

## Town Council Regular Meeting

January 9, 2018

The regular meeting of the Town of Mount Jackson Town Council was held January 9, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers at 5901 Main Street. Roll call was taken with the following in attendance; Rod Shepherd, Vice Mayor; Whitney Miller, Dennis Andrick, Donnie Pifer, Ken Hackenbracht and Roger Rudy Councilmembers. Also in attendance, Kevin Fauber, Town Manager; Neil Showalter, Finance Director; Matt Akers, Town Attorney; Susan Maziarz, Interim Town Clerk; Jeff Sterner, Chief of Police. Approximately 3 people from the community were in attendance.

Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes: None

Hear from Visitors: None

Remarks & Recommendations from Vice Mayor Shepherd: Mayor Miller sends his regrets he is feeling under the weather. I like to pay a special thanks to our Public Works staff, they keep things running during our cold spell. We had some serious problems during the freezing cold spell, our Public Works staff stayed on top of it. I like to thank them for all their hard work. I spoke with Heather Richards from The Conservation Fund they are waiting to get all of the last checks in. We will know more by the February Town Council meeting.

Remarks from Councilmembers: None

Presentations: Jenna French, Shenandoah County Tourism/Economic Development, thank you all for having me here tonight. I'm here to give you my annual Tourism Report, my role now encompasses Tourism and Economic Development, the numbers I'm going to share are from the 2016 Economic Impact Data we get from the state are the most recent figures. I'm happy to report over 213 million dollars in visitor related spending in Shenandoah County. That is a 4.8 percent increase over the previous year, a 10 million increase over the previous year. We are ranked number one in the valley and ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> in the state for visitor expenditures. In terms of jobs supported thru tourism, we had over 1,805 jobs related to tourism supported in Shenandoah County. That is a 4.2 percent increase over the previous year. If you look at the numbers since the year 2000, we have a 27 percent increase in tourism related jobs. In 2016 we had over 6 million dollars in tax receipts generated as a result of tourism. We continue to find new ways to promote tourism thru Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations, Wilderness Road, Fields of Gold and Triple AAA World. Our marketing plan looks very similar to last year, and promoting the Sprits Trail and Farm to Fork. Still working on discussions with Rails to Trails Committee. The Seven Bends State Park is scheduled to open within the next year.

Town Attorney Report: None

Chief of Police Report: None

Town Manager Report: The sidewalk project has slowed down because of the weather. We have received some information from the Health Department on the Well Project we will be able to put the project out for bid soon.

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Committee Reports: Councilmember Shepherd, Chairman of the Finance Committee, we have auditors here all week. I expect to have an audit presentation in March or April. I think this year we should have the auditors here to do the presentation.

Councilmember Andrick, Chairman of the Ordinance Committee, Officer Young has gotten nine more junk vehicles removed, Officer Young is doing a great job!

Councilmember Rudy, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that Rescue & Fire responses were 58 that is down by 9 from the previous month. The year-end report I notice the Fire and EMS responses are both up 8 & 9 percent from previous year, David Brinegar spoke, even with increased staffing by the county (New Market, Orkney & Conicville) that is around us, the need is going to continue to increase. The Fire and Rescue are having a Turkey and Oyster Dinner February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 starting at 12pm. The police report for the month of December total calls is 422 is down two from previous month. There were 23 criminal reports, 17 have been cleared and 6 are under investigation. Two open doors at two different properties. Officers conducted 200 property checks.

Councilmember Miller, Chairman of Public Properties, we are hoping to have the public bathroom at the park by this summer. We are looking into getting the big pool a facelift this spring.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval – Minutes of December 12, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting.

Councilmember Pifer MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Andrick to APPROVE the Consent Agenda consisting of the Approval-Minutes December 12, 2017 Regular Meeting Town Council Meeting December 12, 2017.

VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Miller		
“ Andrick		
“ Pifer		
“ Shepherd		
“ Hackenbracht		
“ Rudy		

6 AYES, motion passes

Old Business: None

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New Business:

1. Police Department Cell Phone Proposal

Councilmember Rudy spoke, I have been doing ride alongs with the police department since coming on to council, one thing I notice is use of their personal cell phone by the officer to respond to or make a call related to something going on in the community. In the last ride along with Chief Sterner that led into a conversation about the officer's use of their personal cell phone on department business. The chief explored this a little more, it became obvious that this could create some legal problems. That if the officer had saved a record of a call or picture taken at a crime scene, and this needed to be used for an investigation, that cell phone would have to be obtained and that information lifted off of it as part of the evidence, then it would compromise that officer's personal and private information on their personal cell phone. The Chief Sterner obtained quotes from two different providers Verizon and Sprint. It was determined that Sprint would be the best source for cell phone for each of the officers and service contracts attach to each of those cell phones.

The recommendation is we contract with Sprint to provide cell phones for each of the officer's along with the service contract that will support the use of the cell phones specifically for department correspondence.

Councilmember Andrick made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Rudy to approve Police Department Cell Phone Proposal.

VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Miller		
"    Andrick		
"    Pifer		
"    Shepherd		
"    Hackenbracht		
"    Rudy		

6 AYES, motion passes

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

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CLERK

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MAYOR