

1 **Minutes of the New Market**  
2 **Town Council Meeting**  
3 **Tuesday, February 20th, 2024**  
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 Tuesday, February 20, 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.

10  
11 Mayor Bompiani called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and established a  
12 quorum with 7 members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.  
13 Mayor Bompiani welcomed all visitors and guests.  
14

15 **Approval of the Agenda:**

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17 **Mrs. Harkness moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Wymer**  
18 **seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was carried with a**  
19 **unanimous 6-0 vote.**

20  
21 **Mrs. Hannah Aye Mr. King Aye**  
22 **Mr. Watkins Aye Mrs. Harkness Aye**  
23 **Mr. Hughes Aye Mr. Wymer Aye**  
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26 **Consent Agenda:**

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28 **Mr. Wymer moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the**  
29 **minutes from the January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting of the New Market Town Council,**  
30 **minutes from the February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Special Called Work Session of the New**  
31 **Market Town Council, along with the January 2024 financial statement. Mr. King**  
32 **seconded the motion, with no further discussion, the motion was carried with a**  
33 **unanimous vote of 6-0.**

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35 **Mrs. Hannah Aye Mr. King Aye**  
36 **Mr. Watkins Aye Mrs. Harkness Aye**  
37 **Mr. Hughes Aye Mr. Wymer Aye**  
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41 **Public Hearing:**

42 Mrs. Teresa Green, Town Treasurer, gave a power point presentation and explained the  
43 proposed Budget Amendment FY23-24 #1. Mrs. Green went into detail about each  
44 budget category. The power point and the summary are filed with the minutes. The public  
45 hearing to accept comments from citizens on the proposed FY23-24 Budget Amendment  
46 #1 was opened at 6:48 p.m. by Mayor Bompiani. Several citizens were present at the  
47 meeting, but no comments were made. With no citizen comments, the mayor closed the  
48 public hearing at 6:49 p.m.  
49

50 **Citizen Comments and Petitions:**

51  
52 Mr. Tyler Mongold, representative for the New Market Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad  
53 Department, provided a power point presentation with an update on the department's  
54 calls over the last month, volunteer base, fundraisers, equipment update, training and  
55 community outreach. They have increased duty nights to include Thursday evenings.  
56 They put in 168 duty hours and 96 fundraising hours, and 42 training hours. For the  
57 month of January, the volunteers helped with roughly 40% of the call volume, due to  
58 career staff being on calls. The new engine has arrived, and he stated they did bring the  
59 apparatus to the meeting in case anyone wanted to see it. Mr. Watkins asked what area  
60 they cover on the interstate going North and to the West of New Market. Mr. Mongold  
61 explained that North bound is up to Mt. Jackson. Going West for the EMS side, they go  
62 to Timberville limits, but the fire side goes to Wagon Wheel Lane. Mr. King inquired  
63 about Timberville's fire department, and how it is 100% volunteer. Mr. Mongold stated  
64 that Timberville is in deed 100% volunteer ran, but do a good job making all of their  
65 calls.

66  
67 Mr. Jeff Mongold followed Mr. Tyler Mongold and presented a budget increase request  
68 for FY24-25 in the amount of \$12,000 to assist with the telephone and gas bills. The  
69 Town currently helps pay for other utilities, except for the above-mentioned bills. Mr.  
70 Mongold stated that to his knowledge there was a reduction to the Town's contribution  
71 when the fire company and rescue squad merged. He stated that to his knowledge that  
72 when the companies were separate the combined contribution was \$80,000, which was  
73 \$40,000 per department. When the departments merged the contribution went to \$40,000.  
74 He stated that with the increase of \$12,000 allowing the Town to save \$28,000. The  
75 increase requested will help offset equipment and maintenance of the apparatus. He  
76 explained that there has not been an increase in the budget in years, and due to inflation,  
77 everything has increased. Mr. Mongold gave a report on the new apparatus, 1992  
78 Seagrave. The apparatus will need to be painted and equipped with tools. Mr. Mongold  
79 stated the department budgeted \$75,000 for this project and will be asking for donations  
80 from local businesses to help with the cost. The New Market Fire and Rescue Department  
81 would like to request a donation from the town to also help with this endeavor. Mr.  
82 Mongold did note that the Town did donate \$50,000 to help with the purchase of the  
83 engine. A requested donation amount was not given. A copy of Mr. Mongold's  
84 presentation is on file with the minutes.

85  
86 **Committee Reports: none**

87  
88 **Staff Reports:**

89  
90 **1. Public Works Department Monthly Report – Mr. J. D. Fadley**

91 Mr. Fadley gave a power point presentation. Mr. Fadley reported that the Public  
92 Works Department put in two new water taps. They replaced a lateral going to the sewer  
93 main. There were a few sewer backups in town that were fixed. They continue to with  
94 daily maintenance of parks, restrooms and shelters, and the street and sidewalk  
95 maintenance. They worked on snow removal and replaced netting at Rebel Field. The  
96 Water Department installed a new PLC on CMF#1, replaced drive belts on Pump #4 at  
97 the North Fork Pump Station. They rebuilt a finish pump, calibrations were completed,

98 replaced a data converter, and a bad actuator valve. A copy of the presentation is on file  
99 with the minutes.

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

Mr. Garrison pointed out that the projects that were done by the Public Works Department and the Water Department have saved the Town thousands of dollars by being able to do the work in-house. There were two permits this month. One permit for a 9275 Fairway Drive for a shed, and a fence permit for 214 E. Old Cross Road. This week Frazier and Associates have started the work for the Community Center.

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

Chief Rinker gave a power point presentation overviewing the 2023 year. There were 4440 total calls for service, 1935 extra patrols, 134 foot patrols. There was a 10% increase in overall incidents. Chief Rinker did an overview of notable events, such as training, awards, and community events for 2023 for the officers and the K9 Facility program. A copy of the presentation is on file with the minutes.

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

Ms. Savannah Frazier gave a power point presentation. She reported that new and updated marketing efforts are being printed. She is working on more shop local incentives and increasing the interaction in the Merchants Committee. She is working on the details of the events for the upcoming year. A copy of the presentation is on file with the minutes.

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**Action Items:**

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The first action item is the discussion and consideration of the proposed Budget Amendment FY23-24 #1. Mayor Bompiani noted that this is the information that was discussed in the Work Session. He opened the conversation for the council to ask questions. Mr. Hughes thanked Mrs. Green for her conservative estimations, and her work on the budget.

**Mrs. Harkness made a motion to approve the proposed Budget Amendment  
FY23-24 #1 as presented. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion, with no further  
discussion the motion passed on the following 6-0 roll call vote:**

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<b>Mrs. Hannah</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. King</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Watkins</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mrs. Harkness</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hughes</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Wymer</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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The second action item was the discussion and consideration of the appointment of Mrs. Sherri Erbaugh to the Historic Overlay Board. Mr. Garrison explained that the Historic Overlay Board has a couple of vacancies. Mrs. Sherri Erbaugh's appointment expires this month, and has expressed interest in serving for another term. Mr. Garrison stated that we are looking for the council's consideration to appoint her for another term.

146 **Mr. Hughes made a motion to appoint Mrs. Sherri Erbaugh to the**  
147 **Historic Overlay Board. Mrs. Hannah seconded the motion, with no**  
148 **further discussion the motion passed on the following 6-0 roll call vote:**  
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151	<b>Mrs. Hannah</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. King</b>	<b>Aye</b>
152	<b>Mr. Watkins</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mrs. Harkness</b>	<b>Aye</b>
153	<b>Mr. Hughes</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Wymer</b>	<b>Aye</b>

154  
155 The third action item was the discussion and consideration of the re-appointment of Mr.  
156 William “Bill” Stevenson to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). Mr. Garrison explained  
157 that Mr. Bill Stevenson’s appointment is expiring for the Board of Zoning Appeals. He  
158 has expressed an interest in serving again. Mr. Garrison stated that the need would be for  
159 the council to make a motion to petition the Circuit Court to appoint Mr. Stevenson to the  
160 BZA.

161  
162 **Mrs. Harkness made a motion to recommend the Board of Zoning**  
163 **Appeals appointment of Mr. William “Bill” Stevenson to the circuit court**  
164 **and authorize the Town Attorney to file the petition. Mr. Hughes**  
165 **seconded the motion, with no further discussion the motion passed on the**  
166 **following 6-0 roll call vote:**  
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168				
169	<b>Mrs. Hannah</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. King</b>	<b>Aye</b>
170	<b>Mr. Watkins</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mrs. Harkness</b>	<b>Aye</b>
171	<b>Mr. Hughes</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Wymer</b>	<b>Aye</b>

172  
173 The fourth action item was the discussion and consideration of the New Market Farmer’s  
174 Market Request for permission to utilize the public parking lot on South Congress Street  
175 during the 2024 season. Mr. Garrison explained that this request is the same request as  
176 previous years. The letter of request that shows the exact request is filed with the  
177 minutes.

178  
179 **Mr. King made a motion to approve the request of the New Market**  
180 **Farmer’s Market. Mr. Wymer seconded the motion, with no further**  
181 **discussion the motion passed on the following 6-0 roll call vote:**  
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184	<b>Mrs. Hannah</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. King</b>	<b>Aye</b>
185	<b>Mr. Watkins</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mrs. Harkness</b>	<b>Aye</b>
186	<b>Mr. Hughes</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Wymer</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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189 The fifth action item was the discussion and consideration of the New Market Poultry  
190 Water Connection request. Mr. Garrison stated that the New Market Poultry Plant  
191 contacted us to discuss the possibility of them being able to connect to our water system  
192 at their sewer treatment plant. This would be residential ¾” connection to just serve their  
193 office. This connection would not utilize a lot of water, or a large tap into our system.  
194 They were currently being served by a well. The connection is an outside of town

195 connection, which is why we need council approval. They will be paying the outside  
196 connection fee. The water main would tie in at the front of their entrance. Mayor  
197 Bompiani spoke to the fact that the poultry plant is our biggest user of water. Mrs.  
198 Hannah wanted to clarify that this will be for only the office use purposes, and Mr.  
199 Garrison stated it would be only for office use. Mrs. Harkness asked if it would be used  
200 for poultry operations. Mr. Garrison clarified that he had verified that it would be for  
201 office use. Mr. Watkins asked if we had an estimate of how much water would be used.  
202 Mr. Garrison explained that with it being a residential tap, and for office use only it  
203 would not be much water.  
204

205 **Mr. Hughes made a motion to accept New Market Poultry's request for a**  
206 **sewer connection. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion, with no further**  
207 **discussion the motion passed on the following 6-0 roll call vote:**  
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209				
210	<b>Mrs. Hannah</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. King</b>	<b>Aye</b>
211	<b>Mr. Watkins</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mrs. Harkness</b>	<b>Aye</b>
212	<b>Mr. Hughes</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Wymer</b>	<b>Aye</b>
213				
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216 The sixth action item is the discussion and consideration of the Department of Historic  
217 Resources' request. Mayor Bompiani reminded the council that this request was in the  
218 packet for them to review, and asked Mr. Garrison to start the discussion. Mr. Garrison  
219 explained that the Department of Historical Resources is looking to place an open space  
220 easement on 9410 South Congress Street. This property is owned by the Shenandoah  
221 Valley Battlefield Foundation, but the easement will be held by the Virginia Board of  
222 Historic Resources. He gave a brief history update on the property at 9410 South  
223 Congress Street, also known as Dr. Stauffer's office. He explained that essentially the  
224 request is asking for a response in writing to confirm that the open space easement that  
225 they would like to place on the property is in fact consistent with the Town of New  
226 Market's current comprehensive plan. His understanding is that upon approval there is  
227 additional funding that the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation can use to be able  
228 to renovate the structure. This is a very similar request that was presented from DHHR  
229 back in November. He stated that Mr. Keven Walker, and Mr. Jack Owens from the  
230 Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation were present for any questions.  
231

232 Mr. Walker was invited to speak to council and give more information. Mr. Walker  
233 thanked council for the time to speak. Mr. Walker explained that this is a request from the  
234 Department of Historic Resources and it is not unlike any requests that they have had  
235 before. This is a request for the town to agree to put this property under conservation  
236 easement. He explained the difference between a conservation easement on this property  
237 versus the other properties in the past is that it will not affect how the property is  
238 currently being used. In the past, the requests for conservation easements were for open  
239 space farmland, which meant it could never be developed. That is not the case in this  
240 particular property. He stated that it would not change its ability to being resold. It does  
241 not change its ability to be used as a commercial property. None of that changes. He went  
242 on to state that it does allow for them to be able to begin the restoration process of that  
243 property. Mr. Walker spoke to the investments that the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields

244 Foundation has made over the past 18 months as a whole, but also for just the Town of  
245 New Market. He stated that SVBF has \$1.7 million that they will be investing in the  
246 Town of New Market, along with another million dollars that will be invested in this  
247 property alone. If the easement is allowed they will be able to establish the help of the  
248 Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. Walker reinforced that they have made a major  
249 investment in the town over the last 25 years, and have made tremendous increases in net  
250 investment of the last couple of years. While this work is been done quietly behind the  
251 scenes as we've been working a lot to prepare for the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of  
252 New Market. This property in particular ties into that. As Nathan mentioned the first floor  
253 of the property that it will be used as a museum that highlights women of war, the  
254 African American experience during the war and war on the home front. This will flow  
255 with what is learning on the battlefield, plus an additional attraction for downtown New  
256 Market. He explained the second floor is currently being used for staff housing and the  
257 third floor is used as a guesthouse for major donors and board members when they visit  
258 New Market. Mr. Walker stated he was happy to answer any questions the council may  
259 have.

260  
261 Mayor Bompiani thanked Keven for the information and that it was appreciated. He  
262 opened the floor for council to ask questions. Mr. Hughes noted that these plans have  
263 been happening quietly behind the scenes. Mr. Hughes asked if there were any changes in  
264 the request since the last time it had come before the council. Mr. Walker explained that  
265 there were no changes and wanted to reiterate the fact that this permit will be forever on  
266 this property. In this case, because it is already a commercial property and it will continue  
267 to be used as one.

268  
269 Mr. Wymer inquired about the impact it would have if the building was to ever be torn  
270 down. He said the easement could affect whether someone could tear the building down  
271 and build something else correct? It will preserve that building 100% so nothing can ever  
272 be put there even 75 years from now. Mr. Walker responded to Mr. Wymer that yes the  
273 building will stay there forever. He went on to explain the reason that the Commonwealth  
274 of Virginia and the SVBF feel that is a good idea is because it represents an essential part  
275 of not only our historic streetscape, but also our cultural heritage here in New Market. He  
276 stated it is one of the very first black schools in the Shenandoah Valley, and they would  
277 be honored to protect it.

278  
279 Mrs. Hannah asked what the timeframe of completion would be. Mr. Walker explained it  
280 would be about a 3 year project after the historic structure report and physical work. He  
281 explained the details of restoring the building to its original form. They will be taking the  
282 stucco siding off of the building and it will have wood siding, and restore the roof line.  
283 Mrs. Hannah asked if the building would be open to the public daily, and Mr. Walker  
284 replied that it would. She asked if he could explain the floor level uses again. She asked  
285 for clarification of who would be managing the tenants. Mr. Walker explained that the  
286 SVBF would be the ones handling the tenants.

287  
288 Mr. King inquired if the Foundation (SVBF) was currently paying property taxes. Mr.  
289 Walker stated that yes they do, and explained that the Foundation does in fact pay  
290 property taxes to both the Town and Shenandoah County. He stated they are eligible to  
291 apply for tax exempt status; however they have elected not to because they know that  
292 both the Town and County needs every dime it can get and they are trying to contribute.

293 Mayor Bompiani inquired about the Lutheran parsonage and that he is of the  
294 understanding that it is to be torn down, which in turns lowers the property value. Mr.  
295 Walker stated he is unsure of how the assessments are done, but they will pay whatever  
296 they are invoiced for the property taxes. Mayor Bompiani inquired the difference  
297 between this time and the easement allowed at the Lutheran parsonage.  
298

299 Mr. Walker explained that to preserve the property at the parsonage lot, the house has to  
300 be removed und the HR guidelines, because it is not historic. The lot was an open lot at  
301 the time of the period of significance in history. The lot in question tonight, it is both the  
302 structure and the lot that are historic, a historic easement requires that the non-historic  
303 structure be removed at the parsonage lot. Mayor Bompiani clarified that 9410 South  
304 Congress property was built after the Civil War, and therefore we were not dealing with a  
305 civil war structure, but more the African American education history. Mr. Walker agreed  
306 that it is about history and reconstruction of a property that is associated with the  
307 American Civil War, and its reconciliation period in New Market's history. Mayor  
308 Bompiani stated that he appreciated that. He inquired about the Rice house, and Mr.  
309 Walker stated he would answer any questions about that. Mayor Bompiani stated he  
310 didn't want to make the meeting longer, however he did want to make sure he was  
311 hearing that the cottage at the 9410 South Congress property will not be torn down, and  
312 the Rice property has the same historic value it will not be torn down. Mr. Walker spoke  
313 in detail about each property that had been brought up. He spoke to the orginal plan for  
314 the parsonage was to create a research library and a visitor facility. However due to  
315 requirements for parking, as required by the Town of New Market, it did not come to  
316 fruition. He stated they even looked at trying to move the building, but those avenues  
317 didn't work out. Demolishing the parsonage is the last resort because they have to under  
318 the terms of the funds received to purchase the lot and restore it to its original manner. In  
319 reference to the Rice house and the Rupert House (9410 S. Congress Street) these will be  
320 maintained as historic structures in perpetuity forever.  
321

322 Mr. King inquired about the 9410 South Congress Street property stating the back of it is  
323 essentially a cut through for the public. Mr. Walker explained they agree and recognize  
324 that. They would essentially be able to fence it off, but they have no intention of doing  
325 that at all. He explained what they would like to do is restore it something similar to what  
326 the Rubert structure would have had in 1867 like a courtyard behind it leaving enough  
327 room for parking, a cut through, as well as busses.  
328

329 Mr. Wymer inquired about the possibility of demolition if the building were in disrepair  
330 later on down the road. Mr. Walker stated that if it were not preserved it would be  
331 potentially mean heavy penalties for the foundation or the current owner at that time. It  
332 will be reviewed yearly by the Department of Historic Resources. Due to that process  
333 degradation of the structure will not happen. It can be replaced if something like a fire  
334 were to happen. He stated they do keep a significant amount of insurance on all  
335 properties to make sure to replace and our restore to the original look.  
336

337 Mr. Hughes did a verbal run through of all the properties that the SVBF has requested  
338 easements for. He discussed that at the time of the approval of certain properties the  
339 council was informed of the plans, but now those plans for the parsonage are not going to  
340 happen and the building torn down. Mr. Walker explained if there were amendmets that  
341 could be made for the Town code and regulations for parking, it can be revisited. Mr.

342 Hughes asked for clarification whether it was being torn down due to the parking or  
343 because of the lack of historical value. Mr. Walker explained that the building can stay if  
344 there was a clear and present use that supports the mission of the foundation. If not, it has  
345 to be torn down. The parking issue was unresolved, and the investment for handicap  
346 accessibility required wasn't warranted with the amount of use. He explained they did try  
347 to get VDOT approved parking, but they needed on street parking approved, which is was  
348 not. They contacted the lady who owns the adjacent property as she has a business, but it  
349 didn't work for her.

350

351 The conversation continued with Mr. Walker explaining the differences of the properties  
352 and which ones the SVBF asked for easements for. Mr. Hughes stated that his concern is  
353 providing another easement when other property projects have not been completed, and  
354 concern about an earnest effort to move forward with these improvements. Mr. Walker  
355 explained that just like government bodies, they deal with public funding and deal with  
356 requirements of public money. These projects are very complicated and need to be well  
357 thought out, just like the water tower project and sidewalk projects of the Town. When  
358 planning you go down a path and something changes and you have to do something else.  
359 We are dealing with lots of moving parts. He offered to sit down and discuss the year of  
360 year progress with any member of council. He explained they have completed millions of  
361 dollars in land acquisition, and millions of dollars of purchasing materials and supplies.  
362 He did stated that it took a year and a half to complete installation of historic signs due to  
363 the Town.

364

365 Mrs. Harkness stated she feels this is different in the sense that the Department of  
366 Historic Resources is involved with this. Mr. Walker agreed and stated that they are  
367 involved in several of the properties.

368

369 Mr. Hughes stated that he does not feel they are the same in reference to the  
370 responsibility of updating the community. He stated that yes it does take a long time for  
371 some projects, and it is frustrating. But the Town has to keep the community updated. His  
372 concern is with the fact that there is no communication of progress or plans for these  
373 properties, or any visible progress. Mr. Walker first thanked council for the updates, as a  
374 New Market citizen he does appreciate them, and does read his newsletters. He also  
375 differentiated the foundation from the town in the sense that the Town is a public body  
376 and has a responsibility to update citizens that elected them and those providing funds.  
377 The foundation is private and not a public body, and their properties are private  
378 properties. He stated the foundation comes to the town when they need approval, and are  
379 very excited about what they think they are adding to New Market and doing it at their  
380 own expense. He talked about tourism and agriculture are the two largest industries in  
381 Virginia. He gave an update on the trail, as he has been asked about that, and the road  
382 blocks that have happened with that project. He stated they are adapting to realities as  
383 they go along, and are getting things done. He reiterated the funds that they investing in  
384 the town of New Market, instead of other localities to help with economic activity and  
385 battlefield preservation, and proud that this is their hometown. This is private property  
386 and we come and give you information because we are good citizens, and because we  
387 want to contribute the community. But if you want to know why we don't update you on  
388 a daily basis is because we don't work for you.

389



390 Mayor Bompiani addressed Mr. Walker to reiterate some of their conversations over the  
391 past year. He noted that this is a symbiotic relationship, as even though they are a private,  
392 they come to the Town for help. He spoke to the frustration of the council in reference to  
393 the roadblocks that the battlefield foundation has created during certain town projects,  
394 such as the water tower. The mayor proceeded to move the meeting forward for a vote,  
395 and Mr. Walker asked for clarification before he left. He asked if the Mayor was  
396 insinuating that the support for the preservation of one of the first black schools in the  
397 Shenandoah Valley is predicated on how they have cooperated with the town in the past  
398 based on their mission given to them by Congress to preserve their field. Mayor  
399 Bompiani addressed the question, and stated that this was not a racial issue, and Mr.  
400 Walker restated his question. Mayor Bompiani said that his comment was based on that  
401 of the previous relationship with the Battlefield Foundation over the past five years. Mr.  
402 Walker inquired if council has a list of businesses that have invested as much in the town  
403 as they have. The Mayor acknowledge that they have purchased a lot of property. Mr.  
404 Walker stated that they are preserving our culture and heritage and getting ready to open  
405 these sites at their expense.

406  
407 Mayor Bompiani stated that council would like to see these projects come to fruition, as  
408 the towns will.

409  
410 Mrs. Hannah spoke to say it was disheartening to hear this conversation from both sides  
411 and what she sees is a huge lack of communication and respect. What you are doing is  
412 honorable, and is a great use of that building. But if you can't trust the process, that  
413 where the problem is. She asked if they would be able to give some updates along the  
414 way and intentions. If plans change, let council know, not for approval or permission, but  
415 just out of respect. Mrs. Hannah spoke about trust from both sides, and we have to start  
416 somewhere. She stated the conversation was becoming about issues that aren't related to  
417 the action item at hand, but deep seeded and it needs to change. Mrs. Hannah asked for an  
418 update as partners. Mrs. Harkness agreed, but stated it didn't need to be a big deal to  
419 come before the council. Mr. Walker stated that he has been updating council members  
420 individually over time, but apparently the information isn't shared. Mr. Walker stated that  
421 for the record if there's any changes made to this project or any of the other projects that  
422 they have committed to post this meeting I will communicate it as you request Vice  
423 Mayor. He stated he would communicate via email.

424  
425 Mr. Wymer noted that the funds they receive are public funds. Mr. Walker stated that was  
426 correct, and they also have funds from the state, federal government and private donors.

427  
428 Mr. King asked if the parking was going to be an issue. Mr. Walker explained it was  
429 twofold. The building is in the historic area and per code it can be commercial without  
430 off street parking, and the discussed pass through or accepted easement of right away in  
431 the back. We will be able to establish some parking in the back. Mr. King stated his  
432 concern that we use the public parking lot for events and if they need to use the lot for  
433 parking.

434  
435 Mr. Hughes asked what the timeframe of construction and money to be spent on  
436 construction. He acknowledged the early timeframe of three years, but wanted more  
437 details. Mr. Walker discussed the process and working with the Department of Historic  
438 Resources, so therefore it complicates the process a little bit because they are very

439 interested in it. The first steps are structure reports which will take 10 months to say a  
440 year. Then construction can begin. He went into details of the renovations per floor. He  
441 ended with saying he can't give specifics as to how long that project will take, but it is  
442 safe to say three year timeline, but it is a rough estimate. It is an old building and we  
443 don't know what issues may arise.

444  
445 Mr. Hughes asked for the same run down on the Rice property. Mr. Walker explained  
446 that the property has been mothballed currently. The property has been broken into and  
447 copper wires stolen, and has created a lot more work. They are able to monitor the  
448 building now in real time to keep people out. They will be mothballing the building to  
449 prevent the structure from degrading. They plan to restore the exterior. They have started  
450 exploring uses with conversation with the schools, maybe a community kitchen. They  
451 would like to have the 10 acre property used as a part of the Greenway Park that would  
452 be opened to all citizens.

453  
454 Mr. Hughes inquired why they needed an easement for the property. He explained that in  
455 order to purchase the property they need the grants which require easements. Mr. Hughes  
456 clarified that they don't really have a historical use for the property, but Mr. Walker  
457 explained it would be a part of the New Market Visitation Tour and historic signage will  
458 be out front.

459  
460 Mr. Hughes asked when they need a decision for the Department of Historical Resources.  
461 Mr. Walker explained it would be nice to have an answer as soon as possible. Mr.  
462 Hughes would like for everyone to get together to continue the conversations. He stated  
463 he wanted to have time to digest the information given.

464  
465 Mrs. Harkness explained that there was a lot of information given, but the action item is  
466 in reference to the 9410 South Congress Street property. In regards to that property it is a  
467 request for a letter from us to the Department of Historic Resources. She explained  
468 several entities have received the same letter of request. She stated that council should  
469 look at this just as a request and not at all of the other projects.

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**Mrs. Harkness made a motion to send the request letter of approval to the Department of Historic Resources in support of this single project.**

**Mr. Walker interjected to state that he would like to state publicly that he would like the opportunity to sit down with council in a work session to discuss the projects, and answer questions. Mayor Bompiani thanked Mr. Walker, and asked for a second for the motion. Mrs. Hannah seconded the motion, with no further discussion the motion passed on the following 5-1 roll call vote:**

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483 **Mrs. Hannah**                    **Aye**                    **Mr. King**                    **Aye**  
484 **Mr. Watkins**                  **Aye**                    **Mrs. Harkness**            **Aye**  
485 **Mr. Hughes**                  **Aye**                    **Mr. Wymer**                **Nay**  
486  
487

488 The Mayor noted that there is support from council, but more discussion is needed. Mr.  
489 Walker again stated he would be more than happy to talk with council.

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491

492 **Mayor's Comments: none**

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495 **Council Comments: none**

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497 **Staff Comments: none**

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499 **Adjournment:**

500

501 With no further business to discuss, at 8:43 p.m. Mr. King made a motion to  
502 adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Hannah seconded the motion, with no further discussion  
503 the motion passed on a unanimous 6-0 voice vote.


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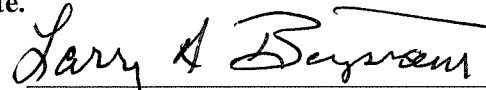
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N. Garrison, Town Clerk

  
Larry Bompiani, Mayor