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**Minutes of the New Market
Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 18th, 2024
6:30 pm**

The New Market Town Council met in the Council Chambers of the Arthur L. Hildreth, Jr. Municipal Building on Monday, March 18th, 2024 with the following members present: Mayor Larry Bompiani, Vice-Mayor Peggy Harkness, Bob King, Peter Hughes, and Daryl Watkins. Council members Scott Wymer and Janice Hannah were absent.

Mayor Bompiani called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and established a quorum with 4 members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. Mayor Bompiani welcomed all visitors and guests.

Approval of the Agenda:

Mr. Watkins moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was carried out with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

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

Consent Agenda:

Mr. King moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the minutes from the February 20th, 2024 meeting of the New Market Town Council and the February 2024 financial statement. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion, with no further discussion, the motion was carried out with a unanimous vote of 4-0.

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

Public Hearing: none

Citizen Comments and Petitions:

Mr. Jeff Mongold, representative for the New Market Fire and Rescue Department, gave the monthly report and provided power point presentation. He reported the call volume and statistics for the month of February. They continue to run duty on Fridays, and training on Thursdays, and have an average of seven volunteer members to staff the station. They attended the Chief and Captains meetings, and had a total of 130 duty hours, no fundraisers, and 116 training hours. Members continue to take training such as driving training. They are learning about Rescue Task Force which is a new

50 program to help assist law enforcement during high-risk calls. They have been issued
51 vests to wear on active shooter calls or domestic assault cases. This is new and the
52 current administration is working with local law enforcement for training. There are
53 SOGs being written currently. This program is to help reduce deaths during high-risk
54 calls and has come about due to the increase in active shooter calls. He discussed some of
55 the calls and a conference that was held over the past month. He explained how useful
56 and insightful the conference was. He shared photos in the presentation of calls, trainings,
57 and other outings that the members participated in. Mr. Watkins asked Mr. Mongold if
58 they will be able to carry a firearm in those high-risk situations. Mr. Mongold stated that
59 he would have to address the SOGs, but to his knowledge and he believes that they would
60 not, as that could make the situation worse. He stated that last month he made a mistake
61 in the budget amounts that used to be appropriated by the Town to the Fire Department
62 and the Rescue Squad. It was \$40,000 not \$80,000 and they have sent in a corrected letter
63 of request. He reported that they have received the bids for the repainting of the new
64 engine. They will be over budget for the engine, due to maintenance that was unforeseen.
65 He reported that they will be doing a renovation project of the fire house. They are
66 working with the Board of Supervisors to secure funding from the County. Mr. Mongold
67 wanted to follow up on the request that was made last year in March, in reference to the
68 council appointing a Fire Chief again. He stated that a decision should be made, and he
69 feels that the Department has fulfilled its obligation in membership and leadership. He
70 asked for a decision to be made and thanked the council for their time.

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73 **Committee Reports: none**

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75 **Staff Reports:**

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

78 Mr. Fadley gave a power point presentation. The Public Works Department
79 repaired a water leak at 285 West Lee Highway, a water leak in the meter assembly at
80 9641 John Sevier Road, and a water main leak at 145 East Old Cross Road. They repaired
81 a sewer back up at 9525 Congress Street, and repaired a 8” and 4” sewer line connection
82 on Jackson Avenue. The baseball fields at the park are being prepared for the little league
83 baseball and softball season. They continue with normal daily maintenance of the park,
84 shelters, and mowing. The Water Department conducted cleaning of well and pump
85 station structures, rebuilt pump #2 at Stirewalt, replaced and calibrated finished turbidity
86 meter, upgraded the CMF#2 PLC system and rebuilt a raw water pump. Met with
87 Memcor to look at options for water plant upgrades in the future. Mayor Bompiani asked
88 if they had done work at the Rebel Field, and he stated that new nets were put up. A copy
89 of the presentation is on file with the minutes.

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

92 Mr. Garrison reported on permits that were approved such as a single-family
93 home on Fairway, deck at 9862 Woodbine, and small addition at 9644 S. Congress Street,
94 and steps at 9965 Pleasant View. Mr. Hughes asked how many new homes have been
95 built in the last year. Mr. Garrison stated he would get that number for Mr. Hughes.

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3. Public Safety Monthly Report – George Smoot

Chief Rinker was out of town and Sgt. George Smoot attended. Sgt. Smoot reported that the Police Department was running well, and nothing out of the ordinary, but apologized for not having any statistics for council, but asked if they had any questions. The council did not have any questions for Sgt. Smoot and thanked him for attending the meeting.

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

Ms. Savannah Frazier gave a power point presentation. Ms. Frazier reported that she has been busy planning for events for 2024 and has been updating marketing materials. Several are ready for printing and distribution. She reported that the Merchant’s Committee meeting is doing well, and the small business-shop local incentives have done well. She is looking for more ways to uplift local businesses. She participated as a judge for the Virginia ProStart Invitational hosted by JMU. She was able to connect and build relationships and network. A copy of the presentation is on file with the minutes.

Action Items: none

Mayor’s Comments:

Mr. Bompiani gave thanks to all staff.

Council Comments: none

Staff Comments: none

Closed Meeting: At 6:54 p.m., Mrs. Harkness made a motion to recess into Closed Session to discuss the performance and employment of specific local government personnel, as authorized by section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the state code. The subject matter of the meeting is the Town Manager. Mr. King seconded the motion which passed on the following 4-0 roll call vote:

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

Mayor Bompiani gave a five-minute recess before the Closed Session began.

At 7:22 p.m., Mr. Watkins made a motion to return from Closed Session and read aloud the following Certification Resolution: With respect to the just-concluded Closed Session and to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under The Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Town Council. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion which passed on the following 4-0 roll call vote:

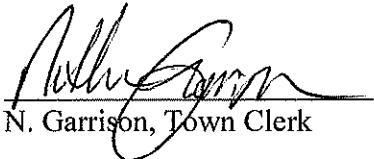
Mrs. Harkness	Aye	Mr. Watkins	Aye
Mr. King	Aye	Mr. Hughes	Aye

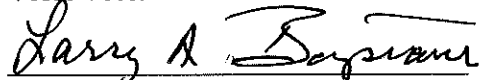
148 Upon the closure of the closed session, Mrs. Harkness made a motion amend the agenda
149 to include discussion and consideration of a salary increase for the Town Manager and to
150 increase the Town Managers salary to \$100,000 per year effective April 1, 2024. Mr.
151 Hughes seconded the motion and with no further discussion the motion passed with a 4-0
152 roll call vote:

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154	Mr. King	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
155	Mr. Watkins	Aye		
156	Mr. Hughes	Aye		

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159 **Adjournment:**

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161 **With no further business to discuss, at 7:24 p.m. Mrs. Harkness made a**
162 **motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion, with no further**
163 **discussion the motion passed on a unanimous 4-0 voice vote.**

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168 N. Garrison, Town Clerk


Larry Bompiani, Mayor