

**Minutes of the
New Market Town Council
Work Session
Monday, December 15th, 2025
5:30 p.m.**

The New Market Town Council met in the Council Chambers of the Arthur L. Hildreth, Jr., Municipal Building on Monday, December 15th, 2025, with the following members present: Mayor Peter Hughes, Peggy Harkness, Janice Hannah, Scott Wymer, Jon Henry and Bob King. Council member Daryl Watkins was absent.

Mayor Hughes opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and established a quorum. He asked Mr. Garrison to present the topics of discussion. Mr. Garrison stated that he would like to discuss banking, the comprehensive plan, taxes and budget items.

Mr. Garrison gave a brief overview, referencing the handout that council members received (*handout will be filed with the minutes*) of the current banking institutions that the town has accounts for, the functionality of those accounts, as well as opportunities with other programs for investment opportunities, such as the Virginia Mint program with Atlantic Union Bank. Discussion about future opportunities with Atlantic Union Bank was held, along with the process that will need to happen if they choose to work with Atlantic.

Mr. Garrison started the discussion about the comprehensive plan update project, and the work that has been done searching for a consultant group to help with this project. He gave an overview of some of the topics that staff would like to focus on, with Economic Development being a driver. Mrs. Medina presented a PowerPoint presentation that gave an overview of the reasons for needing to update and revise the current comprehensive plan. She also presented the proposed information from the consultancy firm, Engineering and Planning Resources (EPR), and gave some insight into the company and what they can offer for this process. (*presentation will be on file with minutes*) Mayor Hughes commented that he was happy to see this project being started. There was discussion about the positives of updating the comprehensive plans, inquiries about cost, community input, the steering committee, and timeline.

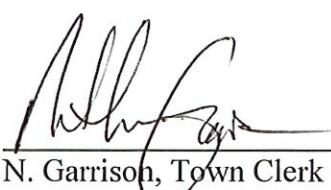
Mr. Garrison discussed the county reassessments and said that citizens will be seeing the reassessment notices for property from the county. He noted that there is a substantial increase in real estate values of an average increase of 47%. He noted that this will need to be addressed during the town's budget process, and how it could impact real estate tax for the town.

He moved on to discuss admission tax opportunities, which was inquired about by council. He explained how this tax works, and the locations that could be charged an admission fee tax. He informed council that per the attorney the Virginia Museum of the Civil War could not be taxed, as it is a state entity. Discussion about other avenues in town that could be taxed, such as sports admissions. Mr. Garrison asked the council to think about this information and let staff know how they want to proceed.

Mayor Hughes asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Hannah motioned to adjourn the work session, and Mr. Henry seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the meeting was closed at 6:24 p.m. with a unanimous voice vote of 5-0.



Mayor Peter Hughes



N. Garrison, Town Clerk