

Mount Jackson  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
January 11, 2022

-1-

The regular meeting of the Mount Jackson Town Council was held January 11, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the council chambers at 5901 Main Street. Roll call was taken with Mayor Pifer, and Councilmembers Rod Shepherd, Whitney Miller, Bonnie Good, Judy Fultz, Dennis Andrick, and Roger Rudy in attendance.

Also, in attendance, Neil Showalter, Town Manager; Steve Crisman, Interim Police Chief; Keith Cowart, Police Sergeant; and Debbie Allen, Town Clerk. Visitors were Eleanor Whitehurst and Melinda Monroe. Darla Odom from The Berkley Group attended electronically through Zoom. Dave Moore from Cornerstone was present to provide Zoom service.

Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes:

Councilmember Rudy MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Shepherd to APPROVE the Addition of Item #1 under New Business for a recommendation from the Personnel Committee. Mr. Showalter stated he would like to add a closed session to that motion as well.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Miller			
Councilmember Andrick			
Councilmember Shepherd			
Councilmember Rudy			
Councilmember Good			
6 AYES, motion carried			

Hear from Visitors: None

Remarks & Recommendations from the Mayor: None

Remarks from Councilmembers: Mr. Shepherd thanked staff for sending to Council the full feasibility study for the potential bicycle trail from Broadway to Front Royal. He hopes everyone has chance to read it, it is a very positive document that indicates a lot of positive things that will come out of this trail.

Presentations: None

Chief of Police Report: None

Town Manager Report: Mr. Showalter stated he sent Councilmembers updates to 10 items on Friday and will not go through those items tonight. He reminded Councilmembers the Town Office will be closed on Monday, January 17, 2022 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. He stated if anyone would like the Rail Trail feasibility study link or printed copy let him know. Mr. Showalter stated it is a very readable 100-page report, and extremely interesting.

Committee Reports:

1. Finance Committee Chairperson, Rod Shepherd stated COVID has struck the accounting team and the audit report is not available tonight, but anticipates it will be available in February.
2. Ordinance Committee Chairperson, Dennis Andrick had no report.
3. Personnel Committee Chairperson, Roger Rudy stated he will speak under New Business.

Mount Jackson  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
January 11, 2022  
-2-

4. Public Safety Committee Chairperson, Judy Fultz reported December Police Department calls were 1367, up 194 from November. There were 4 criminal offenses, 1 closed by arrest, 2 charges pending under investigation, and 1 closed turned over to Fire and Rescue. They conducted 1101 extra patrols/property checks, 10 construction checks, 41 foot patrols, assisted in 25 mutual aid calls, and located 6 open doors/windows at 5 different locations.

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

6. Public Properties & Facilities Committee Chairperson, Whitney Miller had no report.

Consent Agenda: Approval – Minutes of December 6, 2021 Special Meeting and Joint Public Hearing  
Minutes of December 14, 2021 Regular Meeting  
Minutes of December 30, 2021 Special Meeting and Public Hearing

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

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Miller			
Councilmember Andrick			
Councilmember Shepherd			
Councilmember Rudy			
Councilmember Good			
6 AYES, motion carried			

Old Business:

1. Update on Cases SA 21-01 and SUP 21-01.

Ms. Odom stated on January 3 the Planning Commission deferred action on both cases to their February 7 meeting, and it would be appropriate tonight for the Council to defer its action until after the Commission's meeting in February. She noted staff will be working with the Commission and the applicants between now and their next meeting to try to answer any questions and get Commissioners to the point where they are ready to take action. She stated staff does not anticipate another deferral, but the Planning Commission does have additional time, as the state law allows 100 days to take action on special use permits. The substantial accord is running in agreement with the applicants as a companion case to the special use permit.

Councilmember Shepherd MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Andrick to DEFER Substantial Accord Case 21-01 and Special Use Permit Case 21-01 until next month's meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Miller			
Councilmember Andrick			
Councilmember Shepherd			
Councilmember Rudy			
Councilmember Good			
6 AYES, motion carried			

Mount Jackson  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
January 11, 2022

-3-

2. Deferral of Public Hearing on OFW Solar Farm Siting Agreement – Reset for February 8, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Councilmember Good MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Fultz to DEFER the Public Hearing on OFW Solar Farm Siting Agreement - Reset for February 8, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Miller			
Councilmember Andrick			
Councilmember Shepherd			
Councilmember Rudy			
Councilmember Good			
6 AYES, motion carried			

New Business:

1. Recommendation for New Police Chief.

Mr. Rudy stated the Personnel Committee comprised of Ms. Miller, Mr. Shepherd and himself worked with Ms. Fultz from the Public Safety Committee, Mr. Showalter and Mayor Pifer to identify the new Chief of Police. There were 47 applications processed through eight meetings, six interviews and came down to one unanimous recommendation. He asked Ms. Fultz to make that recommendation.

Councilmember Fultz MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Andrick to APPROVE the Recommendation and Appointment of James Keith Cowart as the New Chief of Police.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Miller			
Councilmember Andrick			
Councilmember Shepherd			
Councilmember Rudy			
Councilmember Good			
6 AYES, motion carried			

Mayor Pifer congratulated Chief Cowart and thanked Mr. Crisman for a job well done filling in as Interim Chief. Mr. Crisman stated it has been a pleasure, and the Town has a really good group officers who work together well. He stated Mr. Cowart will do well, and wished Councilmembers good luck finding his replacement.

Motion made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Fultz, that the Council of the Town of Mount Jackson convene a closed session under Virginia Freedom of Information Act state code section 2.2-3711(A)(3) to discuss or consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

Mount Jackson  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
January 11, 2022

-4-

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Miller			
Councilmember Andrick			
Councilmember Shepherd			
Councilmember Rudy			
Councilmember Good			
6 AYES, motion carried			

Mayor Pifer adjourned the regular meeting at 7:11 PM to begin the closed session.

Motion made by Councilmember Shepherd, seconded by Councilmember Fultz, to return to the open meeting at 7:31 PM.

The Council of the Town of Mount Jackson hereby certifies, by roll call vote, that to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council of the Town of Mount Jackson.

VOTE:

Councilmember Fultz	I So Certify
Councilmember Miller	I So Certify
Councilmember Andrick	I So Certify
Councilmember Shepherd	I So Certify
Councilmember Rudy	I So Certify
Councilmember Good	I So Certify
Mayor Pifer	I So Certify
7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT	

Motion made by Councilmember Shepherd seconded by Councilmember Fultz to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM.

---

Deborah "Debbie" L. Allen, Clerk

---

Donald "Donnie" I. Pifer, Mayor