

1 **Minutes of the New Market**
2 **Town Council Meeting**
3 **Monday, June 18, 2018**
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, June 18, 2018 with the following members
8 present: Mayor Douglas Bradley, John Blosser, Gary Comer, Peter Hughes, Scott
9 Wymer, Tim Palmer, and Peggy Harkness.

10
11 Town Attorney – Jason Ham
12 Town Manager – J. Todd Walters
13 Town Treasurer – Teresa Green
14 Administrative Assistant – Donna Lohr
15

16 Mayor Bradley called the meeting to order and established a quorum with all
17 members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. Mayor Bradley
18 welcomed all visitors and guests.
19

20 **Approval of the Agenda:**

21
22 **Mr. Comer made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Palmer**
23 **seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous 6-0 voice vote.**
24

25 **Consent Agenda:**

26
27 **Mr. Comer moved to approve the consent agenda which included the**
28 **minutes from the May 21, 2018 meeting of the Town Council, and the Financial**
29 **Statements for May 2018. Mr. Wymer seconded the motion which carried on a**
30 **unanimous 6-0 voice vote.**
31

32 **Public Hearing:**

33
34 No public hearings scheduled.
35

36 **Citizen Comments and Petitions:**

37
38 Mr. Litten, Clicks Lane, New Market, VA, commented that this was the last
39 meeting for Mr. Comer and Mr. Blosser serving as councilmembers. Mr. Litten stated
40 that during his time on the planning commission and as a council member, it was a
41 pleasure to work with Mr. Blosser and Mr. Comer. They were always professional,
42 helpful to Mr. Litten's committee, and open to suggestions for their own committees.
43 They will be sorely missed by Mr. Litten and by the citizens of New Market. Mr. Blosser
44 and Mr. Comer did a great job serving the citizens of New Market. Mr. Litten remarked
45 he is grateful for the work these gentleman did for the Town and he is grateful that he can
46 call them his friends.
47

48 **Committee Reports:**
49

50 There were no Committee Reports.

51
52 **Staff Reports:**

53
54 **1. Public Works Monthly Report – Mr. Alex Berryman**

55 Mr. Berryman gave a brief power point presentation highlighting some items for
56 the Planning and Public Works departments for the month. A copy of Mr. Berryman’s
57 presentation is on file with the minutes.

58
59 **2. Public Safety Monthly Report – Chief Chris Rinker**

60 Chief Rinker gave a brief power point presentation which included statistics for
61 the department for the month of May as well as events attended by New Market Officers.
62 A copy of the information presented by Chief Rinker is on file with the minutes.

63
64 **3. Events & Marketing Report – Mrs. Amber Smoot**

65 Mrs. Smoot gave a power point presentation which included events and projects
66 she has been working on for the past month. A copy of Mrs. Smoot’s report is on file
67 with the minutes.

68
69 **Action Items:**

70
71 There were no action items.

72
73 **Mayor’s Comments:**

74
75 Mayor Bradley mentioned that on June 30th, 2018, the Town will be losing two
76 councilmembers. These two gentleman have a total of 44 years of service between them.
77 We are going to miss them and we appreciate everything they have done for the Town.
78 Mayor Bradley asked Mr. Blosser and Mr. Comer to step down front. Mayor Bradley
79 then presented a plaque to Mr. Comer which read “Presented to Gary Comer in
80 recognition of your 24 years of commitment and dedication as a member of the New
81 Market Town Council. Thank you for your valuable contributions to our Town.”
82 Applause from the audience.

83 Mayor Bradley then presented a plaque to Mr. Blosser which read “Presented to
84 John Blosser, in recognition of your 20 years of commitment and dedication as a member
85 of the New Market Town Council. Thank you for your valuable contributions to the
86 Town.”

87 Applause from the audience.

88 Mr. Walters mentioned that he had only been able to work with these two
89 gentleman for about eight months, but he knows that the Town is losing a lot of wisdom,
90 knowledge and dedication to the Town as these men retire from working as council
91 members. Mr. Walters remarked that they are very special people to have been willing to
92 work for the Town for as many years as they have. They have shown a love for the town
93 and a willingness to give back to the Town through their time invested while on Council.
94 Mr. Walters thanked both members for their service.

95 Mayor Bradley commented that prior to the scheduled close session and following
96 Staff comments, there will be a short recess so that everyone may have cake and
97 refreshments and offer best wishes to Mr. Comer and Mr. Blosser.

98

99 **Council Comments:**

100
101 Mr. Hughes commented that he was very impressed with how smoothly the police
102 department handled the situation on the evening the power was out in New Market.

103 Mr. Comer stated that he enjoyed working with both current and past council
104 members. He remarked that it has been a privilege to work as a council member and he
105 has enjoyed doing public service. He has had the honor of working as the Public Safety
106 Committee Chairperson since he began as a council member. Mr. Comer stated that he
107 enjoyed working with Mr. Gary Yew, Tim Williams, and Supervisor Dick Neese and he
108 stated that those men played an important role in establishing a good Fire Department in
109 New Market, following some issues that occurred there. Mr. Comer advised that his only
110 concern was to ensure that calls were answered in a timely manner by the Fire
111 Department. Mr. Comer advised that calls have been answered and continue to be
112 answered in a timely manner by the career staff as well as some volunteers. Things
113 continue to go well for the Fire Department. Mr. Comer noted that he has enjoyed
114 working with the Police Department personnel throughout the years. He has enjoyed
115 working with Chief Crisman, Chief Peery, and Chief Rinker, as well as Sergeant Smoot,
116 Officers Foss, Collins, and Eastep. Mr. Comer advised that the citizens of New Market
117 are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of police officers. Mr. Comer stated that too
118 frequently his line of work and the police department's line of work cross. The police
119 department always handles those situations professionally and with compassion. Mr.
120 Comer remarked that he has enjoyed working with all of the office staff throughout the
121 years. It has been a pleasure and honor to work with everyone and to serve the people of
122 New Market.

123 Mr. Blosser commented that it has been a pleasure and an honor to work for the
124 town of New Market and the New Market staff has made it easy.

125
126 **Staff Comments:**

127
128 Mr. Walters made the following comments:

- 129 • The Police Department did a wonderful job working the main intersection
130 in Town during the power outage. Mr. Walters wanted to recognize a
131 friend of Chief Rinker's who helped the Town out during the power
132 outage by providing some equipment to aid in keeping the traffic light
133 working at the main intersection. He never charged the town for the use of
134 that equipment. The same gentleman helped the Town out with some
135 issues with the outfield fence at Rebel Park. Mr. Walters advised that he
136 will be sending a thank you note to this gentleman.
- 137 • Mr. Walters commented that the Town has received \$3,750 in donations
138 towards the cost of building its own stage for Cross Roads Fest music
139 events. The community has really helped out towards these events.
- 140 • The Cross Roads Fest music series events involve a lot of work setting up
141 and tearing down after the event. Mr. Walters thanked Town staff and all
142 volunteers who helped out with this event.
- 143 • Shentel has offered to sponsor \$250 towards the Town's movie night in
144 the park.
- 145 • There will be an organizational meeting for Town Council on Monday,
146 July 2nd, 2018, a regular council meeting on July 16th, 2018, and there will

147 be a Council retreat on Saturday, July 28th, 2018 at Shenvalee. Breakfast
148 will start at 8:00 a.m. and will be followed by discussion sessions.
149 • We will miss John Blosser and Gary Comer and Mr. Walters hopes they
150 will continue to come in to the Town office to visit.
151

152 Mr. Jason Ham, Town Attorney, commented that he has worked with Mr. Blosser
153 and Mr. Comer since 2004. Mr. Blosser and Mr. Comer worked with the Town through
154 events such as the regionalization of the sewer system with the Town of Broadway,
155 Streetscape projects, and numerous other projects. Both gentleman have provided
156 excellent support, listened to staff recommendations, asked good questions, and come to
157 good decisions. The Town is better as a result of their service.

158 At 7:25 p.m., Mayor Bradley advised that there would be a brief recess for
159 refreshments prior to the Closed Session.
160

161 **Closed Meeting:**
162

163 At 7:40 p.m., Mr. Comer made a motion to enter into a Closed Session as
164 authorized by the Virginia State code section 2.2-3711 (A)(3) to discuss the
165 acquisition of real property for a public purpose. The subject matter is the possible
166 acquisition of real property for a site for a water tank. Mr. Blosser seconded the
167 motion which passed on the following unanimous 6-0 roll call vote:
168

169
170 Mr. Hughes Aye Mr. Blosser Aye
171 Mr. Wymer Aye Mr. Palmer Aye
172 Mr. Comer Aye Mrs. Harkness Aye
173

174 At 9:13 p.m., Mr. Comer made a motion to reconvene from Closed Session.
175 Mr. Palmer seconded the motion which passed on the following unanimous 6-0 roll
176 call vote:
177

178 Mrs. Harkness Aye Mr. Comer Aye
179 Mr. Palmer Aye Mr. Wymer Aye
180 Mr. Blosser Aye Mr. Hughes Aye
181

182 Mr. Comer then made a motion to accept the Certification Resolution as
183 follows: With respect to the just-concluded closed session, and to the best of each
184 member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open
185 meeting requirements under The Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only
186 such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed
187 meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the
188 Town Council. Mr. Palmer seconded the motion which passed on the following roll
189 call vote:
190

191 Mr. Hughes Aye Mr. Blosser Aye
192 Mr. Wymer Aye Mr. Palmer Aye
193 Mr. Comer Aye Mrs. Harkness Aye
194

195 Mrs. Harkness then made a motion to amend the agenda to include an action
196 item to allow the Town Manager to enter into an option to purchase approximately
197 14 lots of approximately four and a half acres on Shipp Street in New Market. The
198 option would be for a payment of \$10,000 towards the purchase price of \$180,000
199 and the option would be for one year. Mr. Comer seconded the motion which
200 passed on the following 6-0 unanimous roll call vote:


201				
202	Mrs. Harkness	Aye	Mr. Comer	Aye
203	Mr. Palmer	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye
204	Mr. Blosser	Aye	Mr. Hughes	Aye
205				
206				

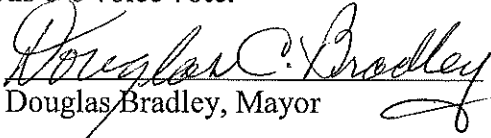
207 Mr. Palmer then made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into
208 an option agreement for the purchase of approximately 14 lots of approximately
209 four and a half acres on Shipp Street in New Market. The option would be for a
210 \$10,000 option credited towards the purchase price of \$180,000 and the option
211 would be for one year. Mrs. Harkness seconded the motion which passed on the
212 following 5-1 roll call vote:

213				
214	Mr. Hughes	Nay	Mr. Blosser	Aye
215	Mr. Wymer	Aye	Mr. Palmer	Aye
216	Mr. Comer	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
217				
218				

219 **Adjournment:**

220
221 At 9:18 p.m. Mr. Comer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Blosser
222 seconded the motion which carried on a unanimous 6-0 voice vote.

223
224
225 
226 _____
227 J. Todd Walters, Town Clerk
228


Douglas Bradley, Mayor