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**Minutes of the New Market
Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 22, 2022
6:30 pm**

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The New Market Town Council met in the Council Chambers of the Arthur L. Hildreth, Jr. Municipal Building on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 with the following members present: Mayor Larry Bompiani, Vice-Mayor Peggy Harkness, Bob King, Peter Hughes, Daryl Watkins and Janice Hannah. Council Member Scott Wymer was absent.

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Town Attorney – Daniel Rose
Town Manager – J. Todd Walters
Town Treasurer- Teresa Green

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

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Approval of the Agenda:

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Mr. Watkins made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous 5-0 voice vote.

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Consent Agenda:

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Mr. Hughes moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the minutes from the January 18, 2021 meeting of the Town Council, the minutes from the January 31, 2022 and the Financial Statements for January 2022. Mr. King seconded the motion which carried on a unanimous 5-0 voice vote.

Public Hearing:

There were no public hearings scheduled.

Citizen Comments and Petitions:

There were no comments nor petitions from citizens at the meeting, nor were any comments emailed to Mr. Walters.

1. Mr. James Kelly, presented the audit findings for year ending June 30, 2021 by Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates. Mr. Kelly gave a brief power point presentation highlighting some key points from the audit. A copy of Mr. Kelly's presentation is on file with the minutes.

Committee Reports:

There were no committee reports.

Staff Reports:

50 **1. Public Works Department Monthly Report – Mr. J. D. Fadley**

51 Mr. Fadley gave a power point presentation summarizing the projects on which
52 his department had worked over the past month. The Maintenance Department repaired
53 four leaks in the distribution system, refurbished picnic tables from the shelters at the
54 park, performed snow removal and vehicle maintenance. The Water Department
55 continued work on the corrosion control program, worked on calibration and maintenance
56 of meters and instruments, worked on scada upgrades, and started preliminary work on an
57 I&I project. A copy of Mr. Fadley’s presentation is on file with the minutes.

58
59 **2. Planning Department Monthly Report – Meghan Rupkey**

60 Ms. Rupkey gave a brief power point presentation highlighting some items she
61 had worked on during the month. Permits had been issued for the installation of a
62 concrete pad at New Market Poultry, a home occupation permit for a cleaning business,
63 and a temporary use permit for a storage unit. Ms. Rupkey also discussed some
64 meetings she had attended. A copy of Ms. Rupkey’s power point presentation is on file
65 with the minutes.

66
67 **3. Public Safety Monthly Report – Chief Chris Rinker**

68 Chief Rinker gave a brief power point presentation highlighting the statistics for
69 the month of January 2022 as well as some notable events for the month. Chief Rinker
70 also introduced Tim Wilkins, an intern who is a high school student who will be working
71 for the Police Department for the next few months. A copy of Chief Rinker’s report is on
72 file with the minutes.

73
74 **4. Events & Marketing Monthly Report – Amber Smoot**

75 Mrs. Smoot gave a power point presentation outlining projects that she’d been
76 working on during the past month. Mrs. Smoot mentioned that the first podcast for 2022
77 will be done in the next week and the guest speaker is Yvonne Frazier, representing the
78 Community Care and Learning Center. Mrs. Smoot has been working on the
79 Shenandoah County 250th birthday bash event which will be held at the Virginia Museum
80 of the Civil War in New Market. Mrs. Smoot is also in the planning stages for
81 Crossroads events for 2022 as well as working with the Fireworks Committee for the
82 Independence Day celebration. Other projects on which she is working include
83 Wayfinding signage, downtown mural discussion, an RFP website draft, and updating
84 brochures. A copy of Mrs. Smoot’s presentation is on file with the minutes.

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86 **Closed Meeting:**

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88 There were no Closed meetings scheduled.

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90 **Action Items:**

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92 The first action item on the agenda was the discussion and consideration of
93 appointments to the Historic Overlay District Review Board. Mr. Walters explained that
94 Mr. Larry Hale, Mr. Robert Moore and Mr. Allen Johnson already served on the board,
95 but their appointments have expired. All three members are willing to serve another term
96 on this board. Mrs. Sherri Erbaugh who is on the Planning Commission, was asked if
97 she’d be willing to serve on this board and she said she would be willing to serve. The

98 terms of these four members would be effective March 1, 2022 and would end February
99 2025.

100 **Mr. Hughes made a motion to appoint Mr. Larry Hale, Mr. Robert Moore,**
101 **Mr. Allen Johnson, and Mrs. Sherri Erbaugh for a three year term to the Historic**
102 **Overlay District Review Board, effective March 1, 2022 and ending February 2025.**
103 **Mrs. Harkness seconded the motion which passed on the following 5-0 unanimous**
104 **roll call vote:**

106	Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
107	Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Aye
108	Mr. Hughes	Aye		

109
110 The second action item on the agenda was the discussion and consideration of
111 requests from the New Market Farmer's Market. Mr. Walters explained that their
112 requests are the same as they have been in past years. A copy of their requests was
113 included with the packet.

114 **Mr. Hughes made a motion to approve the requests from the New Market**
115 **Farmer's Market as outlined in the letter included with the packet. Mr. Watkins**
116 **seconded the motion which passed on the following 5-0 unanimous roll call vote:**

118	Mrs. Harkness	Aye	Mr. Watkins	Aye
119	Mr. King	Aye	Mrs. Hannah	Aye
120	Mr. Hughes	Aye		

121
122 The third action item was the discussion and consideration of Resolution #242: A
123 Resolution in support of the USBR 211 Bike Route. Ms. Rupkey gave a brief overview
124 of what the resolution supports. Ms. Rupkey's power point presentation is included with
125 the packet. Mr. Walters stated that there is no financial commitment with this
126 Resolution. It simply states that the Town of New Market supports the bike route. Mr.
127 Walters advised that there may be some changes to the route, or an easement may be
128 needed because the current route goes through private property. The current route goes
129 down Rt. 211 to John Sevier Road and then onto Fairway Drive and to Clicks Lane.
130 Some of Fairway Drive is private. Ms. Rupkey mentioned that the bike route coming
131 through town has potential to bring in some tourism in the area.

132 **Mrs. Hannah made a motion to approve Resolution #242: A resolution in**
133 **support of the USBR 211 Bike Route. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion.** Mrs.
134 Harkness remarked that she has concerns regarding the bike route passing through private
135 property as well as concerns about traffic issues. Mr. Walters mentioned that the current
136 route may change due to the road being private part of the way on Fairway Drive. Mrs.
137 Harkness mentioned that Fairway Drive and John Sevier Road are both very narrow
138 roads and the bicyclists will run into the same issues that were brought up in regards to
139 golf carts on the roads. Chief Rinker mentioned that this would not be an overabundance
140 of bicyclists on the road at the same time. It is likely that there will only be a few here
141 and there who are taking these bike routes. Mr. Walters mentioned that even if this route
142 isn't designated as a bike route, there is nothing to stop bikers from coming through on
143 those roads anyway. Mr. Hughes asked Ms. Rupkey if she is attending meetings
144 regarding the bike route. Ms. Rupkey advised that there had only been one meeting so
145 far and that she had attended that meeting. She does plan to attend any future meetings.

147 **With no further discussion, the motion passed on the following 4-1 roll call**
148 **vote:**

150	Mrs. Hannah	Aye	Mr. King	Aye
151	Mr. Watkins	Aye	Mrs. Harkness	Nay
152	Mr. Hughes	Aye		

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154 **Mayor's Comments:**

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156 Mayor Bompiani remarked that he appreciates Council Members' willingness to
157 attend the upcoming Council Work Session scheduled for March 12, 2021.

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159 **Council Comments:**

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161 Mr. Hughes mentioned that the garbage collection company had done a good job
162 the previous week of getting out of the truck to collect garbage that had blown during the
163 strong winds that were occurring that morning. Mr. Hughes also mentioned that he had
164 received notification that Primis bank in New Market is going to be permanently closing
165 on Thursday, May 26, 2022 at noon. Mr. Hughes remarked that he is very disappointed
166 that this bank is closing. He hopes that a way to transition can be found for the people of
167 New Market.

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169 **Staff Comments:**

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171 Mr. Walters remarked that staff had attended a Zoom meeting today with DHCD
172 regarding the Community Center. Mr. Walters stated that the meeting was very positive.
173 The Town plans to submit an application for a planning grant for \$50,000. The
174 application will be available April 1, 2022. DHCD will aid the Town with the
175 application process. Once the application is submitted, it takes about thirty days for the
176 review process. Mr. Walters stressed that one thing that is very important for the grant is
177 the vision for the Community Center. Council members must decide at their work
178 session on March 12, 2022 what their vision for the Community Center is so that
179 information can be highlighted in the grant application. Mr. Walters mentioned that there
180 is also a one million dollar construction grant available for which The Town may apply.
181 That application is available in the fall and again next spring. Mr. Walters advised that
182 the Town would not be ready to apply for it in the fall, but will apply for it in the spring.
183 There is a process that the Town would need to go through before applying for the
184 construction grant. Mr. Walters mentioned that Ms. Rupkey is meeting with some
185 localities who have applied for grants for similar projects so that she can find out what
186 was involved in the process. Council members discussed how to best create a vision for
187 the Community Center and determine a list of priorities for the Center.

188 Mr. Walters mentioned that there is a joint public hearing with Planning
189 Commission scheduled for March 7, 2022. Council Members should plan to attend the
190 joint public hearing.

191 Mr. Walters mentioned that Shenandoah County's recent tax assessment increased
192 values on properties. Mr. Walters stated that if Council wishes to keep the Town's real
193 estate tax rate at \$0.14/\$100 of assessed value, a public hearing must be held. Town staff
194 is currently working on that process with the help of the Town Attorney. If Council plans
195 to keep the tax rate the same, then it is technically viewed as a tax increase. This is

196 because taxes will go up based on the new assessments. Mr. Walters mentioned that real
197 estate taxes in Town do not generate a huge revenue. Mr. Walters mentioned that if you
198 drop the tax rate back to where it is level, then the tax rate would have to go back to
199 about \$0.11/\$100 of assessed value. Mr. Walters advised that it would be best to just
200 keep the rate at \$0.14/\$100 of assessed value, but keeping it at that rate requires the
201 public hearing process. Mr. Hughes asked staff to determine what the average tax
202 increase would be for people in New Market, with the new assessment. Mr. Walters
203 advised that a range could be provided for Council.

204 Mr. Walters then mentioned that he had been in discussion with the Little League
205 organization and they are willing to go in with the Town to re-do the infield of the Little
206 League Field. They would like to work on the Big League field also. Mr. Walters will
207 be meeting with them next week. Mr. Walters advised that he believes if they are willing
208 to put in money towards the fields, then the Town should be willing to put in money on
209 the fields also. Improvements to the fields include extending the bases so a few more
210 events may be held on these fields. The Little League would like to get this work done
211 prior to the start of Little League season this spring.

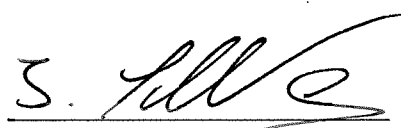
212 Mr. Walters reminded Council that the Work Session would be held at the New
213 Market Community Center on Saturday, March 12th, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. The focus of the
214 meeting will be on the New Market Community Center but other items will be discussed,
215 such as the new Maintenance Building.

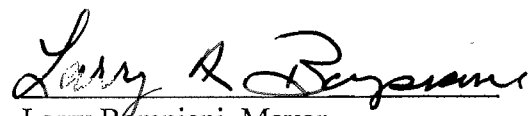
216 Mr. Walters mentioned that the Rt. 211 sidewalk project is likely going to be
217 moved up. There is money available and so projects are being moved up.

218 Lastly, Mr. Walters stated that after the retreat, for next month's podcast, he and
219 Mayor Bompiani will be providing updates on projects going on in the Town of New
220 Market.

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222 **Adjournment:**
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224 **With no further business to discuss, at 7:43 p.m. Mr. Hughes made a motion**
225 **to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion which carried on a**
226 **unanimous 5-0 voice vote.**

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231 J. Todd Walters, Town Clerk


Larry Bompiani, Mayor