

1 **Minutes of the New Market**
2 **Town Council Meeting**
3 **Tuesday, February 16, 2021**
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 Tuesday, February 16, 2021 with the following
8 members present: Mayor Larry Bompiani, Vice-Mayor Peggy Harkness, Scott Wymer,
9 Bob King, Daryl Watkins, and Janice Hannah. Council Member Doug Bradley was
10 absent.

11
12 Town Attorney – Jordan Bowman
13 Town Manager – J. Todd Walters
14 Administrative Assistant – Donna Lohr
15

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

20 **Approval of the Agenda:**
21

22 **Mr. Watkins made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr.**
23 **Wymer seconded the motion which passed on the following unanimous 5-0 roll call**
24 **vote:**

26	Mr. Wymer	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
27	Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
28	Mr. Watkins	Aye		

29
30 **Consent Agenda:**
31

32 **Mr. Wymer moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the**
33 **minutes from the January 19, 2021 meeting of the Town Council and the Financial**
34 **Statements for January 2021. Mr. King seconded the motion which carried on a**
35 **unanimous 5-0 voice vote.**
36

37 **Public Hearing:**
38

39 There were no public hearings scheduled.
40

41 **Citizen Comments and Petitions:**
42

43 There were no comments from the public emailed to Mr. Walters prior to this
44 meeting. There were no citizens present at the meeting who wished to make public
45 comments.

- 46 1. Mr. Josh Stephens, District 1 Supervisor for Shenandoah County introduced
47 himself to Council Members and Staff. Mr. Stephens gave a brief summary of
48 his background. He then stated that he wants to ensure that his relationship
49 with New Market’s Council members and staff is a strong one. He remarked

50 that he wants to see New Market and Shenandoah County prosper. He
51 commented that he is willing to help in whatever way he can to help New
52 Market prosper. Mr. Stephens mentioned that Mr. Mark Dotson had
53 accompanied him to this evening's meeting. Mr. Dotson is a New Market
54 citizen and a recent addition to the Shenandoah County District 1 Planning
55 Commission. Mr. Stephens wanted to make sure everyone knew who Mr.
56 Dotson was. He further advised that his contact information is available on
57 the County's website for anyone that wishes to get in touch with him.
58

59 Mrs. Harkness commented that it seems that sometimes New Market sort of slides
60 off the County's radar. She advised that she hoped Mr. Stephens and Mr. Dotson would
61 be advocates for New Market.
62

63 Mr. Stephens advised that he would be glad to do that.

64 Mr. Dotson then introduced himself to Council members and staff. Mr. Dotson
65 stated that he has recently decided to get a little bit more involved and build new
66 relationships and expand on ones he has. He remarked that New Market is a jewel and he
67 and Mr. Stephens would work to make it even better.
68

69 **Committee Reports:**

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71 There were no Committee Reports.
72

73 **Staff Reports:**

74 75 **1. Public Works Department Monthly Report – Mr. J. Todd Walters**

76 Mr. Walters gave a brief power point presentation which included updates on
77 planning and zoning items, and updates on projects on which the public works
78 department and water department had worked. Mr. Walters mentioned that the Town
79 Planner position interviews were held last week and an offer will be made this week to a
80 candidate. A copy of Mr. Walter's presentation is on file with the minutes.
81

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

83 Chief Rinker distributed his monthly report to Council members. Chief Rinker
84 gave a brief update on the calls for service for January and he also mentioned some
85 notable events for the month. A copy of Chief Rinker's report is on file with the minutes.
86

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

88 Mrs. Smoot's gave a power point presentation mentioning events that are
89 currently being planned, such as the Jammin' Foods Fest, Cross Roads Fest, and movie
90 nights in the park. Other projects Mrs. Smoot is working on include incorporating the
91 new brand on banners, signs and vehicle decals, planning for Shenandoah County's 250th
92 birthday bash, updating the business directory and other pages on the Town's website,
93 and working on the third round of the Small Business Grant. Mrs. Smoot also mentioned
94 that Town staff is in the process of creating some podcasts for the Town. These podcasts
95 will have Town staff, council members, and town business owners speaking on pertinent
96 topics relating to New Market. A copy of Mrs. Smoot's presentation is on file with the
97 minutes.
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Action Items:

The first Action Item was the discussion and consideration of Utility Disconnection Memorandum Exemption. Mr. Walters reminded Council members that they had discussed this last month. The Town does still meet the 1% threshold that is required to be exempt. Currently there is \$15,272 in arrearages. Mr. Walters asked Town Council if they want to start the process to exempt themselves. Mr. Walters advised that if they start the process today, it will still be the spring before water disconnections could commence. Mayor Bompiani stated that he believes the Town should move forward with the exemption process. Mr. Walters remarked that the Town did get the grant money and that money has been applied to the accounts of those people who applied for grant money. In addition, those people who applied for a payment plan have been provided with a payment plan that can be for up to 24 months. Two people have applied for the payment plan out of all the delinquent accounts that were notified of the payment plan. A general consensus of Council Members indicated that they wished to proceed with the exemption process. Mr. Jordan Bowman, Attorney, clarified that the next step would be that he would work with Mr. Walters to schedule a public hearing. So, Town Council is not actually voting now to do the exemption, Council is just voting to start the process. **Mrs. Harkness made a motion to authorize staff to proceed with the exemption process and schedule a public hearing. Mrs. Hannah seconded the motion which carried on the following unanimous 5-0 roll call vote:**

Mr. Wymer	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
Mr. Watkins	Aye		

The second Action Item was the discussion and consideration of a resolution that opposes Senate Bill 1157 that would move municipal elections to the same date as National Elections. Mrs. Harkness stated that this item is no longer relevant as the Senate has already passed Bill 1157. Mrs. Harkness mentioned that the Town of Strasburg had passed a Resolution objecting to the Senate Bill 1157 and when Mrs. Harkness read it she had wanted to join Strasburg in their objection to Senate Bill 1157. Mrs. Harkness advised that this Bill moves Town elections from May to November with the National elections. Mrs. Harkness stated that what will happen is that it will swamp or submerge the Town elections if they occur on the same date as the National elections. However, it is now a moot point since the bill has already passed. This Bill will now go to the Governor's desk for his signature. Mrs. Harkness just wanted to make Council Members aware of this.

Mr. Walters advised that this will not affect the election in May when Mrs. Hannah is on the ballot for Council Member because it does not take effect until January 1, 2022.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Bompiani thanks Mr. Stephens and Mr. Dotson for attending tonight's meeting. He advised that Town Council will support them in their roles with Shenandoah

148 County. Mayor Bompiani mentioned that Mr. Bradley was missed at this evening's
149 meeting that thoughts and prayers are with him.

150

151 **Council Comments:**

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153 Mr. Watkins remarked that he appreciates the Town's response to the snow
154 removal.

155

156 **Staff Comments:**

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158 Mr. Walters mentioned that he had a phone call today and VDH has sent an award
159 letter for funding for the Water Improvement Project.

160 Mayor Bompiani asked Mr. Walters if he'd heard anything regarding the Rt. 211
161 Sidewalk project. Mr. Walters advised it is still on hold.

162

163 **Closed Meeting:**

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165 At 7:20 p.m., Mrs. Harkness made a motion to enter into Closed Session as
166 authorized by Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the state code, to discuss the acquisition of
167 real property. The subject is the possible acquisition of real property for a water
168 improvement project. Mr. Wymer seconded the motion which carried on the
169 following 5-0 roll call vote:

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171	Mr. King	Aye	Mrs. Hannah	Aye
172	Mrs. Harkness	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye
173	Mr. Watkins	Aye		

174

175 At 8:09 p.m. Mr. Watkins made a motion to accept the following
176 Certification Resolution which he read aloud:

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178 "With respect to the just-concluded closed session, and to the best of each
179 member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open
180 meeting requirements under The Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only
181 such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed
182 meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the
Town Council."

183

184 Mr. Wymer seconded the motion which passed on the following 5-0 roll call
185 vote:

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186	Mr. Wymer	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
187	Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
188	Mr. Watkins	Aye		

189

190 **Adjournment:**

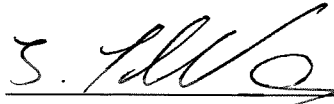
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192 With no further business to discuss, at 8:10 p.m. Mr. Wymer made a motion
193 to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion which carried on a
194 unanimous 5-0 voice vote.

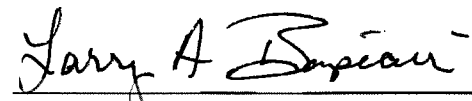
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J. Todd Walters, Town Clerk



Larry Bompiani, Mayor