

1 **Minutes of the New Market**
2 **Town Council Meeting**
3 **Monday, April 17, 2023**
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 17, 2023 with the following members
8 present: Mayor Larry Bompiani, Vice-Mayor Peggy Harkness, Scott Wymer, Bob King,
9 Daryl Watkins, Janice Hannah, and Peter Hughes.

10 Town Attorney – Jason Ham
11 Town Manager – Buster Nicholson
12 Town Treasurer – Teresa Green
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14 Mayor Bompiani called the meeting to order and established a quorum with all
15 members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. Mayor Bompiani
16 welcomed all visitors and guests.
17

18 **Approval of the Agenda:**
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20 **Mr. Hughes made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Wymer**
21 **seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous 6-0 voice vote.**
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23 **Consent Agenda:**
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25 **Mr. Watkins moved to approve the Consent Agenda which included the**
26 **minutes from the March 20, 2023 Meeting of the New Market Town Council, the**
27 **minutes from the April 8, 2023, Work Session of the New Market Town Council,**
28 **and the Financial Statements for March 2023. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion**
29 **which carried on a unanimous 6-0 voice vote.**
30

31 **Public Hearing:**
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33 No public hearings were scheduled.
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35 **Citizen Comments and Petitions:**
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37 Mr. Jeff Mongold, of the New Market Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, gave
38 a brief PowerPoint presentation summarizing the statistics of call volume for the
39 department for the month of March 2023. A total of 139 calls were handled, with 67 of
40 those calls handled within New Market. Mr. Mongold showed pictures of some
41 equipment they use, and he explained the costs for that equipment. Mr. Mongold stressed
42 that inflation is causing major increases to costs for equipment. Mr. Mongold mentioned
43 that one new member was added last month. They have two members in EMT class, and
44 two members in the Fire Fighter class. Mr. Mongold was asked what qualifications are
45 required from those people who apply to volunteer with the Fire & Rescue Department.
46 Mr. Mongold explained that an application must be filled out, a background check
47 completed, and then an EMS number is assigned. Then the applicant must be
48 fingerprinted. Once those steps are completed, the applicant is voted on at the Fire &
49 Rescue Department's meeting. Mr. Mongold stressed that there are people of all ages

50 and demographics that apply. Mr. Mongold encouraged anyone interested to apply.
51 There is no age limit. Anyone that applies can help out the department in some capacity.
52 Mr. King asked where the money comes from for equipment such as the ambulance that
53 Mr. Mongold had shown pictures of. Mr. Mongold advised that most of the money
54 comes from fundraising, however their fundraising efforts are no longer keeping up with
55 the increasing costs of equipment. Mr. King mentioned that the Fire and Rescue
56 Department had answered 19 calls for the month in Rockingham County. He asked how
57 many calls to New Market, Rockingham County had logged. Mr. Mongold replied that
58 he believed Rockingham County had logged one call for the month in New Market.
59 Mr. Mongold then mentioned to Council that since 2016 the Volunteer Fire & Rescue
60 Department has basically been without their own Fire Chief. They have had an assistant
61 that has filled in and Chief Williams has served as Fire Chief. The Volunteer Fire &
62 Rescue Department is asking Council to consider allowing the Volunteer Fire & Rescue
63 Department to appoint their own chief. Mr. Mongold advised that he is unsure of the
64 process required to do this. He was not present when Chief Williams was appointed as
65 Chief in 2016. The volunteer Fire & Rescue Department would like to appoint their own
66 chief because they currently represent themselves anyway. They currently manage their
67 own finances and are very frugal and careful with their expenditures. Their membership
68 is growing, and they are doing their best to serve the community. They are asking that
69 their volunteer fire chief be re-instated and are requesting that Town Council consider
70 pursuing that as an option. A copy of the Fire & Rescue Department's presentation is on
71 file with the minutes.

72

73 There were no comments emailed from the public to the Town Manager.

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75 **Committee Reports:**

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77 There were no committee reports.

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79 **Staff Reports:**

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

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83 Mr. Fadley gave a power point presentation summarizing the projects on which
84 his department had worked over the past month. The Maintenance Department repaired a
85 4" valve on a water lateral to 9137 North Congress Street, alleviated sewer back-ups at
86 the Town office, near the Stirewalt Pump station, and on South Congress Street. The
87 Maintenance Department also trimmed trees in the park and at the town office, put down
88 mulch at various locations in Town, and performed the regular monthly maintenance
89 tasks. The Water Department replaced a water heater at Rebel Park, completed the VDH
90 report for water treatment, staffing and water quality programs, submitted the DEQ
91 discharge permit application for the Water Plant, and reviewed and submitted a proposal
92 for Scada system work for the new storage tanks with the engineers. A copy of Mr.
93 Fadley's report is on file with the minutes.

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94 **2. Planning Department Monthly Report – Buster Nicholson**

95 Mr. Nicholson stated that a Historic Overlay District Review Board Meeting was
96 held to consider the new pavilion at Jon Henry's General Store. A zoning permit had
97 been approved for that same location. A zoning permit had also been approved for the
98 Town's new Maintenance shop. The kick-off meeting for the DHCD Planning Grant for

99 the New Market Community Center is scheduled for this upcoming Wednesday. This
100 meeting is to discuss the steps involved with getting a consultant for this grant. The Food
101 Truck Ordinance will be on the Planning Commission's agenda as a joint public hearing
102 at their May 1st meeting.

103

104 **3. Public Safety Monthly Report – Chief Chris Rinker**

105 Chief Rinker gave a Power point presentation highlighting the statistics for the
106 month of March 2023. Some notable events for the month included a traffic stop
107 demonstration made to the criminal justice class at Triplett Tech, departmental training,
108 and the Response Pinwheel Garden event. A copy of Chief Rinker's report is on file with
109 the minutes.

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111 **4. Events & Marketing Monthly Report – Mrs. Amber Smoot**

112 Mrs. Smoot gave a brief power point presentation which highlighted some
113 upcoming events as well as some event planning. Mrs. Smoot is currently receiving
114 sponsorships for her events. The Easter Egg Hunt was a big success. The Interact Club
115 handled this event and did a great job. Mrs. Smoot is currently reviewing and processing
116 food vendor and craft vendor requests. Upcoming events include Jammin' Foods Fest
117 and Movie Nights in the Park. Additional projects include assisting with Rails to Trails
118 Community Input Meetings, the Merchant's Committee, Tourism Council and working
119 on New Market's Virginia Main Street status. A copy of Mrs. Smoot's power point
120 presentation is on file with the minutes.

121

122 **Action Items:**

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124 The first action item on the agenda was the discussion and consideration of the
125 Capital Improvement Plan (C.I.P.) for FY 24-28. A copy of the C.I.P. was included with
126 the packet. Mr. Nicholson advised that the C.I.P. includes several projects such as the
127 Water Improvement Project, the East Lee Highway Sidewalk, the Public Works
128 Maintenance Shop, Water & Sewer Improvements, equipment replacement, Town Park
129 Improvements, and planning and renovations at the Community Center Building. Mr.
130 Nicholson explained that there will likely be changes in the C.I.P. as revenue streams
131 allow. Projects may get pushed out further than the allotted budget year. Inflation is
132 something to consider with these large projects. **No action was taken on Action Item**
133 **#1.**

134

135 The next item on the agenda was the discussion and consideration of Pedestrian
136 Connectivity Projects. Mr. Nicholson advised that the application process for revenue
137 sharing projects run on two year cycles. It is time to put in an application for the next
138 phase of sidewalk if Council wishes to pursue this. The application must be submitted in
139 May 2023. Included in the packet are maps indicating the phases of sidewalk projects.
140 Council needs to determine which phase they'd like to do next after the Rt. 211 sidewalk
141 project is done. After much discussion, Council determined they would like to pursue
142 portions of phase 2 (pictured in red on the project phases map). Some of the proposed
143 sidewalks in phase 2 that go down some of the side streets on the north end of Town may
144 be eliminated which may cut the cost of the project. The Phase 3 project is a large
145 project and the Phase 4 project is the Clicks Lane project, which is also costly. Mr.
146 Nicholson stated that Phase 2 may be a good option for the Town to put its resources for
147 the next 50/50 revenue sharing project. Council consensus was to pursue phase 2 as Mr.
Nicholson stated. The project can be reduced depending on the availability of funds.

148 Council agreed not to pursue sidewalk down the side streets off of Route 11 north to
149 connect the walking trail that was proposed by the Battlefields Foundation and which has
150 not been started. **No action was taken on Action Item #2.**

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152 **Mayor's Comments:**

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154 Mayor Bompiani thanked Council Members and staff for attending the Work
155 Session on Saturday, April 8, 2023.

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157 **Council Comments:**

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159 Mr. King commented that the Volunteer Fire Department has requested that their
160 fire Chief be re-instated. Mr. King asked Mr. Ham what the next steps are regarding this
161 issue. Mr. Ham remarked that Council may have a Closed Session to discuss the issue.
162 Mr. Ham said he would reach out to Chief Tim Williams who is the current New Market
163 Fire Chief and the County Chief. This is a personnel issue and should be discussed in a
164 Closed Session. Mr. Ham remarked that he can be ready for that Closed Session at the
165 next Council meeting if needed.

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167 **Staff Comments:**

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169 Mr. Nicholson commented that a Work Session of the Town Council will be scheduled
170 for Monday, April 24, 2023 to discuss the Fiscal Year '23-'24 budget. The agenda for
171 that meeting will go out this Wednesday.

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173 **Closed Meeting:** No Closed Meetings.

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175 **Adjournment:**

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177 **With no further business to discuss, at 7:25 p.m. Mr. Hughes made a motion**
178 **to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wymer seconded the motion which carried on a**
179 **unanimous 6-0 voice vote.**

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Buster Nicholson, Town Clerk



Larry Bompiani, Mayor