

1 **Minutes of the New Market Town**
2 **Council Meeting**
3 **Monday, December 21, 2009**
4 **7:30 pm**
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7 The New Market Town Council met in the Council Chambers of the Arthur L.
8 Hildreth, Jr. Municipal Building on Monday, December 21, 2009 with the following
9 members present: Larry Smith, Mayor, John Blosser, Vice Mayor, Ripley Click, Harry
10 Durrett, Eddie Litten, Gary Comer and Troy Fadeley.
11

12 Town Attorney – Jason Ham
13 Town Manager – Chris Boies
14 Town Clerk – Jeanne Rinker
15 Visitors and Press – See attached sheet
16

17 Mayor Smith called the meeting into session and established that a quorum was
18 present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
19

20 **Approval of the Agenda**
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22 **Mr. Fadeley moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr.**
23 **Comer and passed unanimously.**
24

25 **Consent Agenda**
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27 Mayor Smith presented the consent agenda which included the minutes of the
28 November 16th Council meeting and the Financial Statements for November. **Mr.**
29 **Fadeley moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Comer seconded the motion**
30 **which passed unanimously on a voice vote.**
31

32 **Public Hearing**
33

34 Mayor Smith opened the public hearing regarding the proposed issuance by the
35 Town of its general obligation refunding bond in the amount of \$2,000,000. The purpose
36 of the proposed indebtedness is to refund a portion of a \$4,000,000 bond issued on
37 January 18, 2007. Such Prior Bond was issued in order to provide funds to finance
38 improvements to the Town's water and sewer systems.
39

40 Mr. Boies stated "In layman's terms we're basically extending our existing loan
41 in the amount of \$2,000,000 in case the revolving loan fund money is not available. We
42 have received approval on those funds, but the Virginia Resource Authority has to go
43 through a closing with the Town and there's a possibility that that may not be done by
44 January 18th when this loan becomes due. Legally it sounds like we're doing a different
45 thing, but basically we're extending the \$2,000,000 loan."
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47 Mayor Smith opened the floor to public comments, but there were none. The
48 mayor then closed the Public Hearing.

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50 **Citizen Comments and Petitions**

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52 None.

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54 **Committee Reports**

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56 **Finance & Personnel:** Mr. Fadeley gave the following report: "The Finance &
57 Personnel Committee met on December 7, 2009 with all members present. After some
58 discussion on each of the following items, the Committee voted to recommend to Council
59 approval of these items:

60
61 1. A budget amendment to reflect purchase of a police vehicle. Cost has been
62 accounted for, it just needs to be shown as an expenditure in the current budget.

63
64 2. A 1.5% pay increase for all full time employees to be effective January 1,
65 2010. This was a part of our current year budget but was held up until we could
66 determine how our revenue projections are doing. Overall, revenue is about on track with
67 our projections, so we are recommending approval of the 1.5% increase.

68
69 3. \$100 Christmas bonus for all full time Town employees. This is a
70 continuation of a past practice and certainly a gesture of appreciation for the employees.

71
72 4. Recommend approval of Resolution #199 to extend the \$2,000,000 loan from
73 SunTrust, pending receipt of DEQ funds. Loan extension may not be necessary if DEQ
74 comes through before current expiration date in January.

75
76 The Committee also had a brief discussion of the Town audit and commended the
77 Staff for a job well done for the past year.

78
79 **Public Works:** The Public Works Committee met on December 7, 2009 with all
80 members present. The first item was discussion and consideration of a task order from
81 Stearns and Wheler for work on the I&I Project. The request was for an additional
82 \$40,000 to pay for services as a result of additional work done or will need to perform on
83 the I&I project. This is for looking into areas for relining, replacing sewer lines outside
84 the project and extending the contract time. Following discussion the Committee voted
85 to recommend to Council approval of the task order from Stearns & Wheler.

86
87 Mike Ritchie gave an update on the I&I project. The Committee also received an
88 update from LPDA from Mark Lieberth concerning the Streetscape Project.

89
90 Mr. Blosser also extended thanks to the Public Works Department and all town
91 employees for a job well done the previous week-end in clearing the streets and clearing
92 the snow from Congress Street with assistance from the Police Department.

93 **Public Safety**

94

95 Mr. Comer reported that the Public Safety Committee did not meet in December.
96 He also thanked the Public Works Department and the Police Department for all their
97 work relating to the snow storm.

98

99 **Tourism, Economic Development and Historic Preservation Committee**

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101 Mr. Durrett reported that the Tourism Committee did not meet in December.

102

103 **Action Items**

104

105 Mayor Smith presented the first action item, discussion and consideration of a
106 budget amendment to the 09-10 budget to reflect the purchase of a police vehicle.
107 Revenues have been previously approved for this purchase but it was mistakenly not
108 shown as an expenditure in the approved budget. **Mr. Fadeley made a motion to**
109 **approve the budget amendment. It was seconded by Mr. Comer and passed**
110 **unanimously on a roll call vote.**

111

112 The next action item was discussion and consideration of the second installment
113 of employee raises for the 09-10 year. A 3% raise was included in the approved budget
114 but only 1.5% was allocated on July 1, 2009. The second 1.5% requires Council
115 approval and would go into effect on January 1, 2010. **Mr. Litten moved to approve**
116 **the second installment of employee raises as stated. Mr. Fadeley seconded.** Mr.
117 Click made the following comments regarding the motion: "I would like to reiterate the
118 comments I made at the committee meeting. We've got an awful lot of people in town
119 who are drawing Social Security which is the bulk of their retirement income. They are
120 receiving absolutely no increase in their income next year from Social Security. The
121 economy is still upside down and 10% or more are unemployed. We're forecasting that
122 we'll hit our numbers as far as revenues are concerned, but with the past week considered
123 I'm not so sure we're going to do that. Travel has been absolutely horrendous although
124 the motels were full. I just don't think it's the prudent thing to do and it's irresponsible to
125 even consider it."

126

127 Mr. Fadeley countered, "Well last year the Social Security increase was over 5%
128 and the Town employees certainly did not receive 5%. I think they deserve the extra
129 1.5%. Overall they're not getting 3% for the entire year; they're getting 2 ¼ % when you
130 consider the fact that this 1 ½ % is only for 6 months out of the year. I don't feel like a
131 2% increase for the year is out of the question."

132

133 With no further discussion a roll call vote was taken and **the motion carried with**
134 **the following results: Mr. Litten, yes; Mr. Durrett, yes; Mr. Blosser, yes; Mr.**
135 **Comer, yes; Mr. Fadeley, yes; Mr. Click, No.**

136

137 Mayor Smith proceeded to the next action item, discussion and consideration of
138 employee Christmas bonuses. The Town has historically provided \$100 Christmas

139 bonuses for its employees. **Mr. Comer moved to approve a \$100 Christmas bonus for**
140 **each employee. Mr. Fadeley seconded the motion which passed unanimously on a**
141 **roll call vote.**

142
143 Next on the action agenda was discussion and consideration of Resolution #199
144 which basically extends the Town's loan with SunTrust bank for \$2 million for up to a
145 six month period. The Town will repay these funds from the proceeds of a loan with the
146 Revolving Loan Fund (DEQ). These funds were supposed to be available in December
147 but DEQ is now saying we may be lucky to close on the loan in January. Because of this,
148 an extension on the SunTrust loan for \$2 million has been negotiated. This requires a
149 resolution and the Finance & Personnel Committee recommended approval. **Mr. Litten**
150 **made a motion to approve Resolution #199. Mr. Ham interjected at this point, "I**
151 **just want to disclose, for the minutes, that the resolution provides that the form of a**
152 **bond is presented at the meeting as it is on this computer. It is the same as**
153 **previously transmitted, but now the interest rate is 2.53%." The motion was**
154 **seconded by Mr. Fadeley and carried on a unanimous roll call vote.**

155
156 Next on the action items was discussion and consideration of a task order from
157 Stearns & Wheler for work on the I&I project. The request was for an additional \$40,000
158 to pay for their services as a result of additional work they have or will need to perform
159 on the I&I project. **Mr. Blosser made a motion to approve the request for a task**
160 **order as presented in the council packet. Mr. Click seconded, and the motion**
161 **carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

162
163 The final action item was discussion and consideration of a conditional rezoning
164 request on property owned by Brenda Morris, Tax Map #104-A-25A. The property is
165 proposed to be rezoned with proffers from Medium-Density Residential (R-2) to General
166 Business (B-1) and is located at 225 East Lee Highway. **Mr. Comer made a motion to**
167 **approve the conditional rezoning request as described. Mr. Fadeley seconded the**
168 **motion.** Mr. Litten commented, "We had this trouble with that general area down there
169 once before. What they proposed before did not go through, and I just hope if what
170 they're planning now does not go through that we'll bring it back to the zoning it belongs
171 in. I hate to see us change something and then not have it happen." **There was no**
172 **further discussion and the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

173 174 **Mayor's Comments**

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176 Mayor Smith stated "I would like to compliment the Town employees in public
177 works and public safety on the work this week-end. (This was in reference to the 18 – 20
178 inch snowfall received). It was also good because there were a lot of people stranded
179 here from out of town. There seemed to be an air of safety in town, which was good."

180
181 "I'll say again, if you haven't been over to The Shenvalee to see the Christmas
182 trees that have been sponsored by various businesses it's worth a trip over. There was a
183 lot of work put into it and it's my understanding that they've raised close to \$150 already
184 for the food bank. So go vote on your favorite tree."

185 "I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you
186 for working so well together as a Council and for your dedication to the Town of New
187 Market. It's been a good year so far and we're looking forward to a better year in 2010."
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189 **Council Comments**

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191 There were no council comments.
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193 **Staff Comments**

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195 Mr. Boies presented a most enjoyable slide show depicting the year 2009 in the
196 Town of New Market. There were many accomplishments, awards received and
197 celebrations. The only negative event was the fire at the maintenance building and even
198 that resulted in the Town acquiring a new backhoe.
199

200 Following the slides Mr. Boies presented an oral review of what took place in
201 New Market during 2009. Highlights of that presentation follow:
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- 203 • In 2009, the United States experienced one of the worst economies since the Great
204 Depression. In spite of that fact, we had 12 new businesses open in New Market
205 this year. We have potentially more to come with the Valley Health facility being
206 completed and the rezoning that was approved at this meeting.
- 207 • We have the same 20 employees that we started with in January. This is a cost
208 savings to the Town.
- 209 • The Town acquired \$4.2 million in stimulus funds for a \$7 million project which
210 came back to bid at \$3.6 million.
- 211 • The Town received \$324,000 for the TEA-21 Streetscape Project, which is by far
212 our largest allocation to date.
- 213 • We received \$54,000 for fencing in our well sites.
- 214 • We received another \$50,000 in a forestry grant to help with the Streetscape
215 Project.
- 216 • The new water line on Cadet Road has been completed and we appreciate the
217 patience of the residents on Cadet Road.
- 218 • We had over 10,000 feet of sewer line either replaced or relined this year.
- 219 • The Streetscape design is near 100% complete and we're awaiting VDOT
220 approval on those plans.
- 221 • The Police Department received 2nd place in the Virginia Law Enforcement
222 Challenge. They received 1st place in the 2009 Virginia Fit Station Challenge
223 sponsored by the health department.
- 224 • Chris Rinker received the Virginia Police Chief Association's Officer of the Year
225 Award and the Governor's Award.
- 226 • The Police Department organized the Route 11 Task Force and Seatbelt
227 Enforcement. Those efforts strung from Winchester to Bristol, Va.
- 228 • Our own Chief Perry serves on the executive board of the Central Shenandoah
229 Criminal Justice Training Academy.

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- Mike Ritchie served as the president of the Virginia Rural Water Association this past year.
- Chad Neese was chairman of the Shenandoah County Travel Association. So we're very well represented in Town and also out.
- Teresa once again received high remarks for the Town audit.
- We had employees that received licenses that were needed.
- Donna successfully organized one of the better Town and County Dinners we've had in a long time.
- Mike Miller received a MADD award.
- The Police Department received over \$10,000 in DMV grants. They also awarded 3 "Saved by the Belt" awards.

Mr. Boies concluded his presentation with "I could go on and on, but when you turn on the national news every night and hear all this bad news, then you think about all the great things that are happening in our community, we are truly blessed. We had a great 2009!"

Closed Session

There were no closed sessions.

Adjournment

Following a motion by Mr. Litten, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm. Christmas refreshments were then enjoyed by all.

Larry Smith, Mayor

Jeanne K. Rinker, Town Clerk