

Town Council Meeting

Regular Meeting

May 10, 2016

The regular meeting of the Mount Jackson Town Council was held May 10, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at 5901 Main Street. Roll call was taken with the following in attendance: J. Bucky Miller, Mayor; Ken Hackenbracht, Whitney Miller, Donnie Pifer, Roger Rudy and Rod Shepherd, Councilmembers. Councilman Andrick was unable to attend. Also in attendance, Neil Showalter, Finance Director; Doug Arthur, Town Attorney and Town Clerk, Heather Taylor. Visitors: D. Brinegar, T. Holtzman, D. Mumaw, Chief J. Sterner and R. Whitehurst.

Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes: None

Visitors: Todd Holtzman brought up the issue of delinquent real estate taxes and information he gained through conversations with the County and H. Taylor. Specific property owners are familiar with how to pay delinquent real estate taxes to the 4th year back and by doing this they are able to keep the property off of the courthouse steps where it could otherwise be sold at auction. Mr. Holtzman stated that it isn't uncommon for properties that are delinquent to also be the properties that are unkept. As a property owner who pays his taxes, Mr. Holtzman has filed a formal complaint requesting that the town turn these properties over to Litten and Sipe LLP of Harrisonburg for collections. Mayor Miller said that this would be looked into by the Chair of the Ordinance Committee, Dennis Andrick, as well as Chief Sterner and Doug Arthur.

Mayor Miller stated in his report that Kevin Fauber is recovering well from his back surgery. He is in good spirits and the surgery was a success. Asst. Treasurer, Sharon Bauserman had knee surgery and is home recovering. The Town and County dinner 4/16/16 was a big success and he thanked Heather Taylor for her help with the function. Finance Director, Neil Showalter is back to work and is taking care of business. The mayor offered his congratulations to re-elected council members D. Andrick, D. Pifer and R. Shepherd.

Chief Sterner reported that the police department is working on the town ordinance. The department served 7 letters for inoperable automobiles and messy yards on properties in town. He requested that the community please report addresses to the police if they see anything. The Chief included in his statements that any auto on properties in town need to be removed or garaged. Covering them with a tarp is not allowed and does not exempt the vehicle from needing to be removed. Sandra Sparkman from Heart of the Valley Thrift Shop spoke to Chief Sterner about adding more parking along Main St. The Chief requested that business owners and employees park behind their businesses when possible and

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asked the council if the municipal parking lot could be better marked with signs to make it more obvious to people that they can park their cars in that lot.

Chairman Roger Rudy of the Public Safety committee reported that police department calls were up in April by 368 which is a 43% increase. This is due to officer initiated property checks being done mostly at night. The department had 9 criminal offenses and cleared 7 with 2 remaining under investigation.

David Brinegar from the Mount Jackson Rescue & Fire department spoke about the history of the fire department and different needs always being present. He commented on the town and the community coming together with the fire dept. to meet these needs. The Fire Department is doing an Open House June 5, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. and welcomes all. Their fundraising with the sale of bricks will be going on that day.

Chairperson Whitney Miller of the Public Property committee reported that National Pools and the Town's Public Works dept. are working on finishing up at the baby pool at the Community Park. She also commented on the old Triplett School building and said that options for the building are being discussed and what will best serve the town.

Chairman Ken Hackenbracht from the Public Service committee reported that Gale Netz had called him in the absence of Kevin Fauber. He had set up a meeting with Shenandoah Valley Electric Co-op, (SVEC) and Dennis Caplinger from DC Controls. SVEC was concerned about getting the underground electric over to Well 8 on the mountain. As you know we negotiated a right-of-way through the Poole property. Gale is concerned that work previously done by Public Works will have to be done over again. SVEC will not run the line in until there is a meter base_service and a disconnect base. Dennis Caplinger quoted \$3,982 to put this in. Kevin Fauber authorized Gale to get the contract signed and get that underway. SVEC gave a tentative date for the line to be installed the third week of June.

Councilman Rudy made mention of a correction in April's minutes to strike out "not" in the sentence 2nd from the bottom on page one so that the sentence now reads, "Councilman Rudy mentioned in his Public Safety report that there has been a recent increase of calls but these are officer initiated."

Councilman Pifer MOVED, seconded by Councilman Hackenbracht to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Approval-Minutes of April 12, 2016 Regular Meeting.

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ROLL CALL VOTE

AYE

NAY

ABSENT

Councilman Hackenbracht

Councilman Andrick

“ Miller

“ Pifer

“ Rudy

“ Shepherd

5 AYES, motion carried, Consent Agenda passes with amendment.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance 0-01-2016 Councilman Shepherd made a motion to set a Public Hearing at the Council Meeting on June 14, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. and to set a Special Meeting to approve the budget June 28, 2016, seconded by Councilman Hackenbracht.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYE

NAY

ABSENT

Councilman Hackenbracht

Councilman Andrick

“ Miller

“ Pifer

“ Rudy

“ Shepherd

5 AYES, motion carried

2. New Market/Mount Jackson Little League. Councilperson Miller presented a letter from the Little League detailing the wishes and needs of the league. They mentioned needing another field and the one at Triplett would be helpful. They also hoped to be able to use the gym to practice in the event of bad weather. There will be an Open House at Triplett 6/4/16 so that the community will be able to see the space and give their feedback.

3. Shenandoah Valley Music Festival. Councilperson Miller presented the SVMF grant request which has been presented to the Town Council. SVMF is seeking financial support from the town of Mount Jackson in the matching of a grant for 25K.

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These funds can come from other donors. The concert series includes 10 concerts scheduled until Labor Day. Is it possible that the town has a space where these concerts can be held?

4. Councilperson Miller presented a pool rate/pass rate change. There will no longer be In-town and Out-of-Town rates for the pool admission and pool passes.

The rates are as follows: Newborn to 4-FREE

5-11- \$2

12-Adult \$4

Pool passes are now \$125.00 sold only at the town office.

Councilman Pifer moved that the Council of the Town of Mount Jackson convene a closed meeting under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act in order to discuss the acquisition, sale, disposal of or other use of real property for a public purpose, under Virginia Code §2.2-3711 (A)(3). Seconded by Councilman Rudy.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYE

NAY

ABSENT

Councilman Hackenbracht

Councilman Andrick

“ Miller

“ Pifer

“ Rudy

“ Shepherd

5 AYES, motion carried

Councilman Pifer MOVED that the council meeting reconvene to open session, seconded by Councilman Shepherd.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYE

NAY

ABSENT

Councilman Hackenbracht

Councilman Andrick

“ Miller

“ Pifer

“ Rudy

“ Shepherd

5 AYES, motion carried

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Councilman Pifer stated 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.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYE

Councilman Hackenbracht
" Miller
" Pifer
" Rudy
" Shepherd
" Mayor Miller

I so Certify

"
"
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"
"

ABSENT

Councilman Andrick

6 AYES, motion carried

Councilperson Miller mentioned that the Public Property committee is meeting at 1:30 in the Council Chamber on Friday, 5/13/16 and this meeting is ex-officio-Open to other council members as well as to the public.

The meeting adjourned with a motion made by Councilman Pifer, seconded by Councilman Rudy.

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR

