

1 **Minutes of the New Market**  
2 **Town Council Meeting**  
3 **Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
4 **6:30 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 Tuesday, January 16, 2024 with the following  
8 members present: Mayor Larry Bompiani, Vice-Mayor Peggy Harkness, Bob King, Peter  
9 Hughes, Scott Wymer, Daryl Watkins and Janice Hannah.

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11 Town Attorney – Jason Ham  
12 Town Manager-Nathan Garrison  
13 Town Treasurer – Teresa Green  
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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.  
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21 **Approval of the Agenda:**  
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23 **Mrs. Harkness moved to amend the agenda to include the discussion and**  
24 **consideration of Frazier & Associates New Market Community Center Feasibility**  
25 **and Architectural Study proposal. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion. Mr. Garrison**  
26 **gave a brief explanation that he had received the proposal that day, and wanted to**  
27 **be able to bring it to council for discussion tonight. With no further discussion, the**  
28 **motion carried with a unanimous 6-0 vote.**  
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30 Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
31 Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
32 Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye

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36 **Consent Agenda:**  
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38 **Mrs. Hannah moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the**  
39 **minutes from the December 18th, 2023 meeting of the New Market Town Council, ,**  
40 **and the Financial Statements for December 2023. Mr. Wymer seconded the motion,**  
41 **with no further discussion, the motion carried with a unanimous vote of 6-0.**  
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43 Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
44 Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
45 Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye

50 **Public Hearing: none**

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53 **Citizen Comments and Petitions:**

54 Mr. Bompiani announced that per the agenda there were several scheduled presentations  
55 for Council. Mr. Garrison announced that there were a couple of citizens that were present  
56 that wished to address Council. Mr. Bompiani acknowledge the additional speakers, and  
57 decided to move forth with the schedule presentations, as this information would be good  
58 for the citizens to receive. Mr. Bompiani opened the floor for Mr. Kelly from Robinson,  
59 Farmer, and Cox Associates to present his FY 23 Audit Recap.

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61 Mr. James Kelly gave a brief power point presentation highlighting some key points from  
62 the audit. Kelly reported that they issued an Unmodified Audit Opinion, which is the  
63 highest level of assurance available. In their opinion all the financial statements referred  
64 to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the  
65 governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fun of the Tow of  
66 New Market, Virginia, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial  
67 position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally  
68 accepted in the United States of America. A copy of Mr. Kelly's presentation is on file  
69 with the minutes.

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71 The Mayor opened the floor for the VDOT Traffic Study presentation, presented by  
72 Shane McCabe. Mr. McCabe explained that the Town of New Market requested that  
73 VDOT perform a study for improvements on Old Cross Roads due to potential expansion  
74 of the poultry plant, and also to evaluate the area to look at truck traffic, roadway design,  
75 and alternatives. After research, VDOT has identify seven different areas to focus on.  
76 During presentation, the research findings were presented via power point, and he  
77 explained the study locations, AM/PM peak hour movement, and crash patterns. He  
78 reported that some of the verbal feedback from locals is that the issue at the light on Rt.11  
79 Congress Street/Rt.211 Old Cross Road, is mainly due to non-local semi-truck drivers  
80 and RV drivers that are not used to this tight turn. Mr. McCabe spoke on the issues at the  
81 other identified locations that they were able to see during their research. They provided  
82 photos in the presentation. Mr. McCabe presented the potential changes that could  
83 potentially help the flow of traffic for the identified areas. One of the ideas is to have an  
84 actual truck route that is an alternative route that keeps trucks from making those hard  
85 right turns. This will help the trucks move in straight lines. Without creating a truck  
86 route, they cannot justify other changes. The next major change would be to move the  
87 stop bars back to discourage trucks making the right hand turns. The issue with this is  
88 that East Old Cross Road will not be able to handle the increase and will deteriorate  
89 faster. This means that East Old Cross Road will require upgrading. He presented the  
90 potential cost impact for this work. He stated we would possibly be able to capitalize on  
91 the repaving that is scheduled for VDOT this year. The approximate cost of the changes  
92 needing to be made would be roughly \$453,000-\$1,000,000. At the end of the  
93 presentation, Mrs. Harkness expressed her concerns about the potential decreased flow of  
94 traffic through the downtown if the traffic is rerouted, and its potential to have a negative  
95 impact on the downtown merchants and tourism. Mr. Hughes thanked the VDOT group  
96 for their research and time. Mr. Hughes explained that their earlier discussions included  
97 other route options, such as trucks must move south and inquired why those are no longer  
98 options. Mr. McCabe stated in their study they have found that the truck issue is mainly

99 and East and West issue, but New Market is situated North and South. Therefore the  
100 early discussed options would not be safe and cannot be accommodated. Mr. Hughes  
101 wanted to create clarity that their researching is suggesting that the issue is and East and  
102 West issue, which means the early discussed options are now unable to be done. The  
103 research is showing that trucks are mainly going East and West with the flow of traffic  
104 coming and going from Timberville. Mr. Hughes inquired what we could do currently to  
105 protect the buildings at the intersection at Jon Henry General Store and surrounding  
106 buildings. There weren't any suggestions for short term solutions. The recommended  
107 truck route signs aren't a guarantee, but can try it. Mr. Bompiani expressed his frustration  
108 and that he not pleased with this outcome. After several meetings and being told the  
109 earlier short term options were good, but to be told at the end it is not viable is upsetting.  
110 Mr. Brad Reed, VDOT representative, explained that the main challenge is that of the  
111 infrastructure of New Market. The earlier proposed signage and markings will be an  
112 ineffective solution. The main goal is to have an effective, reasonable option for the  
113 travelling public. They do not have capital funding to apply to infrastructure. The future  
114 would be to work with the Town on seeking funding. Mr. Bompiani again gave his  
115 frustration with the outcome, however noted his appreciation for their time on the  
116 research and looking forward to more conversations. Mrs. Harkness commented that she  
117 is disappointed that this outcome took a year to come up with, and would have  
118 appreciated some short term, midterm, long term solutions, and also be given some rough  
119 figures for budgeting purposes. A copy of the VDOT presentation is on file with the  
120 minutes.

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123 Mr. Jeff Mongold, representative for the New Market Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad  
124 Department, provided a power point presentation with an update on the past months calls,  
125 volunteer base, fundraisers, equipment update, training and community outreach. A copy  
126 of Mr. Mongold's presentation is on file with the minutes.

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130 Mr. Bompiani opened the floor for citizen comments. Mrs. Linda Caldwell, lives on S.  
131 Congress Street and owns Nifty Gifty Thrift Shop, presented her concerns about the  
132 parking issues on Congress Street. She stated that the tenants that live along Congress  
133 Street park in front of the shops, and is a deterrent for customers, and also, for shipments  
134 of gas/propane that some of the buildings need. She stated that some cars stay in the same  
135 spot for days, and that most all buildings along Congress Street have off road parking  
136 behind their homes and should be using it. She commented that she has brought this to  
137 the attention of the police department, and the ordinance states it is 2 hour parking during  
138 certain days/hours.

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141 Mr. Guy Good, business owner of 60's Auto Parts on S. Congress Street, he started with  
142 his comments on the traffic concerns and suggested there be yellow posts placed in  
143 certain areas that would keep trucks from hitting buildings. Mr. Good commented that his  
144 concern was the same as Mrs. Caldwell. He wanted to know if he would be able to block  
145 off parking spaces so he is able to park in front of his shop. He stated he has asked the  
146 tenants to not park there, but they have not done so.

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**Committee Reports: none**

**Staff Reports:**

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

Mr. Garrison gave a power point presentation, for Mr. J. D. Fadley in his absence, summarizing the projects on which his department had worked over the past month. They repaired a water main break on Shipp Street, and replaced a lateral at 9298 N. Congress Street. They provided snow removal, large trash pickup services, and took down the Christmas decorations. They continue their monthly maintenance such as cleaning of the park restrooms and shelters, and sidewalks. The Water Department replaced cooling fan frequency drive, power supply rack #2 on the main PC at the water plant. They reviewed the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter test schedule from VDH, and are working on the service line ID. They also installed new static level gauges at Well #6 and SVA. Mrs. Hannah inquired about an ad she saw for laborer position open. Mr. Garrison explained that we have a position open and we are accepting applications at this time. A copy of the presentation is on file with the minutes.

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

He reported we processed a 2 front porch remodels, accessory building, and an accessory building demolition. He advised that we will have a few board vacancies in the Historic Overlay District, and the Board of Zoning Appeals. He gave a quick update on the projects in town. The water tank project's permit is being finalized, and will be applying for the building permit. Once we get the building permit approved we will start the bidding process. The Rt. 211 sidewalk project's final design is in progress, and a few waivers that have been submitted by Racey Engineering. We are hoping to start bidding in the Spring. The maintenance building is coming along. The steel has been delivered and looking at occupancy in late Spring/early Summer.

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

Chief Rinker gave a power point presentation highlighting the statistics for the month of December 2023. There were 292 total calls for service, and 440 for the year, 130 extra patrols, 5 foot patrols, and no Facility K9 events. Several of the officers, to include Chief Rinker attended trainings and recertifications. He explained that there was an increase in misdemeanors, and there was one TDO transport. Mr. King asked if the officers were still transporting out of the county. Chief Rinker explained that yes they are, but they are new services coming for alternate transportation, but we may not see much relief out of that. Mrs. Hannah gave compliments to the officers for their professionalism and presence. Chief Rinker expressed his appreciation for his officers, and thanked her for her compliments. A copy of the presentation is on file with the minutes.

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

Ms. Savannah Frazier gave a power point presentation that highlighted the events that happened over the past month. She is in the process of scheduling all events, and updating marketing materials. We have been approved to continue to be considered an Exploring Main Street Community, and will continue to grow that committee in 2024.

197 We have submitted a grant from VTC for the LOVEWorks program, and are looking at  
198 designs and location for the LOVEWorks project. A copy of the presentation is on file  
199 with the minutes.

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202 **Action Items:**

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204 The first action item is the discussion and consideration for the VTG service agreement.  
205 Mr. Frank Cox, the owner of VTG, attended via Zoom. Mr. Garrison explained that he  
206 and Amber Smoot met with VTG as our agreement was about to expire and was in need  
207 of updating. We have not updated the security system in years, and are in need of an  
208 upgrade. He explained the upgrade will encompass better cyber-security, & Microsoft  
209 365. Mr. Cox explained they have been serving the Town for over 10 years, and the last  
210 changes were made in 2007. The threat with cybersecurity is increasing drastically. Their  
211 requirements from their insurance are changing and standards for local municipalities are  
212 in the works. This means that the Town of New Market must upgrade security. He  
213 explained the changes in the agreement and the purpose for them. Mrs. Hannah  
214 commented that we cannot afford to be vulnerable and they provide a great service. Mr.  
215 Hughes inquired if VTG is up to date with any required standards. Mr. Cox explained  
216 there are no standards as of yet, but these are being worked on.

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218 **Mrs. Hannah made a motion to move forward with the new service**  
219 **agreement with VTG. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion, with no further**  
220 **discussion the motion passed on the following 6-0 roll call vote:**

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222 Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
223 Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
224 Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye

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227 The second action item was the discussion and consideration of the Frazier and  
228 Associates New Market Community Center Feasibility and Architectural Study proposal.  
229 Mr. Garrison stated that we opened up for bids that were due in December. We were able  
230 to review the bids and interview companies. Frazier and Associates proposal was great,  
231 and they have done similar work. This proposed scope of work will not only follows the  
232 requirements from the grant, but exceed them. This study will help identify what we can  
233 use the building for, give conceptual layouts options, cost estimates and financial  
234 operation plans. We will be hosting community outreach, as well. Their bid fee was  
235 \$59,500, which was less expensive than he thought. Mr. Bompiani commented that in  
236 previous conversations with former Town Manager, that it would cost at least \$70,000, so  
237 this price is good. Mr. Hughes inquired about the time frame, which Mr. Garrison stated  
238 in would be six to eight months and they can start immediately.

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240 **Mr. Hughes made a motion to accept the proposal from Frazier and**  
241 **Associates for the New Market Community Center Feasibility and**  
242 **Architectural Study. Mr. King seconded the motion, with no further**  
243 **discussion the motion passed on the following 6-0 roll call vote:**

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246 Mrs. Hannah Aye Mr. King Aye  
247 Mr. Watkins Aye Mrs. Harkness Aye  
248 Mr. Hughes Aye Mr. Wymer Aye

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251 **Mayor's Comments: none**

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254 **Council Comments:**

255 Mr. Hughes thanked staff for the work done over the past month and keeping the roads  
256 clear.

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258 **Staff Comments: none**

259 Mr. Garrison noted that trash pickup will be delayed this week, due to the snow.

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262 **Adjournment:**

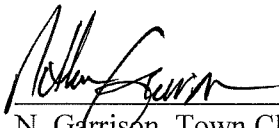
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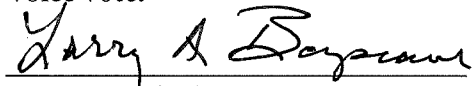
264 With no further business to discuss, at 8:43 p.m. Mr. Wymer made a motion  
265 to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion, with no further  
266 discussion the motion passed on a unanimous 6-0 voice vote.

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N. Garrison, Town Clerk

  
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Larry Bompiani, Mayor