

1 **Minutes of the New Market**  
2 **Town Council Meeting**  
3 **Monday, April 18, 2022**  
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 Monday, April 18, 2022 with the following members  
8 present: Mayor Larry Bompiani, Vice-Mayor Peggy Harkness, Janice Hannah, Bob  
9 King, Peter Hughes, Daryl Watkins, and Scott Wymer.

10  
11 Town Attorney – Jordan Bowman  
12 Town Manager – J. Todd Walters  
13 Town Treasurer- Teresa Green  
14

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

19 **Approval of the Agenda:**  
20

21 **Mr. Wymer made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. King**  
22 **seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous 6-0 voice vote.**  
23

24 **Consent Agenda:**  
25

26 **Mr. Wymer moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the**  
27 **minutes from the March 21, 2022 Meeting of the Town Council, the minutes from**  
28 **the April 4, 2022 Special Called Meeting of the Town Council, the minutes from the**  
29 **March 12, 2022 Work Session of the Town Council, and the Financial Statements**  
30 **for March 2022. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion which carried on a unanimous**  
31 **6-0 voice vote.**  
32

33 **Public Hearing:**  
34

35 There were no public hearings scheduled.  
36

37 **Citizen Comments and Petitions:**  
38

39 No members of the public were in attendance. Mr. Walters did not receive any  
40 comments from the public via email.  
41

42 **Committee Reports:**  
43

44 There were no committee reports.  
45

46 **Staff Reports:**  
47

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

49 Mr. Fadley gave a power point presentation summarizing the projects which his  
50 department had worked on over the past month. The Maintenance Department replaced a  
51 shut off valve at a location, and opened a sewer lateral blockage at a different location.  
52 They also worked on refurbishing picnic tables for the park shelters, mowed town  
53 properties, mulched town properties, and began maintenance work at the pool. The  
54 Water Department conducted work on several meters, worked on instrumentation at the  
55 water plant, implemented a SCADA upgrade at North Fork Pump Station, and continued  
56 work on the cross connection and F.O.G. programs. A copy of Mr. Fadley's presentation  
57 is on file with the minutes.

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

60 Ms. Rupkey gave a brief power point presentation regarding projects she had  
61 worked on during the month. She had worked on a variance for a property located on  
62 Clark Street and she had continued work on the CDBG Planning Grant. The application  
63 had been submitted on April 7, 2022. A copy of Ms. Rupkey's power point presentation  
64 is on file with the minutes.

65  
66 **3. Public Safety Monthly Report – Chief Chris Rinker**

67 Chief Rinker gave a brief power point presentation highlighting the statistics for  
68 the month of March 2022 as well as some notable events for the month. Chief Rinker  
69 mentioned that the entire department and a few town staff members had worked on a  
70 Missing Endangered Adult case. The adult was located and found to be safe. A copy of  
71 Chief Rinker's report is on file with the minutes.

72  
73 **4. Events & Marketing Monthly Report – Amber Smoot**

74 Mrs. Smoot gave a power point presentation regarding upcoming events in the  
75 Town. Mrs. Smoot mentioned that Shenandoah County's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash event was  
76 attended by over 300 people. The Easter Egg Hunt was also a success with roughly 75-  
77 90 people in attendance. Mrs. Smoot reminded Council of the Deed Transfer Ceremony  
78 scheduled for Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 at the Community Center. Additional upcoming  
79 events include Jammin' Foods Fest, Movie Nights in the Park, and the Open Market and  
80 Farmer's Market. Mrs. Smoot mentioned that the RFP for the website is active. A  
81 money Management class will be held at the Town Office and will commence in May. A  
82 copy of Mrs. Smoot's presentation is on file with the minutes.

83  
84 **Action Items:**

85  
86 The first action item on the agenda was the discussion and consideration of setting  
87 the 2022 Real Estate tax rate. Mr. Walters explained that the reassessments had recently  
88 been done in Shenandoah County and reassessments went up. This requires localities to  
89 either take the real estate tax rate back to a level that keeps everything even or  
90 approximately the same or if localities want to keep the tax rate the same or increase the  
91 tax rate, a public hearing is required. The Town did hold a public hearing thirty days ago,  
92 as required. If the Town were to keep everything level, the tax rate would have to be  
93 reduced to \$.1139 per \$100/assessed value. The Town's current rate is \$.14 per  
94 \$100/assessed value. If Council leaves the rate at \$.14, it would generate approximately  
95 \$55,000. Mr. Walters reminded Council that a bank in town is closing and the Town will  
96 be losing that bank stock tax of approximately \$30,000. Therefore the Town will not be

97 gaining that entire \$55,000 if Council chooses to leave the real estate tax rate at \$.14 per  
98 \$100/assessed value.

99 **Mr. Hughes made a motion to leave the tax rate for 2022 at \$0.14 per \$100 of**  
100 **assessed value. Mr. King seconded the motion.** Mr. Hughes remarked that this tax rate  
101 will likely not be enough to hire personnel to work at the community center, but this will  
102 help the Town keep up with the inflation rate. Mr. Walters advised that inflation itself is  
103 increasing by 7-8%. The Town has a number of projects scheduled that will need to be  
104 paid for. Just to operate the community center, this tax rate will not cover that cost. Mr.  
105 Walters advised that the Town is justified in leaving the tax rate at \$.14 per \$100/assessed  
106 value, due to the many upcoming projects and expenses. Mr. Walters advised that he had  
107 received no comments from citizens regarding the tax rate. **The motion passed on the**  
108 **following 6-0 unanimous roll call vote:**

109				
110	<b>Mr. Wymer</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Hughes</b>	<b>Aye</b>
111	<b>Mrs. Hannah</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. King</b>	<b>Aye</b>
112	<b>Mr. Watkins</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mrs. Harkness</b>	<b>Aye</b>
113				

114 The second action item on the agenda was the discussion and consideration of  
115 requests from the New Market Area Chamber of Commerce concerning an Open Market  
116 for the first Saturday of each month from May 2022- December 2022. Mr. Walters  
117 mentioned that the letter from the Chamber of Commerce was included in the packet.  
118 Their requests are the same as they have been in past years.

119 **Mr. Hughes made a motion to approve the requests from the Chamber of**  
120 **Commerce for the Open Market to be held the first Saturday of each month from**  
121 **May 2022-December 2022. Mr. Wymer seconded the motion.** Mr. Hughes advised  
122 that it is a small group of merchants who do this event and it requires additional time and  
123 effort from those merchants, but they hold the open market in order to generate additional  
124 business in the downtown area. He further remarked that it is easy for him to support this  
125 endeavor of the Chamber of Commerce. **The motion passed on the following 6-0**  
126 **unanimous roll call vote:**

127				
128	<b>Mrs. Harkness</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Watkins</b>	<b>Aye</b>
129	<b>Mr. King</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mrs. Hannah</b>	<b>Aye</b>
130	<b>Mr. Hughes</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mr. Wymer</b>	<b>Aye</b>
131				

132 **Mayor's Comments:**

133  
134 Mayor Bompiani encouraged everyone to attend the deed transfer ceremony at the  
135 Community Center this coming Saturday.

136  
137 **Council Comments:**

138  
139 Mr. Watkins mentioned that he appreciated the streets being plowed today during  
140 the unexpected snow storm.

141  
142 **Staff Comments:**

143  
144 Mr. Walters commented that a Special Called meeting and a Work Session will be  
145 held on Monday, April 25, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

146  
147  
148  
149  
150  
151  
152  
153  
154  
155  
156  
157  
158  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163  
164  
165  
166  
167  
168  
169  
170  
171  
172  
173  
174  
175  
176  
177  
178  
179  
180  
181  
182  
183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194

**Closed Meeting:**

At 7:04 p.m., Mrs. Harkness made a motion to recess into Closed Session to consult with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by our attorney, as authorized by section 2.2-3711(A)(8) of the state code. The subject matter of the meeting is disposition of real property. And a Closed Session to discuss the disposition of real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating strategy of the public body, as authorized by section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the state code. The subject matter of the meeting is real estate owned by the local government. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion which passed on the following unanimous 6-0 roll call vote:

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

At 7:47 p.m., Mr. Watkins made a motion to return from Closed Session by reading aloud the following Certification Resolution: With respect to the just concluded closed session, and to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under The Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Town Council. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion which passed on the following unanimous 6-0 roll call vote:

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

Mrs. Harkness then made a motion to amend the agenda to add Action Item #3, which was an action item to consider and discuss authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a listing agreement for the former American Legion Property. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion which passed on the following unanimous 6-0 roll call vote:

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

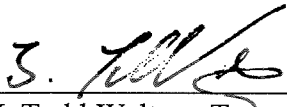
Mrs. Harkness then made a motion to engage the real estate brokerage firm of Cottonwood Commercial to list the former American Legion Property for the amount of \$425,000 and a listing period of six months with a 7% commission and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the listing agreement that provides for those terms in such form as may be approved by the Town Attorney. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion which passed on the following unanimous 6-0 roll call vote:

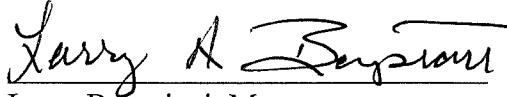
Mrs. Harkness	Aye	Mr. Watkins	Aye
Mr. King	Aye	Mrs. Hannah	Aye
Mr. Hughes	Aye	Mr. Wymer	Aye

195  
196  
197  
198  
199  
200  
201  
202  
203  
204  
205  
206

**Adjournment:**

**With no further business to discuss, at 8:06 p.m. Mr. King made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wymer seconded the motion which carried on a unanimous 6-0 voice vote.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Todd Walters, Town Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Bompiani, Mayor