for expenses incurred in the training of a police officer. Mr. Ritchie commented that the Town of New Market is currently in need of another police officer. In the past when the Town has hired a police officer, they have either hired an officer who is already certified or the Town has paid for a trainee to attend the Police Academy. The Town currently has the opportunity to hire an officer who is already certified and is currently working for the Town of Mount Jackson. This officer began his career as an auxiliary officer with the Town of New Market and in addition to working for the Town of Mount Jackson also works for New Market in a part-time capacity. Mr. Ritchie recognizes that he does not normally bring hiring matters to Council but in this instance is seeking Council approval to reimburse the Town of Mount Jackson for the remainder of this officer's training costs. The cost to the Town of New Market is \$6,619.53, which is 1/3 of the total training expense incurred by the Town of Mount Jackson. **Mr. Comer made a motion to authorize the Town Manager, upon the hiring of the new officer, to reimburse the Town of Mount Jackson \$6,619.53 for the remaining portion of the total training costs for this officer. Mr. Blosser seconded the motion which passed on the following roll call vote:**

Mrs. Harkness	Aye	Mr. Blosser	Aye
Mr. Wymer	Aye	Mr. Palmer	Aye
Mr. Comer	Aye		

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Bradley announced he had met with the Little Miss Dominion Sweetheart who is seven years old and lives in the Town of New Market, VA. Mayor Bradley wished everyone Merry Christmas. Mayor Bradley asked that each committee come up with a project to work on in 2016 and to report on their plans for this project at the January 2016 Committee meetings.

Council Comments:

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No council comments.

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Staff Comments:

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Mr. Ritchie announced that a copy of the FY 2014-2015 audit has been distributed to each Council Member for review.

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Closed Meeting:

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At 7:45 p.m., Mr. Comer made a motion to recess into Closed Session in order to consult with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by our attorney, as authorized by section 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the state code. The subject matter of the meeting is fire and rescue issues. Mr. Blosser seconded the motion which passed on the following roll call vote:

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Mr. Palmer	aye	Mr. Wymer	aye
Mr. Blosser	aye	Mrs. Harkness	aye
Mr. Comer	aye		

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At 8:18 p.m., Mr. Ritchie read the following Certification Resolution: With respect to the just-concluded closed session, and to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under The Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Town Council. Mr. Palmer made a motion to approve the Certification Resolution as read. Mr. Comer seconded the motion which passed on the following roll call vote:

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Mrs. Harkness	aye	Mr. Blosser	aye
Mr. Wymer	aye	Mr. Palmer	aye
Mr. Comer	aye		

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Mr. Comer made a motion to amend the agenda to add the discussion of a new fire chief for the Town of New Market Fire and Rescue Department. Mrs. Harkness seconded the motion which passed on the following roll call vote:

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Mr. Palmer	aye	Mr. Wymer	aye
Mr. Blosser	aye	Mrs. Harkness	aye
Mr. Comer	aye		

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Mr. Comer made a motion to appoint Shenandoah County Fire Chief, Gary Yew as the new fire chief for the Town of New Market's Fire & Rescue Department, Company 23, and that this appointment will take effect immediately. Mrs. Harkness seconded the motion which passed on the following roll call vote:

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Mrs. Harkness	aye	Mr. Blosser	aye
Mr. Wymer	aye	Mr. Palmer	aye
Mr. Comer	aye		

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147 **Adjournment:**

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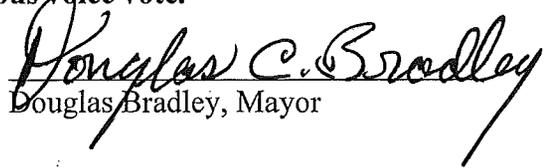
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At 8:28 p.m. Mr. Comer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Palmer seconded the motion which carried on a unanimous voice vote.



Mike Ritchie, Town Clerk



Douglas Bradley, Mayor