

1 **Minutes of the New Market**  
2 **Town Council Meeting**  
3 **Monday, September 16, 2019**  
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, September 16, 2019 with the following  
8 members present: Mayor Douglas Bradley, Peter Hughes, Daryl Watkins, Scott Wymer,  
9 Tim Palmer, and Larry Bompiani. Vice-Mayor Peggy Harkness was absent.

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11 Town Attorney – Jason Ham  
12 Town Manager – J. Todd Walters  
13 Administrative Assistant – Donna Lohr  
14

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

19 **Approval of the Agenda:**

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21 **Mr. Hughes made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Palmer**  
22 **seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous 5-0 voice vote.**  
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24 **Consent Agenda:**

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26 **Mr. Palmer moved to approve the consent agenda which included the**  
27 **minutes from the August 19, 2019 meeting of the New Market Town Council as well**  
28 **as the Financial Statements for August 2019. Mr. Wymer seconded the motion**  
29 **which carried on a unanimous 5-0 voice vote.**  
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31 **Public Hearing:**

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33 No public hearings scheduled.  
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35 **Citizen Comments and Petitions:**

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37 There were no citizen comments nor petitions.  
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39 **Committee Reports:**

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41 There were no Committee Reports.  
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43 **Staff Reports:**

44 **1. Planning & Public Works Department Monthly Report – Mr. J. Todd**  
45 **Walters**

46 Mr. Walters gave a brief power point presentation which included updates on  
47 planning and zoning items as well as a summary of projects that the public works  
48 department had worked on over the past month. A copy of Mr. Walter's presentation is  
49 on file with the minutes.

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

Chief Rinker gave a brief power point presentation which included statistics for the department for the month of August. A copy of the information presented by Chief Rinker is on file with the minutes.

**3. Events & Marketing Annual Report – Mrs. Amber Smoot**

Mrs. Smoot gave a power point presentation which included a summary of events held during the past month. Events included the New Market Rotary Golf Tournament, Cross Roads Fest, and the Pup Pool Party. Mrs. Smoot also mentioned some upcoming events and other projects on which she is currently working. A copy of Mrs. Smoot’s monthly report is on file with the minutes.

**Action Items:**

The first item on the agenda was the discussion and consideration of Resolution #233 – A Resolution for an application for an allocation of funds through the Virginia Department of Transportation Fiscal year 2021-2022 Revenue Sharing Program. Mr. Walters explained that as part of the application process for the funding for the Rt. 211 Sidewalk project, a Resolution passed by Council is required. This Resolution confirms for VDOT that if the Town receives \$175,000 in this grant, then the Town is committed to spending \$175,000 of Town funds on the project. Mr. Walters cautioned Council members that the \$350,000 for the project is based on the engineer’s estimate. If the actual construction costs end up being more than \$350,000, VDOT will not give more than the \$175,000 that is committed in the grant. Mr. Walters advised that he believes the Town has a very strong application for the grant for this project.

**Mr. Hughes made a motion to adopt Resolution #233 – A Resolution for an application for an allocation of funds through the Virginia Department of Transportation Fiscal year 2021-2022 Revenue Sharing Program. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion which passed on the following 5-0 unanimous roll call vote:**

<b>Mr. Hughes</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Watkins</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Wymer</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Dr. Bompiani</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Palmer</b>	<b>Aye</b>		

The next item on the agenda was the discussion and consideration of the purchase of property on John Sevier Road in New Market, Virginia. Mr. Walters explained that this item had been previously discussed in Closed Session. The property is located at 9498 John Sevier Road. There have been issues trying to get the property cleaned up and in compliance with the Town’s nuisance ordinance. Several months ago the Town sent the property owner a nuisance violation letter. The property owner came in and talked to Mr. Walters and Chief Rinker and asked if the Town would be interested in purchasing the property. He had asked for a price of \$33,500 which is what the tax assessment is. After walking through the property, the Town Manager made a verbal offer to the owner of \$29,000. The owner agreed to that price. At that time, Mr. Walters asked Mr. Ham, Town Attorney to look into the deed to make sure the Town would not run into any issues. There was an issue, but that has since been resolved. If Council is in agreement to purchase the property, the motion that should be made is to purchase the property located at 9498 John Sevier Road at a price of \$29,000 contingent on a good title as

99 determined by the Town Attorney. Mr. Walters advised that the Town will not make  
100 money on this purchase. This is an opportunity for the Town to get rid of a property in  
101 Town that has been in violation of the nuisance ordinance for some time.

102 **Mr. Palmer made a motion to purchase the property located at 9498 John**  
103 **Sevier Road at the price of \$29,000 contingent on a good title as determined by the**  
104 **Town Attorney. Dr. Bompiani seconded the motion.** Under discussion, Mr. Hughes  
105 asked if the purchase of property by the Town is only going to happen under unusual  
106 circumstances and verified that this will not be a usual occurrence by the Town. Mr.  
107 Walters advised that he does not plan to actively seek out parcels to purchase in the  
108 future. He also advised that there is the possibility that if this purchase goes well, then in  
109 future fiscal years, a budget line item may be added for the possible purchase of other  
110 properties. Mr. Hughes asked Mr. Walters to verify that the funds that will be utilized to  
111 purchase this property are not coming out of currently budgeted funds for the year, but  
112 out of surplus funds. Mr. Walters stated that is correct. Mr. Hughes clarified that it is the  
113 Town's intent to make an effort to break as even as possible on the purchase of this  
114 property. Mr. Walters answered that is correct. Mr. Palmer remarked that this is a way  
115 for the Town to clean up a property that has been an on-going problem. Dr. Bompiani  
116 asked what the estimate for demolition is. Mr. Walters advised that the estimate he has is  
117 between \$5,000 and \$7,000. He also advised that the contractor who gave the estimate  
118 might consider purchasing the property. **With no further discussion, the motion**  
119 **carried on the following unanimous 5-0 roll call vote:**

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121	<b>Dr. Bompiani</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Wymer</b>	<b>Aye</b>
122	<b>Mr. Watkins</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Hughes</b>	<b>Aye</b>
123	<b>Mr. Palmer</b>	<b>Aye</b>		
124				

125 The third action item was the discussion and consideration of Façade  
126 Enhancement Grant Recipients. Mr. Walters advised that the Town had received two  
127 applications for the Façade Enhancement Grant. One was from Jon Henry General Store  
128 and the other was from The Home Store. The Town has budgeted \$10,000 for the Façade  
129 Enhancement Grant. The Home Store's estimate for the work they plan to do is  
130 \$10,774.03. Jon Henry's estimate is \$20,000. Mr. Walters advised that the amount of  
131 the grant went from \$5,000 to \$10,000 this year. He also advised that Council could  
132 split the amount budgeted for the grant and give each applicant half, or they could adjust  
133 the amounts. Council does not have to give all \$10,000 away. Council members  
134 discussed options on how to distribute the façade enhancement grant funds. Council  
135 members wanted to know if they could give a portion of the funds to each applicant but  
136 not distribute all \$10,000 that was budgeted. Mr. Ham advised that Council could take a  
137 short recess to allow him to review the rules for the façade enhancement grant so that he  
138 could advise them on their options.

139 Council members took a short recess.

140 Council members reconvened after the recess.

141 Mr. Ham advised that the rules of the Façade Enhancement grant state that no less  
142 than \$250 and no greater than \$10,000 can be awarded. **Dr. Bompiani then made a**  
143 **motion to award \$3,500 to each of the two applicants towards construction on their**  
144 **projects. The remaining \$3,000 will not be awarded and will remain in the budget.**  
145 **There was no second to the motion so the motion died.**

146 **Mr. Hughes then made a motion to award \$5,000 to each applicant. Mr.**  
147 **Palmer seconded the motion.** Dr. Bompiani remarked that he believed the façade

148 enhancement grant was to encourage businesses to fix up their properties and that was the  
149 reason for increasing the funding for the façade enhancement grant. The extra funding  
150 was so that money could be given to more applicants. He stated that maybe just a portion  
151 should be given to the two applicants this year and the rest of the money could be carried  
152 over and added to funding for next fiscal year with the hopes that more businesses would  
153 apply for the grant. Mr. Hughes remarked that if we have money in the budget for the  
154 façade enhancement, then that money should be given to those who applied for the grant.

155 **With no further discussion, the motion carried on a unanimous 5-0 roll call vote:**

156	<b>Mr. Hughes</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Watkins</b>	<b>Aye</b>
157	<b>Mr. Wymer</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Dr. Bompiani</b>	<b>Aye</b>
158	<b>Mr. Palmer</b>	<b>Aye</b>		

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160

161 **Mayor's Comments:**

162 Mayor Bradley read aloud the following Proclamation on Constitution Week:

163 **"WHEREAS:** September 17, 2019, marks the two hundred and thirty-second anniversary  
164 of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional  
165 Convention; and

166 **WHEREAS:** It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent  
167 document and its memorable anniversary; and to the patriotic celebrations which will  
168 commemorate the occasion; and

169 **WHEREAS:** Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the  
170 President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as  
171 Constitution Week,

172 **NOW, THEREFORE I,** Mayor Douglas Bradley, by virtue of the authority vested in me  
173 as Mayor of the Town of New Market do hereby proclaim the week of September 17  
174 through 23 as **CONSTITUTION WEEK."**

175 Mayor Bradley commented on the following events that he had attended:

176 • A meeting at Howell Metal with Governor Northam. Howell Metal is making an  
177 eight million dollar investment that will create over a hundred jobs.

178 • Sonabank customer appreciation day.

179 • Cross Roads Fest Music Series. This was a great event. Thanks to Mrs. Smoot  
180 for her hard work on this event.

181 • A visit to Shenandoah Place on September 9, 2019 where he issued a  
182 Proclamation for Assisted Living Week.

183 • Chamber of Commerce meeting at Endless Caverns

184 • A meeting with Mr. Don Hindman and Todd Walters regarding Mr. Hindman's  
185 Rails to Trails Project

186 • Pup Pool Party at New Market Pool

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188 **Council Comments:**

189 Mr. Hughes thanked Mrs. Smoot and Chief Rinker for the work they did at the  
190 Town Park for National Night Out. Mr. Hughes thanked Mrs. Smoot for the work she  
191 did this year on the Cross Roads Fest Events. Mr. Hughes reminded everyone of the Fall  
192 Fling at the Fire Department as well as Heritage Day on September 28, 2019. He also  
193 remarked that Mrs. Harkness was recovering well after her surgery and she sends her  
194 regards to all.

195 Mr. Palmer commented that the VMI Cadet parade is a great event in New  
196 Market.

197 Dr. Bompiani thanked Town employees for their work. He remarked that he is  
198 impressed by Town staff and the work they put in for the Town.

199

200 **Staff Comments:**

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202 Mr. Walters made the following comments:

- 203 • He agreed with Dr. Bompiani that he has a great staff. He said that he
- 204 learned early on to surround himself with good people.
- 205 • The change to trash collection day went well.
- 206 • Town Managers are still planning to do an RFP for trash collection
- 207 services at the end of next year.
- 208 • VDOT will be milling and paving Rt. 211 West beginning on September
- 209 17, 2019 from Congress Street to the County Line. There will be a two
- 210 inch lip at the entrances to businesses until the work is complete. This
- 211 will be night time work.
- 212 • Conflict of Interest Training for Council Members will take place on
- 213 October 1, 2019 at the County Building in Woodstock. All Council
- 214 Members must take this training before the end of December as mandated
- 215 by the General Assembly. If Council members are unable to attend the
- 216 training in Woodstock, they may complete the training online.
- 217 • He advised that the Town did close on the Shipp Street property this past
- 218 Friday. This will require the Town to have a budget amendment.
- 219 • He is still trying to determine a date for a Council retreat sometime in
- 220 October.

221 Mr. Ham advised that since the budget amendment will be more than one percent  
222 of the budget, a notice of public hearing is required to be posted in the paper and a public  
223 hearing will have to be held.

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225 **Closed Meeting:**

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227 There were no Closed Meetings.

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229 **Adjournment:**

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231 **At 7:42 p.m. Mr. Watkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr.**  
232 **Hughes seconded the motion which carried on a unanimous 5-0 voice vote.**

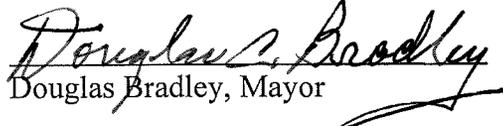
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Douglas Bradley, Mayor

237 J. Todd Walters, Town Clerk