

1 **Minutes of the New Market**
2 **Town Council Meeting**
3 **Monday, November 20, 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, November 20, 2023 with the following
8 members present: Mayor Larry Bompiani, Vice-Mayor Peggy Harkness, Bob King, and
9 Peter Hughes, Scott Wymer, Daryl Watkins and Janice Hannah.

10
11 Town Attorney – Jason Ham
12 Town Manager-Nathan Garrison
13 Town Treasurer – Teresa Green
14

15 Mayor Bompiani called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and established a
16 quorum with 7 members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
17 Mayor Bompiani welcomed all visitors and guests.
18

19 **Approval of the Agenda:**
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21 **Mr. Wymer moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Watkins**
22 **seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with a**
23 **unanimous 6-0 vote.**
24

25 Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
26 Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
27 Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye

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29

30 **Consent Agenda:**
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32 **Mr. Hughes moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the**
33 **minutes from the October 16th, 2023 meeting of the New Market Town Council,**
34 **October 28th, 2023 Special Called Work session of the New Market Town Council,**
35 **November 6th, 2023 Special Called Joint Public Hearing, and November 8th Special**
36 **Called Closed Session meeting of the New Market Town Council, and the Financial**
37 **Statements for October 2023. Mr. King seconded the motion, with no further**
38 **discussion, the motion carried with a unanimous vote of 6-0.**
39

40 Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
41 Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
42 Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye

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47 **Public Hearing:**

48 Mayor Bompiani opened the Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m. and reminded the citizens that
49 this public hearing's topic is on the proposed new Town charter. Mayor Bompiani asked

50 Mr. Jason Ham to explain the reason for the new Town Charter, and what the changes
51 are. Mr. Ham explained that the Town’s current charter was adopted in 1971, and it is
52 recommended for localities to update charters to include more of the state codes powers,
53 and as much as the General Assembly allows localities to have. Mr. Ham stated that the
54 change of the Town charter is in no relation to the Voluntary Settlement Agreement, and
55 does not give the Town any different or additional powers in regards to annexation. The
56 proposed new charter is modeled from neighboring localities’ charters. The proposed
57 charter, as in Exhibit A, gives the town the authority to give funds to a nonprofit that
58 benefits the community event if it is a religious entity. The proposed charter would give
59 the town authority to have electric lines buried, provisions for derelict or empty
60 buildings, the new addition of a temporary presiding officer in the case of a situation in
61 which the Mayor or Vice Mayor are unavailable to allow the Town to still function. Mr.
62 Ham stated there are other changes, but overall it is a comprehensive update to the
63 charter. He explained the next steps were for the Council to hear from citizens, and the
64 Council would have to pass a resolution to asking the General Assembly to adopt this
65 updated charter. The General Assembly would decide whether or not to grant the Town
66 the new charter. Mayor Bompiani opened the floor for citizen comments. With no citizen
67 comments, Mayor Bompiani closed the Public Hearing at 6:36 p.m.

68
69

70 **Citizen Comments and Petitions:**

71 Mr. Louis March, resident of Staunton, addressed the council on behalf of Mr. John
72 Bracken. Mr. March explained that he is active in historic preservation, and gave
73 examples of projects that we has assisted with. Mr. March spoke to his relationship with
74 Mr. Bracken, and his contributions to the Town of New Market. He spoke to the
75 accomplishments of Mr. Bracken and his museum. He talked about how this museum can
76 have a positive economic impact when it is well promoted. If they were to secure the
77 easement it would have resources from the National Park service. He explained this will
78 help with tourism. Mr. March encouraged Council to support the Department of
79 Historical Resources’ easement request.

80

81 **Committee Reports:**

82 Mr. Jeff Mongold, representative of the New Market Fire and Rescue Volunteer
83 Department, gave a report and power point presentation on the monthly call volume,
84 recruitment and retention, training, and community engagements. Mr. Mongold gave an
85 update on meetings the volunteers have attended. He explained how their budget works,
86 and how their accounts are managed. He explained how the charitable gaming governs
87 funds, and their accountant reviews accounts quarterly. Mr. Mongold’s PowerPoint
88 presentation is on file with the minutes.

89

90 **Staff Reports:**

91

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

93 Mr. Fadley gave a power point presentation summarizing the projects on which
94 his department had worked over the past month. The Public Works Department repaired a
95 2” water main at 158 Stonewall St. and fixed a sewer backups at 9298 N. Congress
96 Street, 202 E. Old Cross Road, and at 257 Shenvalee Drive. They decorated for
97 Christmas and all lights are ready to be turned on Thanksgiving night. The Water
98 Department worked on replacing metering chamber at SVA, painting fire hydrants, and

99 troubleshooting Filter #1. They are working on service line ID required by the Virginia
100 Department of Health that is to be completed by October 2024. A copy of Mr. Fadley's
101 report is on file with the minutes.

102
103 **2. Planning Department Monthly Report – Nathan Garrison**

104 Mr. Garrison reported permits for a new single family house on Pleasant View
105 and a fence 9081 Pleasant View. Mr. Garrison talked about the joint public hearing held
106 on November 6th regarding the accessory building setbacks from 10 feet to 5 feet, which
107 is on the agenda. He reminded council that there is a joint public hearing on December 4th
108 in reference to courtyard home side setbacks.

109
110 **3. Public Safety Monthly Report – Chief Chris Rinker**

111 Chief Rinker gave a power point presentation highlighting the statistics for the
112 month of October 2023. Chief Rinker reported that the total calls for service for the
113 month was 448 and for the year is 3587, and community policing efforts to include 192
114 extra patrols, 14 foot patrols and 1 Facility K9. Chief Rinker reported some notable
115 events to include trainings that the officers attended, and the community events they
116 participated in such as Trick or Treat on Congress Street. Benelli and Chief Rinker
117 completed Benelli's annual certification. A copy of Chief Rinker's report is on file with
118 the minutes. Mr. Garrison announced that Chief Rinker was awarded the Lambert Ratcliff
119 Crisis Intervention Trainer of the Year award.

120
121
122 **4. Events & Marketing Monthly Report – Ms. Savannah Frazier**

123 Ms. Savannah Frazier gave a power point presentation that highlighted the events
124 that happened over the past month. The Trick or Treat on Congress Street was well
125 attended with over 500 participants. The Meet & Greet with the Town Manager was well
126 attended. Ms. Frazier continues to work on networking and growing relationships with
127 organizations. She attended VA1 Governor's Tourism Summit. She reported that she is
128 planning on the Tis the Season events and the Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt. A copy of
129 Ms. Frazier's presentation is on file.

130
131
132 **Action Items:**

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134 The first action item was a discussion and consideration of Resolution #254 requesting a
135 new Town Charter. Mayor Bompiani read Resolution #254 in its entirety stating that the
136 resolution of the Town Council of the Town of New Market, Virginia is requesting a new
137 town charter and respectfully requests that the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of
138 Virginia to approve the new Town Charter as presented in Exhibit A, which was attached
139 with resolution.

140
141 **Mr. Hughes made a motion to adopt Resolution #254, to adopt our new town**
142 **charter. Mrs. Hannah seconded the motion, with no further discussion the**
143 **motion passed on the following 6-0 roll call vote:**

144
145 **Mrs. Hannah** **Aye** **Mr. King** **Aye**
146 **Mr. Watkins** **Aye** **Mrs. Harkness** **Aye**
147 **Mr. Hughes** **Aye** **Mr. Wymer** **Aye**

148 The second action item was the discussion and consideration of the proposed
149 text amendment to Article XIV-Supplementary Regulations, Section 70-128 (d) to
150 decrease the setbacks for accessory buildings from 10 feet to 5 feet for districts in the
151 following districts: R-1, R-2, R-2A, and R-3. Mr. Garrison gave a brief history of the
152 request, and the planning commission has recommended that council approve the text
153 amendment. Mr. Hughes asked if the original request was due to a right of way or ease of
154 access. Mr. Garrison explained it was due to a property owner wanting to place an
155 accessory building on their lot, but was unable to due to the regulations. Mrs. Hannah
156 asked if the Planning Commission had thought of any adverse effects from changing it.
157 Mr. Garrison stated that they did not, and only had one citizen contact him to inquire
158 about this change. With no further discussion, Mayor Bompiani asked for a motion.
159

160 **Mr. King made a motion to accept the text amendment as presented in the**
161 **packet. Mr. Wymer seconded the motion, with no further discussion the**
162 **motion passed on the following 6-0 roll call vote:**
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164				
165	Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
166	Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
167	Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye
168				

169 The third action item was the discussion and consideration of to send a letter of
170 support for the Department of Historical Resources for the conservation
171 easement for several parcels. Mr. Garrison explained which parcels are subject
172 to the easement, and that there is a representative that they could ask questions
173 with via phone during the meeting. Mr. Garrison noted that he did research on
174 the concern of the access to the well lot that the Town owns. He stated there is
175 already a recorded easement for access to the well lot. Mayor Bompiani
176 inquired if Mr. Garrison had done research to show that this request does fall
177 within our comprehensive plan. Mr. Garrison stated that he does and that he
178 would recommended that Council approve this request. Mr. King inquired
179 what the easement entails. Mr. Garrison explained that this would be a
180 conservation easement, but it will also engage the National Park Service which
181 can help to promote the museum. Mr. Wymer asked if the easement restricts
182 development in the future. Mr. Garrison explained that it would, however this
183 land is in the comprehensive plan is deemed protected battlefield land. Mr.
184 Hughes reiterated that he was in favor of allowing an easement for these lots
185 with the first proposal. Mr. Wymer asked what the difference would be with
186 the easement, since the land is unusable. Mrs. Hannah explained it would
187 allow for more funding, and resources.
188

189 **Mrs. Harkness made a motion to approve action item #3, as presented in**
190 **the packet. Mr. Wymer seconded the motion, with no further discussion**
191 **the motion passed on the following 6-0 roll call vote:**
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193	Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
194	Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
195	Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye
196				

197 Mayor Bompiani thanked Mr. March for being present and explained that the
198 council understands the importance of keeping the battlefield properties intact and
199 preserved. The fourth action item was the discussion and consideration of the request for
200 support for the Health Resources & Services Administration Rural Health Network
201 Development Planning Grant. Mr. Garrison explained that Mrs. Yvonne Frazier
202 approached him regarding an effort by her and her team at James Madison University to
203 acquire federal funding that will assess the southern portion of Shenandoah County's
204 healthcare and wellness needs and identify prevention and accessibility challenges for
205 them. The focus is the Mt. Jackson and New Market greater area. He explained that
206 regional partners will also be included as the focus can be outside of health care too, such
207 as transportation or child care challenges. Mrs. Frazier reported that they had received
208 this grant in Page County and organized three subcommittees developing plans for ways
209 to address community identified needs with transportation as the top priority. Mr.
210 Garrison explained the process will include community engagement and mentioned to
211 Mrs. Frazier there may be ways to work together for projects such as the community
212 center. He reported that she has asked for assistance with the grant, and he may sit on this
213 committee. Mrs. Frazier is requesting the town support for this initiative. Mr. Garrison
214 stated that there is no request for funding from the Town.

215
216 **Mr. Hughes made a motion to approve action item #4, as presented in the**
217 **packet. Mr. Wymer seconded the motion, with no further discussion the**
218 **motion passed on the following 6-0 roll call vote:**

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220	Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
221	Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
222	Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye
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224 **Mayor's Comments:**

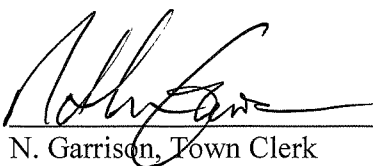
225 The Mayor thanked staff and Council for the positive momentum and working together.

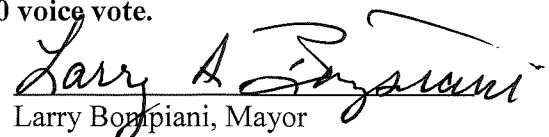
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229 **Council Comments: none**

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231 **Staff Comments: none**

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236 **Adjournment:**

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238 **With no further business to discuss, at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Wymer made a motion**
239 **to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Hannah seconded the motion, with no further**
240 **discussion the motion passed on a unanimous 6-0 voice vote.**

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245 
N. Garrison, Town Clerk


Larry Bompiani, Mayor