Minutes of the New Market
Special Town Council Meeting
Thursday, May 7, 2020
4:30 pm

The New Market Town Council met via a virtual GoTo.com telephone meeting and a YouTube Live broadcast on Thursday, May 7, 2020 with the following members present via phone: Mayor Douglas Bradley, Peggy Harkness, Tim Palmer, Daryl Watkins, Larry Bompiani, and Peter Hughes. Scott Wymer was not present for the meeting.

Present in the Town Office were the following staff:
- Town Manager – J. Todd Walters
- Events & Marketing Director – Amber Smoot
- Administrative Assistant – Donna Lohr
- Chief of Police – Chris Rinker (present via phone)

Mayor Bradley called the meeting to order and established a quorum with five members present. Mayor Bradley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Staff Reports:

Mr. Todd Walters gave a brief update on planning and zoning items. He also discussed what the maintenance and water departments had worked on over the past month. A copy of Mr. Walter’s report is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Walters fielded a few questions from Council members regarding water leaks, future replacement of some water lines, zoning permits, and code violations. Mr. Walters advised Council members that some adjustments may need to be made in the future to the ordinance regarding chickens and fowl.

Mr. Walters discussed the pool season with Council members. He advised that there may come a time when it won’t be worthwhile to open the pool for the season, due to the restrictions imposed on the public as a result of the COVID-19.

Mr. Chief Rinker gave a brief summary of statistics for his department for the month of April. A copy of his report is on file with the minutes.

Chief Rinker fielded a few questions from Council Members regarding ECO’s and TDO’s and the amount of time and man power involved in handling those, as well as how law enforcement is handling calls during the on-going pandemic.

Mrs. Harkness asked Mr. Walters why VDOT has installed a traffic counter on John Sevier Road now while the pandemic is going on and traffic is at a minimum. She advised that a letter should be addressed to them from Council stating that the numbers they are collecting are not typical traffic counts for this road, due to the COVID-19, and those numbers should not be used to determine whether projects are necessary in Town.

Mr. Walters advised that the Town was scheduled to meet with VDOT representatives in June, but that meeting may need to be rescheduled. He advised that staff would bring up the issue of the traffic counter to them at that meeting when it is held.

Mrs. Amber Smoot was the next to give her Events and Marketing report. She reported on changes she made to the website and social media platforms regarding COVID-19. She mentioned ways she had worked to help businesses with marketing
during the pandemic. She also mentioned resources she had provided to the businesses during this time. Mrs. Smoot fielded a few questions regarding the cancellation and possible postponement of several events. Mrs. Smoot also gave a brief update on the branding project. She advised that in Phase 3 of the project, the branding company desires to meet in person with the client to discuss the options. The branding company would like to wait a bit to see if a face to face meeting will be possible in the near future. A copy of Mrs. Smoot’s report is on file with the minutes.

**Action Items:**

The first item on the agenda was the discussion and consideration of a Refuse Collection Contract. Mr. Walters advised that the Town’s current refuse contract ends June 30, 2020. The Town was contacted by the current contractor late last year to notify the Town they wanted to get out of the contract early, but the Town was able to work around that by letting a subcontractor pick up the garbage. An RFP for a new waste collection company was issued and only two proposals were returned. One of them was only for dumpster collection, not residential collection. This left the Town with one option. That company is Waste Management. In this contract, the rates will be going up. Town staff expects that the rate will go from $11.00 to approximately $16.00. Mr. Walters reminded everyone that the trash collection fee has not increased since 2014. Under the proposed waste collection contract, totes with lids will be provided. Mr. Walters anticipates that there will be complaints and resistance to the new method of trash collection, but this will be a cleaner process. The process involves less man-power and is safer for the garbage collection company. This contract will start at the beginning of July. The contract needs to be signed and returned to the company so they can proceed with ordering the supplies that will be needed. Mr. Walters advised that he would discuss with the Town Attorney the one phrase in the contract that Mr. Palmer had a question about in regards to whether the garbage company will pick up anything that the landfill will accept. Mr. Walters advised that this company services many surrounding towns. The town managers of those towns have stated they are satisfied with their service. Mr. Walters advised that if customers wish to have an additional tote besides the one that is provided, the cost to rent one is $1.00 per month. Mr. Walters fielded a few questions from council members regarding the contract, collection fees, landfill tipping fees, and garbage collection rates in other towns. Mr. Walters stated that the garbage collection day will be changing from Friday to Wednesday under the new contract. In addition to the Town notifying customers, Waste Management also plans to notify customers of the new trash collection day. A copy of the contract is on file with the council packet.

**Mr. Palmer made a motion to accept the Refuse Collection Contract as presented in the packet. Dr. Bompiani seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion then carried on the following unanimous 5-0 roll call vote:**

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<tr>
<th>Mr. Hughes</th>
<th>Aye</th>
<th>Dr. Bompiani</th>
<th>Aye</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Palmer</td>
<td>Aye</td>
<td>Mrs. Harkness</td>
<td>Aye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Watkins</td>
<td>Aye</td>
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**Adjournment:**
At 5:41 p.m. Mr. Watkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion which carried on a unanimous 5-0 voice vote.

J. Todd Walters, Town Clerk

Douglas Bradley, Mayor