

## Town Council Regular Meeting

February 13, 2018

The regular meeting of the Town of Mount Jackson Town Council was held February 13, 2018 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; Rod Shepherd, Whitney Miller, Dennis Andrick, Donnie Pifer 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. Heather Richards from the Conservation Fund. Approximately 4 people from the community were in attendance.

Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes: None

Hear from Visitors: Mr. Kenna Fansler spoke, The Mt. Jackson Museum & The Mt. Jackson Garden Club is sponsoring a Historic House Tour during the Garden Club Week Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 4:00pm. Rain date is Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Tickets are \$10.00 a person. The Houses on tour are the Pennybacker House, the Strahmore House, Mill Creek Manor House, The Chuck Lambert Home and The Union Church. We are working on getting one more house. Tickets and refreshments at the Museum.

Mr. Kenna Fansler addressed Council about his new tenants in a house, the new tenants mailed their water & sewer payment, it was not received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Kenna and the new tenants received a Cut-Off Notice from the town. When did that policy change from 60 to 30 days? Because at one point it was 60 days on a case by case basis? Mayor Miller responded, the 15<sup>th</sup> is the due date and the cut-off date is the 25<sup>th</sup>, there is a 10-day grace period. Mr. Fansler asked was it longer at one time? Mayor Miller replied not that I know of. Mr. Fansler asked is there any consideration for going to 60 days? Mayor Miller responded we will discuss the water deposits later this evening, and we will take that under advisement. Mr. Neil Showalter the Finance Director spoke, as guidance we have the Town Code to go by. The Town Code states what the late date and cut-off date is supposed to be. Mr. Fansler asked can that be changed a little bit? I feel like there is a lot of low income people in this town, and the kind of winter we have had, and to pay the late fee and pay the re-connect fee, and if you are willing to work with them a little bit, and if you are willing to let them pay it little at time, and they are caught up at times during the year. They are doing their best. Mayor Miller spoke, a letter goes out letting them know they are getting ready to be cut-off, they get a separate notice. Mr. Fansler responded you have a deposit to cover it. Mayor Miller responded they are leaving a three or four hundred dollar debt and the deposit is not covering it. Mr. Showalter responded we encourage them to call ahead of the cut-off date and talk to somebody on the staff we will give them a little extra time if we know ahead of time and they give us a specific date and follow through on their word. If they call and say they will pay on the 30<sup>th</sup> and they do not pay on the 30<sup>th</sup> we will shut them off. We invite them to call us, but if we do not hear anything from them, for your own protection we have to cut them off. Mr. Fansler responded he and the tenant did received the cut-off notice on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and said the tenant will look into signing up for bank draft. Mayor Miller spoke good communication is key. As I said before we will take this under advisement.

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Remarks & Recommendations from Mayor Miller: It's good to see Kevin is back. Thank you Rod for taking over last meeting while I was under the weather. As you can see Councilmember Hackenbracht is absent, he goes in for back surgery tomorrow, keep him in your thoughts and prayers. A citizen of the Town of Mount Jackson who for works for the Town of Woodstock, stop to talk to me that Woodstock just started a program they are offering larger trash and recycling containers to residents it's \$1.00 per month add to your town monthly bill for either 64 or 96 gallon container. It is a month to month rental or if you need for a special event you can rent for a specific time. If you move and take it with you or something happens to it there will be a \$99.00 fee. It's a contract you fill out. I will have more information about and I will have staff look at it.

Remarks from Councilmembers: None

Presentations: None

Town Attorney Report: None

Chief of Police Report: Chief Sterner reported we had six more inoperable vehicles removed this month. The cell phones have come and there is a cell phone policy in place. The officer's have their cell phones.

Town Manager Report: Kevin spoke, Mayor let me call for a word of thanks for the prayers and cards I received during my illness, it meant a lot to me. I appreciate our staff they stepped up to the plate in my absence. On the sidewalk project the weather has slowed things down quite a bit. Today they have started laying the bricks at Our Soldiers Cemetery. They are starting again to work on the sidewalk north side of town. Warmer temperatures are coming over the next 10 days. That project is scheduled to be substantially completed by the beginning of March, they may meet that. We did receive the plans, specs and bid documents for the Well Project. That will be going out to bid sand we have bid scheduled the opening date for March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Committee Reports: Councilmember Shepherd, Chairman of the Finance Committee, we had Auditors in the house last month. I had a long sit-down talk with the lead auditor. We do not have a target date yet as to when we will get our final report.

Councilmember Rudy, Chairman of the Public Safety, the Police Department total 444 calls for January up by 22 calls from December. There were 6 Criminal Offense's, 2 are still under investigation all other have been closed or cleared, 5 open doors from 3 different locations, up 3 from last month. In your packets tonight are some charts, the first one is 2017 Police Department Calls for Service the average is 545 calls, and 2017 Criminal Offenses Reported the average 15 reports. The Rescue and Fire Report for January 2017 total responses 90 is up by 32 from December, EMS total responses 61up16 from December, Fire responses 29 up 16 from December.

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Councilmember Miller, Chairman of the Public Properties, I met with Mitch with Cunningham Recreation last week, talked about new equipment for the park. He will break up into chunks to decide if we do a piece in the spring or a piece in the summer. And he is going to look at the area by the shelter and between the basketball court and zip line, and the walking path for some fitness equipment and new benches. Then perhaps on the side of the T-ball field structure the kids could climb on. He is going to get me some ideas and pricing. The committee talked about the big pool needing tile and grouting to be done. I talked with Preston, the winter cover is on now and there maybe other issues. We will not address anything until the cover comes off and they take a look at the other issues. So hopefully we can be ready in the fall to take care of the tile and grout. I spoke to The Town of Luray they put me in touch with the architect who designed the bathrooms along the greenway. I asked the architect to look into a designing bathroom for the park.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval – Minutes of January 9, 2018 Regular Town Council Meeting.
2. Reappoint Joe Proctor to the Mount Jackson EDA, term expiring June 30, 2021.

Councilmember Pifer MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Andrick to APPROVE the Consent Agenda consisting of the Approval-Minutes January 9, 2018 Regular Meeting Town Council Meeting. Reappoint Joe Proctor to the Mount Jackson EDA, term Expiring June 30, 2021.

VOTE:

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

5 AYES, motion passes

Old Business:

1. Update on Knob Preservation – Mayor Miller spoke, The Town of Mount Jackson will be matching \$10,000.00 to the Knob Preservation Fund. Heather Richards spoke, I would like to thank the town for your support and efforts, as of today we met our \$50,000 dollar goal including the \$25,000 from the town. The next step is the Conservation Fund has the property under contract, will be going to closing sometime this spring. We are in the process of getting a survey done. Once the property has been purchased, the Conservation Fund will hold the property and will work with the Forest Service to secure water and land conservation funding, so the Conservation Fund can transfer the property to the Forest Service. We are hopeful it may happen before end of the year, it may be sometime next year. Again, thank you so much.

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New Business:

1. Discussion on Delinquent Taxes - Mayor Miller opened the discussion on Delinquent Taxes, looking at getting a Real Estate Lien Process in place, we have not used here before. Discussed about putting a Real Estate Lien on anything above \$200.00 or more, lump in the lending institution, including the one owner with multiple properties that are delinquent, so when they sell their property the town will get paid and adding verbiage for the habitual offenders. Mayor Miller, Councilmember Andrick and Staff recommend to Council to raise the Utility Deposit to \$250.00 and the Re-Connect Fee to \$50.00, we are the lowest in the county. Councilmember Shepherd requested the staff do a report on what other towns are charging for Utility Deposits and Re-Connect Fees. I also would like to see a report how much lost revenue in Utility Deposits in the last 12 months. If any changes are made they can be done through the Town Fiscal Budget beginning in April with Public Hearings.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

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CLERK

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MAYOR