

1 **Minutes of the New Market**
2 **Town Council Meeting**
3 **Monday, July 17, 2023**
4 **6:30 pm**
5

6 The New Market Town Council met in the Council Chambers of the Arthur L.
7 Hildreth, Jr. Municipal Building on Monday, July 17, 2023 with the following members
8 present: Mayor Larry Bompiani, Vice-Mayor Peggy Harkness, Bob King, and Peter
9 Hughes, Scott Wymer, Daryl Watkins, and Janice Hannah.

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11 Town Attorney – Jason Ham
12 Interim Town Manager – J. Todd Walters
13 Town Treasurer – Teresa Green
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15 Mayor Bompiani called the meeting to order and established a quorum with 7
16 members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. Mayor Bompiani
17 welcomed all visitors and guests.
18

19 **Approval of the Agenda:**
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21 **Mrs. Harkness moved to approve the agenda as presented, with the following**
22 **additions: consideration of a motion to increase the Transient Occupancy Tax Rate**
23 **from 5% to 6%, to increase the Cigarette Tax from \$0.25 to \$0.30 on each package**
24 **containing 20 cigarettes, to adopt Ordinance 126 and Ordinance Increasing the Not**
25 **to Exceed Amount on Consumer Utility Taxes, and that the real estate tax rate for**
26 **2023 assessments remain the same at \$0.14 per \$100.**
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28 **Mr. King seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with**
29 **a unanimous 6-0 vote.**
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31 Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
32 Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
33 Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye

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36 **Consent Agenda:**
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38 **Mr. Hughes moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the**
39 **minutes from June 12, 2023 Special Called Meeting of the New Market Town**
40 **Council, minutes from the June 20, 2023 meeting of the New Market Town Council**
41 **and the financial statements for June 2023. Mrs. Hannah seconded the motion, with**
42 **no further discussion, the motion carried with a unanimous vote of 6-0.**
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44 Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
45 Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
46 Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye

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Public Hearing:

Mr. Hughes presented information regarding the Town’s proposed passage of an Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of New Market approving the Revised Amendment to Second Amended voluntary Settlement Agreement between the town of New Market, and Shenandoah County. Mr. Hughes presented a power point, and discussed the history of growth in the Town of New Market, statistics, the economic impact of not growing businesses, and the need for more housing. He discussed the history of the current Voluntary Settlement Agreement, and the amendments that are proposed to change the Voluntary Settlement Agreement with Shenandoah County to assist with the future growth of the Town of New Market.

Mayor Bompiani opened the public hearing at 6:50 p.m. for comments.

Mr. J.D. Stratton of Tee Court commented on the infrastructure of New Market, such as streets, and encouraged council to look at what the Town currently has and build on that.

Mr. Emmett Long of Smith Creek Road, complimented Mr. Hughes on the presentation, although he disagrees how to fix it. Mr. Long suggested that the Town incentivize businesses, and not to change the community. He encouraged the Council to communicate more with the community more to get input.

Mrs. Harkness clarified that it is still early in this process that the council has not seen a proposal for the plans for building on the land that would be annexed.

Mr. Sonny Mongold reiterated that the process is going to be long and the community needs to listen and be patient.

Mayor Bompiani commented on the communication with the public topic, and reminded citizen’s that his contact information is on the website, if they have questions. Mayor Bompiani acknowledged the topics brought up by citizens, and reminded them that his contact information is available for citizens. With no more citizen comments, Mayor Bompiani closed the hearing at 7:22 p.m.

Citizen Comments and Petitions:

Mr. Roy Muhler brought up his concerns about the stability of the I-81 bridge, as it is compromised and it needs VDOT to fix it. He asked Mr. Todd Walters if he had contacted VDOT on this matter, in which he had. Mr. Muhler inquired about short term rentals if they are being taxed the same.

Mr. Jeff Mongold, New Market Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department gave a presentation on the calls that the New Market Fire and Rescue Department have answered in June. He discussed how the department has assisted other area with calls, and the increase in membership and future growth within the department. Mr. Mongold talked about the community outreach that they have been involved in. Mr. King inquired about how many calls Rockingham County assisted with in Shenandoah County, as

98 Shenandoah County helps them. Mr. Mongold explained that the objective is to work
99 together to share resources, and help our citizens to the best of their abilities.

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104 **Committee Reports:**

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106 There were no committee reports.

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108 **Staff Reports:**

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110 **1. Public Works Department Monthly Report – Mr. J. D. Fadley**

111 Mr. Fadley gave a power point presentation summarizing the projects on which
112 his department had worked over the past month. The Public Works Department repaired a
113 couple water mains, and replaced a sewer lateral that collapsed. They sprayed all town
114 properties and sidewalks for weeds, and assisted with the Independence Day Celebration,
115 and repaired columns at the Town office. The Water Department conducted lead and
116 copper testing at 20 sites with good results and consumers were notified. A new DEQ
117 discharge permit completed and approved for the water plant. The quarterly instrument
118 calibrations done at the water plant and well sites. They also replaced and rebuilt
119 equipment for operations. A copy of Mr. Fadley’s report is on file with the minutes.

120
121 **2. Planning Department Monthly Report – J. Todd Walters**

122 Mr. Walters discussed the Planning Commission’s next meeting on August 7,
123 2023 to revisit the request for the Village at Smith Creek. He had two sign permits that he
124 approved.

125
126 **3. Public Safety Monthly Report – Chief Chris Rinker**

127 Chief Rinker gave a power point presentation highlighting the statistics for the
128 month of July 2023. Chief Rinker reported that the total calls for service for the month
129 was 339 and for the year is 2229, and community policing efforts to include the extra
130 patrols, foot patrols and Facility K9. Chief Rinker informed council of notable events
131 such as Chief Rinker presenting to a CIT group, attending the County’s event with
132 Officer Foss, and the 2023 Special Olympic Torch Run in New Market. Chief Rinker also
133 spoke to the Shenandoah County Student Leadership group at the County Office
134 Building. He updated the council on Benelli, the Facility/Service Dog’s notable events
135 such as attending the New Market Area Library’s Summer Kickoff, and the Shenandoah
136 County’s Shen. Co Summer Kick Off event. Chief presented more statistics on the
137 different type of calls the police department has been receiving. A copy of Chief Rinker’s
138 report is on file with the minutes.

139
140 **4. Events & Marketing Monthly Report – Mrs. Amber Smoot**

141 Mrs. Smoot gave a brief power point presentation highlighting events and projects
142 she is currently working on. Mrs. Smoot discussed the turnout of the Independence Day
143 Celebration and explained the reasons for the choice of date for the event. She discussed
144 other events such as Cross Roads Music Fest, Movie Nights in the Park, National Night
145 Out and the Congress Street Summer Block Party. A copy of Mrs. Smoot’s presentation
146 is on file.

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Action Items:

The first action item on the agenda was the further discussion and consideration of Resolution #250: A Resolution Regarding Meeting Times. . Mr. Walters mentioned that each year Council needs to adopt a resolution establishing the times of Council Meetings as well as what happens in the case of inclement weather on meeting days. It is required By Virginia Code that every year Council pass such a resolution.

Mr. Hughes made a motion to accept Resolution #250, as presented in the packet. Mr. Wymer seconded the motion, with no further discussion the motion passed on the following 6-0 roll call vote:

Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye

The second item on the agenda was the further discussion and consideration of Resolution #251: A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of New Market, Virginia, of the intent to issue its general obligation bond and the preparation of the documents in connection therewith. Mr. Ham confirmed this is a pretty standard for borrowing funds.

Mrs. Harkness made a motion to approve Resolution #251 as presented. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion, and with no further discussion the motion passed on the following 6-0 roll call vote:

Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye

The third item on the agenda was the further discussion and consideration of Ordinance #128: An Ordinance approving the revised amendment to second amended Voluntary Settlement Agreement between the Town of New Market and Shenandoah County. Mayor Bompiani clarified that this is just the beginning of the process. Mr. Ham commented that there is a Public Hearing on July 25, 2023 for the Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors on this topic.

Mr. King made a motion to approve Ordinance #128 as presented. Mrs. Hannah seconded the motion, with no further discussion, the motion passed on the following 6-0 roll call vote:

Mrs. Hannah	Aye	12	Mr. King	Aye
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196	Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
197	Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye

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199 The fourth item on the agenda was the further discussion and consideration of
 200 Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation’s tabled request. Mr. Walters did not
 201 have any new information in reference to the request, but did recap the request.
 202 Mr. Walters did talk to Mr. Keven Walker with the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield
 203 Foundation, and discussed the option that council brought up at the last meeting
 204 of not incorporating the building known as Doctor Stauffer’s, but agreeing to the
 205 preservation easement for the battlefield area. Mrs. Hannah inquired about the
 206 easement and preservation and stated she would not feel comfortable with making
 207 a decision without knowing what exactly they are voting on. The further
 208 discussion continued with the issues that the preservation easement may produce
 209 later in the future such as hindering owners to do renovations. Mrs. Hannah is
 210 concerned about supporting an easement that we do not have information on. Mrs.
 211 Harkness stated that she would be comfortable with agreeing to the easement for
 212 the battlefield location, but not for the property downtown New Market. Mr. King
 213 discussed the up keep of the Parsonage property that the Shenandoah Battlefields
 214 Foundation requested an easement for, and is not well kept. Mrs. Hannah stated
 215 that she believes that the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation should
 216 provide a letter of intent on the future plans, and if they continue to buy properties
 217 to put easements on, that they show what the plan for the building is and what is
 218 being done with the current properties. Mr. Wymer stated he does not agree with
 219 putting easements on property in Town as it restricts growth, and stated he did not
 220 agree with the other easements that were granted.

221

222 **Mr. Hughes made a motion to table the motion for the Shenandoah Valley**
 223 **Battlefields Foundation’s request until more information is presented. Mrs.**
 224 **Hannah seconded the motion with no further discussion the motion passed on the**
 225 **following 6-0 roll call vote:**

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228	Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
229	Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
230	Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye

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232 The fifth item on the agenda was the further discussion and consideration of the
 233 revised consulting agreement. Mayor Bompiani reiterated that this consulting
 234 agreement was for the services of Mr. J. Todd Walters.

235

236 **Mrs. Harkness made a motion to accept the consulting agreement as**
 237 **presented. Mr. King seconded the motion, with no further discussion the motion**
 238 **passed on the following 6-0 roll call vote:**

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240	Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
241	Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
242	Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye

243

244 The sixth item on the agenda was the further discussion and consideration of the
245 revised rules and regulations of the FY23-24 Façade Enhancement Grant. Mr.
246 Todd Walters refreshed the council on the rules and requirements of the Façade
247 Enhancement Grant, along with some minor changes that were discussed at the
248 council retreat work session. Mr. Walters stated that he also researched other
249 town’s façade enhancement grants, and noticed that they focus more on
250 commercial properties.

251

252 **Mrs. Harkness made a motion to approve the FY 23-24 Façade Enhancement**
253 **Grant as presented. Mrs. Hannah seconded the motion with no further discussion**
254 **the motion passed on the following 6-0 roll call vote:**

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256	Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
257	Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
258	Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye

259

260 The seventh item is the amended action item that references Town tax.

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262 Mrs. Harkness moved to increase the Transient Occupancy Tax Rate from 5% to
263 6%, to increase the Cigarette Tax from \$0.25 to \$0.30 on each package containing 20
264 cigarettes, to adopt Ordinance 126 and Ordinance Increasing the Not to Exceed Amount
265 on Consumer Utility Taxes, and that the real estate tax rate for 2023 assessments remain
266 the same at \$0.14 per \$100.

267

268 **Mrs. Hannah seconded the motion with no further discussion, passed on the**
269 **following 6-0 roll call vote:**

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271	Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
272	Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
273	Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye

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276 **Mayor’s Comments:**

277 Mayor Bompiani stated his appreciation for the Independence Day Celebration, and let
278 citizen’s know that the council is working hard behind the scenes.

279

280 **Council Comments:**

281 Mrs. Hannah stated her appreciation for staff, and for the Police Officers that attended
282 Charlie Perry’s funeral.

283 Mr. Watkins stated his appreciation to the citizens and their comments.

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285 **Staff Comments:**

286 Mr. Walters stated that there has been only one proposal for the RFP in reference to the
287 Community Center. According to DHCD we are able to negotiate with that one. Mr.
288 Walters will contact council to discuss whether they want to move ahead or redistribute
289 the RFP. Mr. Walters gave an update on the Water Tank project. The project has been
290 issued to all of the agencies involved. The County is ready to issue the approvals, and are
291 waiting on us. Once we get approval letter we can advertise for bids. For the sidewalk
292 project we are waiting for the paperwork from VDOT, and have already submitted for

293 additional funds due to inflation. The pre-applications have been submitted for the future
294 sidewalk projects.

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298 **Adjournment:**

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300 **With no further business to discuss, at 8:11 p.m. Mr. Hughes made a motion**
301 **to adjourn the meeting. Mr. King seconded the motion which carried on a**
302 **unanimous 6-0 voice vote.**


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J. Todd Walters, Town Clerk



Larry Bompiani, Mayor