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Town Council Regular Meeting  
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Regular Meeting

Mayor Pifer called the regular meeting of the Mount Jackson Town Council to order at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers at 5901 Main Street. Roll call was taken with Councilmembers Evelyn Burner, Brandi Freed, Judy Fultz, Bonnie Good, Todd Holtzman, and Rod Shepherd in attendance. Also in attendance were Olivia Hilton, Assistant Town Manager; Keith Cowart, Police Chief; Joey Blankenship, Water/Wastewater Supervisor; and Barbara Riggelman, Town Clerk. Ryan Lynch, Inside Service Manager of Mid Atlantic Storage Systems, Inc. was a guest. Visitors included Sharon Frye, Brenda Foley, Judi Wakeman, Peter & Wanda Shoemaker, Rev. Matthew Diehl, Melissa Dodge, and Jim Hines.

Prayer: Rev. Matthew Diehl, Mount Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, offered the invocation.

Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes: None

Hear from Visitors: Sharon Frye stated that she would like to speak regarding the proposed boat landing south of Mount Jackson. She stated that she was not contacted and this would be right in her front yard. She would like to have it on record that she was not contacted. Both landowners around this proposed boat landing do not want this; it will make property values go down. Ms. Frye stated that if she wanted to see a parking lot, she'd go live in the city. She stated that this would not be handicapped accessible and it must be. She checked with the Social Security Administration and they stated it would have to be handicapped accessible, and there is no way it can be at this site. With the graveyard being so close, with funerals being held there, people having loud music at the river would not be appropriate. Ms. Frye stated her hopes that the Town and the County think long and hard about this project, as it will bring riff raff, park and ride people will park there, and she doesn't see how this could be of benefit to the Town.

Mayor Pifer stated that Town Staff have been meeting with adjoining property owners. Ms. Frye stated that she was not contacted at all. She heard about it through the grapevine and by that point, this was already done and drawn up, and this is not right. Mayor Pifer stated that the plans are not actually done. Ms. Frye stated that drawings were already printed showing how the site could look if passed, but she was not contacted to see how they felt, because her family has show animals there and this would not be a good thing.

Opening Remarks From Mayor: Mayor Pifer stated that he had the privilege of going to Norfolk for the Mayors Institute; he and Councilwoman Good both attended the Virginia Municipal League Conference. Mayor Pifer stated that Ms. Good could speak about this later in the meeting, but it was a good, informational conference.

Chief of Police Report: Chief Cowart reported for the month of September, there were 403 calls for service; year to date total being 7,350. There were 12 mutual aid/warrant services and served 3 warrants for other agencies. Chief Cowart stated that there was an assault on law enforcement, no injury, a gallon or so of water was thrown on the officer; an obstruction of justice/eluding police that was closed by arrest; there was a vehicle stolen, vehicle information entered into the system, waiting on it to be located; there was a petit larceny, warrants obtained, waiting to be served; an online fraud scam, leads exhausted, no money was lost but it was an attempt; there were 3 ordinance violations, 1 was closed, 2 are active with summonses obtained, they have been served, waiting on court date. Cold Cases began being reported last month – as of September 30, there are still 87 active cases with 174 being closed since last report. The team is working well on this, being diligent and making sure all due process is being taken care of. Investigator Whorton completed her General Instructor training; Officer Penwell is scheduled to attend in March 2024; all officers have completed required in service training for recertification. Officer Campbell returned to active duty after being involved in a motor vehicle crash while on duty. She is doing well, just some slight headaches. The Drug Take Back Event

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will be on October 28 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Police Department and 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Mount Jackson Pharmacy. Throughout the year, there is a permanent drop box there at the pharmacy to drop off expired medications. On Halloween night, trick-or-treating will be from 6:00-9:00 PM. There has been no status change on the Flock camera systems at the moment.

Town Manager Report: Ms. Hilton had no report.

Presentations:

**Mid Atlantic Storage Systems – Ryan Lynch, Inside Service Manager**

Mr. Lynch stated that the Town has a water storage tank that was built about 35+ years ago and was recently inspected in August. There was an inspection report available for Council. Mr. Lynch stated that this bolt-together glass-lined water storage tank will require maintenance, and he has a brief presentation regarding this. Mayor Pifer clarified that this tank is the one at Shenandoah Caverns. Mr. Lynch stated that this was the original name of it in their system. Mid Atlantic Storage is a dealership for CST storage tanks, one of many dealerships in the country and around the world, and the State of Virginia is the furthest south in their territory. They have lots of tanks in Pennsylvania that don't last like this tank has if they're neglected; if they are well maintained, they have tanks that have lasted 40 years. This presentation will touch on the rehab process and why it is important. Mr. Lynch showed slides on the inside and outside of the storage tanks, what parts would need repair, before and after rehab and service, and some projects they have done. Mr. Lynch stated that they have 2-3 crews that do approx. 50 of these a year; workers are factory-trained by the manufacturers and know what to look for. Mid Atlantic will not try to sell services that are not needed or necessary; their image and reputation is important to them. Mr. Lynch showed pictures of repairs that are needed and services that are recommended. If stickers are needed on the tanks, the workers carry them with them all the time and will go ahead and put them on; there is no charge for this service. Mr. Lynch stated that another thing the company takes pride in is taking care of the site afterwards. They will remove scrapings and old sealer so the site is clean when they leave. This tank is in good shape but does need some maintenance. Mr. Lynch stated that work could begin as soon as November if desired.

Mr. Shepherd inquired, on a scale of 1-10, where our tank would be compared to other tanks that Mid Atlantic maintains, with 10 being the best and 1 being junk. Mr. Lynch stated that due to the age of the tank, it is still in great shape so it would be a high number, being an older tank with so few problems, but because there have been a few leaks here and there, it is time for maintenance, so that would be a low number. Mr. Lynch stated that if 10 was junk, this tank would be a 1 or 2; it is still in really good shape, it needs reconditioning rather than replacing. Mr. Shepherd inquired, with renovations, what Mr. Lynch would estimate for how much longer the tank could last. Mr. Lynch answered typically 15-20 years, that is typically how long it takes for the bars and sealant to replete. 15-20 years minimum in this area would be a good estimate. Ms. Good inquired if the bars can be replaced. Mr. Lynch answered affirmatively and that is part of what they have proposed. In their standard of proposal, they give options and Mr. Lynch explained what the critical items are and what would be more of an optional item. Mayor Pifer inquired how long the critical areas, from start to finish, would require to be completed. Mr. Lynch stated that they would ask that the tank would be down when they arrive on Monday, and part of that requires pumping the silt stop dry, they could be in and out in a week with this tank. You would allow the sealant to cure for approximately another week, so 2 weeks total downtime.

Ms. Good asked Joey Blankenship if it would be a problem to have this well down. Mr. Blankenship answered that it would not be a problem; they have had it down for almost 3 weeks for the first initial inspection. They are still able to use other 2 tanks and keep up. Mr. Blankenship stated that his recommendation is to wait until

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the spring of 2024. Right now with the drought conditions, you don't want to put another 500,000 gallons of water down the drain if you don't have to. He does now that Mid Atlantic can come fix the few leaks that the Town has now until the other repairs can be done. Mr. Lynch stated that crews will come down here and do dry inspections and leak repairs for free. It is nice to do these jobs in conjunction with other work being done in the state, but this is an aspect of extended customer service that Mid Atlantic does. This is not a warranty at this point, with the tank being well out of warranty, but it is something that Mid Atlantic provides.

Mr. Shepherd inquired that this is not a crisis situation, that repairs can wait until early 2024. Mr. Lynch answered affirmatively. Mr. Shepherd inquired if Mr. Lynch left a bill, to which Mr. Lynch stated that he had one available. Mr. Shepherd inquired if this would be dated by the time repairs will be made. Mr. Lynch stated that right now the bid is good through 12/1/23 and he does not see a lot of things changing between now and then. New tanks have increased in price with rising steel prices, but repair work like this has not. Ms. Burner inquired as to how much notice Mid Atlantic requires. Mr. Lynch stated that he would be calling around for scheduling in early January and he would include Mr. Blankenship in these calls to set up his calendar and reserve space at that time.

Mr. Holtzman inquired when Council can expect to take action on this item; he had seen the quote somewhere. Ms. Hilton stated that what Mr. Blankenship recommended was that the first 3 phases would be \$40,000 within FY2025 and then the other would be \$55,000, potentially FY2026. It would make more sense to do it all together, but there is no need to vote this evening if Spring is when work would be done. Staff would like Council to let them know if they would like everything done at one time or staggered over several budget years. Mr. Lynch stated that if the exterior work is done at a separate time, you would not need to drain the tank again. As long as the tank is not sweating profusely, exterior work can be done while water is in the tank and lots of customers choose to do that. Mr. Shepherd inquired if it would make sense to do this all at one time. Mr. Lynch stated that for them it would possibly be a little better as they have a ways to travel, but there is no other advantage. It is up to the Town and if funds are available. If work is to be done at the same time, they would work on the inside first, so that while they are on the outside during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week or so and the sealant is curing, they can help with the disinfecting process. Mr. Shepherd asked Mr. Blankenship if March would work for him. Mr. Blankenship answered affirmatively; the only reason he was going to stagger the work out was that he hadn't put anything in this year's budget for the rehab. He had just got the inspection done and hadn't talked to anyone about it yet. Mr. Shepherd encouraged Staff to put together a plan and bring a report to Council in November or December so that this project can get scheduled and started in March.

Ms. Hilton asked Mr. Lynch if he was state contracted with commission to avoid procurement. Mr. Lynch stated that he was not aware, but to avoid the public bid process, they are a sole authorized dealership of CST tanks and because of that, only Mid Atlantic can provide the parts that would be needed. For example, when they come into the tank, they will remove a panel to get scaffolding inside. To get that back in, they would prefer not to reuse the old fasteners and would provide new fasteners. These are only available through CST, so if someone else undercuts Mid Atlantic on price, they will still have to come to them to get replacement pieces. They have a letter from CST that denotes Mid Atlantic as the sole authorized dealership for erection and maintenance work on these tanks and this usually get them past that requirement.

Committee Reports:

1. Finance Committee - Chairperson Rod Shepherd stated that the auditors were here and were only here 2 days, which is a testament to Staff and what a good job they have done this year. The audit should be wrapped up, possibly in time for the November meeting, but certainly in time for the December meeting. Mr. Shepherd

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inquired if Council would like to have Saidee Begoon zoom in to present the audit, have it prepared to be read and then adopted, or if there was another method preferred. Ms. Begoon has offered to come in person, but this would be a 3 hour trip for her. Mayor Pifer stated that last year Ms. Begoon zoomed in to the meeting and this worked well, so his recommendation was for this. Council was in agreement. Mr. Shepherd stated that he would have Ms. Begoon present the audit via zoom. Mr. Shepherd stated that a swimming pool report for the entire season was also presented. The swimming pool never makes money but is a service provided for the community, and new Staff may have some creative ideas for next summer at the pool. This report was in the Town Manager's Weekly Report.

2. Ordinance Committee - Chairperson Evelyn Burner reported that the committee had a meeting last week. They will be getting with Jay Neal in order to make sure ordinances are done in a legal and correct manner.

3. Personnel Committee - Chairperson Todd Holtzman had no report.

4. Public Safety Committee - Chairperson Judy Fultz had no report.

5. Public Services Committee - Chairperson Bonnie Good had no report.

6. Public Properties Committee - Chairperson Brandi Freed stated that she had an update. A boy scout presented to Council previously a Free Little Library for the town park. The library is complete; he had a local artist paint it so it will stand out; the plan is to install it this month, date to be determined. Mr. Freed stated that she thought he would like to have a small ceremony to open it up to the public.

Consent Agenda: Approval – Minutes of September 12, 2023 Regular Meeting

Councilmember Fultz MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Burner to APPROVE the Consent Agenda item above.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Burner			
Councilmember Freed			
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Good			
Councilmember Holtzman			
Councilmember Shepherd			
6 AYES, motion carried			

Old Business:

**Avondale Tree Planting**

Ms. Hilton gave an update that this item was discussed at the Public Properties Meeting. Staff has gotten the directive to reach out to the property owner at Avondale Acres and move forward with potentially planting if it is agreeable with the property owner. The property is for sale at the moment, so Staff will look into getting an easement. Once that is complete, Staff will work with the Department of Forestry and friends. Randy Lonas has measured the space; Staff will work to find the best vegetation for the space. Step 1 will be connecting with the property owner this week. Ms. Good stated that it sounds like one section is being discussed instead of the section that comes before that one; there were two sections that had sidewalks installed. From the Post Office northwards is also part of the section and does not have the same landowner. Ms. Hilton asked for

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clarification that trees were taken down in that parcel as well. Ms. Good answered that it was everywhere that the new sidewalk was installed. Ms. Hilton stated that Staff is hoping to start with the portion that citizens have complained about and then down the road, Council would like to tackle replanting where trees have been removed.

Mr. Holtzman stated that he was hopeful that Council would have a map, as he is not really sure where those sections are. He stated that Mr. Shepherd was adamant about doing something this fall while it could still be done. Mr. Shepherd stated that the best time to plant trees is in the fall. The section being discussed is the far north edge of the new sidewalk, there's a low-lying lot. Mr. Holtzman inquired if this was from Food Lion all along down to Avondale. Mr. Shepherd answered not as far south as Food Lion; probably from the post office north. Ms. Freed stated her agreement that a map would be very beneficial, definitely if Council is looking at planting, and also reaching out to the Master Gardeners to see if they could assist with getting native trees from the Forestry Department. Having a map and a plan would be good. Ms. Hilton stated that a larger concept definitely makes more sense, but the first step in this moment so that no time is wasted for Staff, is making sure that property owner is even amenable to planting, in the large parcel at least. Staff can certainly work on a larger map down the sidewalks, but this will be more time with the turn around from the holiday. Staff will work towards an easement, this seems to be the most pressing area where trees were removed. If Council's directive is to go from the post office to Food Lion, then Staff can work on that, which will require some easements on private properties. Ms. Hilton stated that she believed that some trees removed in front of Hardee's, which was the choice of the private property owner, so Staff will need to navigate this for a larger plan.

Mr. Holtzman inquired why an easement would be needed to plant a tree. Ms. Hilton answered because it would be on their property. Mr. Holtzman inquired what if they just gave permission; an easement is forever, like you're going to own the tree. An easement is an encumbrance; the Town would be giving the property owner a tree. Ms. Hilton answered that this would be more of an MOU, an understanding, than an easement. For instance, the parcel in Avondale Acres that is for sale right now - the Town could plant the trees, the owner could sell it, the new owner could cut them all down and put up a gas station. If there is never any written agreement, an argument can ensue over the ownership of the trees. Mr. Holtzman stated that he doesn't believe the Town will get an easement. Ms. Hilton stated that an easement is ideal as they are more formal than an MOU. Ms. Hilton stated that she believed the Town got an easement for the sidewalk. Mr. Holtzman stated that of course you would need an easement for a sidewalk because it is permanent and the Town has to maintain it. Most property owners, if they're smart, would not give an easement for a tree because then you've encumbered the property, which devalues it long term, and then later if they want to cut the tree down, they're out of luck. Mr. Holtzman stated that he believed in the past, trees were just planted; some are still there, some had to be cut down. It just sounds like this project won't happen this fall; if you plant them next season, you'll have to water them and risk them dying. Ms. Hilton stated that if Council wants Staff to just plant trees, they will go that route; it just makes her nervous since the property is for sale. Mr. Shepherd stated that this will be the fourth meeting that constituents have been to in order to get the trees replanted that were cut down for the sidewalk and Autumn is the best time to plant trees. He stated he would like to see something happen on the northern section as that is the most barren section. Ms. Hilton said this was the section Staff was working on, to talk with the property owner and see if the Town can plant trees. At this point, sending this item back to Council doesn't solve anything and this needs to stay at the Staff level.

New Business:

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**1. 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Ms. Hilton stated that the biggest thing to note is that it is the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission works on their mitigation plan, she believes every five years. Basically, this allows the towns to individually apply for pre or post disaster funding. It is not a necessity that this be passed. Shenandoah County can apply on the Town's behalf, but it gives the Town more individual rights in the event of a disaster. The Commission has asked for all of the towns to pass it so they are collectively having a game plan in case of a disaster. Mr. Shepherd inquired if there are any fees or licensing that the Town is obligated to pay for the plan. Ms. Hilton answered negatively. Mr. Shepherd stated that he read the entire plan and it seems solid. Ms. Hilton answered that the Town is not financially obligated at all, each town pays into the Commission anyways. Mayor Pifer read the Resolution for the Hazard Mitigation Plan

Councilmember Shepherd MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Fultz to ADOPT Resolution R-07-2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan as submitted by the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Burner			
Councilmember Freed			
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Good			
Councilmember Holtzman			
Councilmember Shepherd			
6 AYES, motion carried			

**2. Proposed Mural for Shenandoah Lanes Wall**

Wanda Shoemaker stated that recently, she and Peter were approached by Mr. Holtzman and Mr. Shepherd in installing a mural on their building. The wall is blank and perfect for a mural. Ms. Shoemaker pointed to a picture of the wall in question with mold growing on it, stated that Mr. Shoemaker had the wall sealed up about 10-15 years ago, and it needs it again. Moisture gets in there and must be sealed so that the inside doesn't get mildewed. Mr. Shoemaker stated that it does leak if not sealed. Ms. Shoemaker stated that Mr. Holtzman proposed a flag; he was not aware that Ms. Shoemaker had done a rendition 15 years ago and had presented to the Council at that time, and they were turned down. At the time, they had already approached the Art Group and all that was needed was to recent the scaffolding. The Art Group was going to do it for free. Some of these people are now deceased, some are too old for scaffolding. Ms. Shoemaker showed a picture of the rendition that she had done to give some ideas. She stated that she had drawn the soldiers by a fire, with their rifles beside the Union Church, a portion of the covered bridge, and it would be nice to have a portion of The Knob. Ms. Shoemaker stated that when you are doing a painting you should have an odd number of objects; she had 3 in her rendition. She also talked about needed a darker image at the height of which the mural would be placed.

Ms. Shoemaker inquired what could be done to preserve the mural from fading. Mr. Holtzman answered that he didn't believe you could do anything to preserve it from fading, but there is an anti-graffiti sealer, though this would be a mural high up on a wall from possible graffiti. He stated that neither of his murals have been defaced. He has not explored UV resistant paints. Ms. Shoemaker stated that she wasn't talking about graffiti, she was talking about fading. She thought there was a sealer that could be put on it if it does get painted.

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Ms. Good asked for clarification on the surface issues, that it gets mold on it and inquired as to what is happening there. Mr. Shoemaker stated that this was the location of the original police station, with apartments above it. The wall needs to be resealed with a silicone sealer periodically. It was last done 10 years ago and it is getting time again to reseat it. Whatever is done to the wall, it should be sealed first, then painting applied. Ms. Good stated that what Mr. Shoemaker is saying is that over a period of approximately 10 years, it will deteriorate the picture. Ms. Shoemaker said this would not happen if you did several coats; they only did one coat when they had it done. Mr. Shoemaker said that if it were painted, there would be more than one coat as the sealer would be one layer, the painting on top of that would be another layer, then a sealer on top of the paint would be a third layer. Ms. Good stated she just worries about sacrificing the painting, and someone who is an expert on this should be consulted. Ms. Shoemaker stated that the artist that puts it up should be able to tell you, and whether it should or should not be done. Ms. Good complimented Ms. Shoemaker's idea. Ms. Shoemaker stated that there is the Veterans Park with the memorial for the veterans, and she believes the Town has enough of that. She believes in it and loves it; the flag is a lovely idea, but this mural should be something different. Ms. Good stated that one of the meetings she attended at the VML Conference was on a subject similar to this. What they did was have the town's name written in wide letters, with a place in the interior for pictures of things around town. Ms. Shoemaker stated that being up that high, the mural would have to be larger; something like that would need to be lower.

Ms. Hilton inquired of Ms. Shoemaker what her ultimate goal was for the mural, was it to mimic the watercolor rendition she had painted or to hone in more on the Union Church. Ms. Shoemaker answered that you couldn't do the same building she painted because that was not the Union Church. The Union Church is no longer being used as a worship center, no baptisms, no marriages; it is used for different programs. Ms. Hilton stated that she is aware of the requests for a Union Church mural, but she was worried some of the detail would get lost at the height the mural would be placed at, and inquired how Council would handle the conversation with murals. Mr. Holtzman stated that Council has not had this discussion before, to which Mayor Pifer agreed. Mr. Holtzman stated that the first mural done was privately paid for so there was no conversation. Ms. Shoemaker stated that the mural was painted on his property. This would be on their property, so who would pay for this mural. Ms. Hilton stated that this was the real question. In communities she has worked in, private owners worked with non profits and handled this outside of a government entity, so this would ensure a precedent depending on what Council decided to do. Mr. Holtzman inquired how the murals in Strasburg were paid for. Mr. Hilton answered that it was a non profit with some from the property owner, but mostly the non profit. Ms. Shoemaker stated that this would not benefit her and her husband; it would benefit the town, to beautify the town, to show the historical parts of the town. Ms. Burner inquired if non profits and artists could be consulted. Ms. Hilton answered that traditionally the CCPG, the Creative Communities Partnership Grant that the Town funds, that funding goes directly to the Shenandoah Music Festival. The Town could potentially request more funding down the road where some of it would be more for this type of program and had more of a visual arts partner, but that would be a match with the Town. The tricky part is that the Town would not have a say because it would be between the non profit and the owner. Ms. Shoemaker stated that this is the problem, that some things have been done that the Town did not have a say in and it is ugly. She wants something more attractive, like the covered bridge mural. Mr. Holtzman stated that the Shoemakers have total control because they own the building.

Mr. Holtzman shared that the building on King Street was the Robinson's Produce building. He had an old picture from many years ago when it was Robinson's Grocery Store and there was a pass through. There was an old Model A parked there that could dive under and the feed would dump into the back of the truck. He used this picture when he restored the building. If you look closely, you can see in the picture that it says

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“Robinson’s Produce.” This was more of a decoration and a nod to the history of the Town. When the building that was the former Nostalgia Mart became available, when he was restoring the building, it was such a blank canvas. It didn’t have any windows to speak of, or not a lot, because it had a building next to it. When the building was restored, it had a primer coat and a nice base coat to protect it. Because it was ground level, the artist came and took an 8.5x11” picture that was decided on, taped it on the wall, and just started painting. Mr. Holtzman stated that the artist was only here 6-8 days total, traveling from Hagerstown, MD. An anti-graffiti coating was applied and he was also able to touch up the mural across the street of the old car where some repair work had been done. Mr. Holtzman stated that it has held up well and not been defaced. Long term, if fading occurs, it can be touched up and there may be some type of UV protectant.

Mr. Holtzman stated that this 3<sup>rd</sup> project had popped up rather quickly. He is more of a traditional person and was proposing a more traditional mural. He thought that a tribute to the American flag in some fashion would be appropriate and he believes that in a small town, murals are warm and inviting. There may be a precedent set for funds spent and it takes Council’s approval to spend money, but Council has also spent money to put apples on the water tower and other things to put Mount Jackson on the map. Mr. Holtzman stated that he had requested up to \$7,000 for this project, even though the last mural cost less, because this project would require scaffolding, base coat, and some work done. If the Town needs to find private funds for this project, he believes funds can easily be found to make it happen and he knows someone who can help with this. You will need to have the property owners approval to do it. To answer Ms. Good’s question about water damage, Mr. Holtzman stated he believed the water issue came from the outside. Long term, he believes this would be a good project for the town and there are a few other places in town that could also be used for murals. Some discussion ensued over the type of design that should be used for the mural. The Shoemakers were invited to the Public Properties Committee meeting on November 1, 2023 at 12:30 PM for more discussion on this topic, including potential sketches and non profit funding ideas.

### **3. 160 Race Street Update**

Chief Cowart stated that he had sent an email to Council earlier along with pictures he had taken inside the building. He and Phil Burner inspected the property. Upon pulling up to the building, you can see where the foundation is starting to pull away from the structure. The pillars on the front porch will fall into Race Street with any pressure applied to them. They walked around the building. The door on the north side of the building, the frame and structure has pressed down so hard against it that you could not open it. They crawled in through an addition through a very small door. First steps in, the floor was spongy and spongy all throughout the building. You can see where the wall is separating from the floor. You can see through the walls out to the yard. Back to the foundation in the front, standing on the southeast corner, he could see a large hole through two walls of the foundation. The upstairs where there was a woodstove or wood pipes, charring is in the rafters. Chief Cowart stated that the building is definitely in bad shape, and it is his recommendation from previous experience in the construction field that it needs to be taken down before anyone else goes in legally or illegally. Mr. Holtzman inquired if the building can be condemned from this visit. Ms. Hilton answered that the building official is subcontracted out. Jay Neal will be working on paperwork to get the lien going. All he needed from the Town was a declaration that it was unsafe. Mr. Holtzman thanked Chief Cowart for visiting the property. Ms. Hilton stated that the Chief will also be getting the quote that was requested from the gentleman that toured the space, adding another option, as there is concern about needing to remove asbestos before demoing the building.

Closing Remarks by Council Members, Mayor: Ms. Good stated that the VML Conference was quite educational. There are some things that she will address at a later date.



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Ms. Burner requested the Hometown Partnership give an update. Ms. Wakeman stated the last Downtown Music was held on September 30 and a nice crowd attended. The Market was on October 7. It was a rainy day but they did have 5 vendors show up and all were very pleased with their sales. The Partnership is working with Ms. Hilton, making plans. The Veterans Day Program will be November 11 at 5:00 PM at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church. They are still working on some loose ends, including the meal in the social hall. The speaker and the two veterans to honor are lined up. They will be having their next meeting on Thursday, October 12 to discuss the medallion award. Previously it has been a hanging medallion and an etched glass. They are switching to a beveled glass which sits in a wooden tray that can be displayed in the veteran's home. The Market for November and December is looking very positive that this may be inside at the cafeteria of the old Triplett School. They are waiting for final approval. Brenda Foley is working on plans for the Big Band Bash 2024. They have not started on plans for the next Downtown Music as they are waiting for direction from Ms. Hilton. Ms. Hilton stated that they were out for about 2-3 hours today delivering flyers for the Merry on Main event. Ms. Wakeman stated that the Christmas Parade for Mount Jackson will be great. This event is planned for Saturday, November 25, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. They are working on lining up craft vendors, food trucks, and a Santa Claus for Merry on Main event. Ms. Wakeman held up a flyer and stated these can be found around town, along with applications to participate in the parade. Chief Cowart has already put in for the necessary parade permits for the parade to begin at Valley Fertilizer and continue to the old DBI. Ms. Wakeman stated that this will be a grand evening with all kinds of events. Ms. Hilton stated that she had just received a text that Sugar Creek will be present with their ice cream truck. Ms. Burner inquired if flyers had been delivered to the school for the band to march. Ms. Hilton stated that she had signed Ms. Burner up for the school portion of the event and recruiting the bands.

Motion made by Councilmember Shepherd, seconded by Councilmember Good, to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM.

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Barbara Riggelman, Clerk

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Donald "Donnie" I. Pifer, Mayor