

1 **Minutes of the New Market**  
2 **Special Town Council Meeting**  
3 **Thursday, May 7, 2020**  
4 **4:30 pm**  
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6 The New Market Town Council met via a virtual GoTo.com telephone meeting  
7 and a YouTube Live broadcast on Thursday, May 7, 2020 with the following members  
8 present via phone: Mayor Douglas Bradley, Peggy Harkness, Tim Palmer, Daryl  
9 Watkins, Larry Bompiani, and Peter Hughes. Scott Wymer was not present for the  
10 meeting.

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12 Present in the Town Office were the following staff:

13 Town Manager – J. Todd Walters  
14 Events & Marketing Director – Amber Smoot  
15 Administrative Assistant – Donna Lohr  
16 Chief of Police – Chris Rinker (present via phone)  
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18 Mayor Bradley called the meeting to order and established a quorum with five  
19 members present. Mayor Bradley welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
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21 **Staff Reports:**  
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23 Mr. Todd Walters gave a brief update on planning and zoning items. He also  
24 discussed what the maintenance and water departments had worked on over the past  
25 month. A copy of Mr. Walter's report is on file with the minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

47 Mrs. Amber Smoot was the next to give her Events and Marketing report. She  
48 reported on changes she made to the website and social media platforms regarding  
49 COVID-19. She mentioned ways she had worked to help businesses with marketing

50 during the pandemic. She also mentioned resources she had provided to the businesses  
51 during this time. Mrs. Smoot fielded a few questions regarding the cancellation and  
52 possible postponement of several events. Mrs. Smoot also gave a brief update on the  
53 branding project. She advised that in Phase 3 of the project, the branding company  
54 desires to meet in person with the client to discuss the options. The branding company  
55 would like to wait a bit to see if a face to face meeting will be possible in the near future.  
56 A copy of Mrs. Smoot's report is on file with the minutes.

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58 **Action Items:**

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

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**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:**

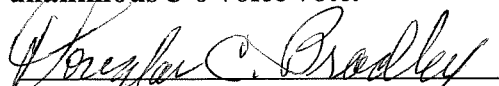
<b>Mr. Hughes</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Dr. Bompiani</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Palmer</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mrs. Harkness</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Watkins</b>	<b>Aye</b>		

**Adjournment:**

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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.

  
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J. Todd Walters, Town Clerk

  
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Douglas Bradley, Mayor