Minutes of the
New Market Town Council
Work Session
Monday, April 20th, 2026
5:30 p.m.

The New Market Town Council met in the Council Chambers of the Arthur L. Hildreth, Jr., Municipal Building on Monday, April 20th, 2026, with the following members present: Mayor Peter Hughes, Peggy Harkness, Janice Hannah, Jon Henry, Scott Wymer, Bob King, and Buz Mehardt.

Mayor Hughes opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and established a quorum of six members present.

The first item of discussion was the overview of the refuse contract and service. He explained the RFP and the bids that came in. He stated that staff recommendation was to select Waste Management. He mentioned that we have had good service and communication with Waste Management thus far.

The second item of discussion was the New Market Area Library. Mr. Garrison discussed the request for staffing assistance at the New Market Area Library, as the current director is resigning at the end of June. At previous work sessions, the council was supportive but wanted to know what some options would be. There were three options at that time. Those three being the Town hiring part-time staff, the Shenandoah County Library hiring the employee, or the Town providing the funds for the position for the New Market Area Library to hire the staff member. He gave examples of what other localities do. He stated that Shenandoah County would not be a viable option. Mr. Garrison gave an overview of how it could work with the Town hiring the position, and the responsibilities of the staff member for the New Market Area Library. Mrs. Harkness helped explain some of the responsibilities that she currently takes care of, and that the person needs to be hired before she resigns from the library on June 30th, 2026, so they can be trained. Mr. Garrison said that they would need an agreement with the library, and the job ads to be published. Discussion was held about the cost of the position and other cost such as workers' compensation.

The third item of discussion was the Town of New Market Tourism Enhancement Program in partnership with the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF). Mr. Garrison presented the draft documents for the Town of New Market Tourism Enhancement Program. This was brought up at the last work session, and Council had requested more information about how the program would operate, the requirements and fiscal responsibilities. Mr. Garrison went over the draft documents and explained the Town attorney would still need to review it. This would be a matching grant program. The Town would allocate $10,000, and SVBF would allocate the same with the donor funds for the program. Conversation was held about the details of how the funds would be awarded. Mr. Garrison explained that the Town would not give the $10,000 to SVBF immediately but would release the funds as grants are awarded and completed. Mr. Garrison stated that this would be brought to council during the regular meeting during action items.

Mr. Garrison gave an update on the Americorps position that was granted, and the possibility to rework the position to help with grants, revitalization, events and planning, instead of work on the community center. He wanted to know if the Council was still interested in funding this position. Discussion was held about the details of the position. Mr. Henry inquired if it could be approved tonight. Mr. Garrison stated that the agenda could be amended to add the action item to approve the funds for the Americorps position.

Mr. King inquired about the Assistant Town Manager position and if it was going to be filled. Mr. Garrison stated that the advertising was out and we are accepting applications. He gave an update on the timeline for the hiring process.

Mrs. Harkness motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. King seconded the motion, and with no further discussion, the motion passed with a 6-0 voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Mayor Peter Hughes

N. Garrison, Town Clerk