

Mount Jackson
Town Council Regular Meeting

April 13, 2021

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Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Mount Jackson Town Council was held April 13, 2021 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, and Roger Rudy in attendance. Councilmembers Judy Fultz, Dennis Andrick, and Bonnie Good attended electronically through Zoom.

Also, in attendance, Neil Showalter, Town Manager; Jeff Sterner, Police Chief; and Debbie Allen, Town Clerk. Mario Rosso, Finance Director and Jay Neal, Town Attorney, attended electronically through Zoom. Jim Hines, James Dorsey, and three other visitors were present. Dave Moore and Kevin Estep from Cornerstone Technology were present to video record the meeting.

Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes: None

Hear from Visitors: James Dorsey stated he is employed by Glenn Youngkin, who is currently the front runner in the race for the Republican nominee for Virginia Governor. He stated he is present tonight with forms to pre-file as a convention delegate in order to be able to vote, as instead of a primary there will be a convention. Mr. Dorsey stated Glenn Youngkin is a strong conservative, a man of faith, and the only person who is able to beat a strong Democrat such as Terry McAuliffe. Mayor Pifer asked what the day for voting is. Mr. Dorsey stated the deadline to pre-file in Shenandoah County is Friday, April 16, and the day of voting is May 8, with a drive-through convention location possibly in Woodstock.

Remarks & Recommendations from the Mayor: None

Remarks from Councilmembers: None

Presentations: None

Chief of Police Report: None

Town Manager Report: Mr. Showalter stated the Town plans to open the pool on Memorial Day weekend for the summer, and lifeguards are needed. The pool will operate under the amended Executive Order 72 that is currently in place, which limits capacity and requires masks and social distancing, and pool staff, who did a good job enforcing this last year, will be kept abreast of any changes. Mr. Showalter stated the minimum wage in Virginia will be raised to \$9.50/hour, and to direct any potential candidates to the Town Clerk. Councilmember Miller asked the lifeguard employment ad be put on the Town's Facebook page so it can be shared as well. Mr. Showalter stated there will be two new co-managers this year, whom the Town Clerk will meet with tomorrow to begin planning the season.

In regards to the sidewalk project, Mr. Showalter stated he did receive the easement agreement last week from the shopping center management team and it all looks to be in good order. There is one easement, from a gentleman who lives in Saudi Arabia, which has not been received. However, Mr. Showalter has spoken with his son on the phone and has received emails from him, indicating he and his family would like the Town to proceed on the work. Mr. Showalter stated he has forwarded that information to VDOT and is waiting to hear if they are willing to allow the Town to proceed based on that authorization.

The Town is going to have a large trash pickup on April 26, which will be the first pickup since last early year, other than picking up Christmas Trees. Public Works does not expect to be totally finished in one day, as a very heavy load is expected.

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Mayor Pifer recognized three new guests present, stating he is glad they attended the meeting tonight and they are welcome anytime. He also welcomed Councilmember Miller back in person tonight.

Committee Reports:

1. Finance Committee Chairperson, Rod Shepherd stated he will speak under New Business.
2. Ordinance Committee Chairperson, Dennis Andrick had no report.
3. Personnel Committee Chairperson, Roger Rudy had no report.
4. Public Safety Committee Chairperson, Judy Fultz reported March Police Department calls were 856, up 109 from February. There were 13 criminal offenses, 2 closed leads exhausted, 5 closed cleared by arrest, 3 closed by various reasons, and 3 under investigation. They conducted 623 extra patrols/property checks, and 31 foot patrols. There was no report for March from the Fire and Rescue Department.
5. Public Services Committee Chairperson, Bonnie Good had no report.
6. Public Properties & Facilities Committee Chairperson, Whitney Miller stated her committee has been discussing a few items via email, and with Mr. Showalter. First, the Garden Club and Kenna Fansler are working to get new planters on Main Street, which are very nice. She discussed with Mr. Showalter the Town potentially helping fund the flowers, and volunteers will be needed to help plant them, and assist in keeping them watered so they look nice throughout the summer season. Ms. Miller stated Little League reached out and requested some bulbs be replaced in the light poles. Randy Lonas had some already in storage, the Town is purchasing two more bulbs, and Xylem Tree Company has agreed to use their lift to replace them. Opening day was last Saturday so there was a lot of activity, but there are fewer games and spaced out this season. Lastly, she is working with the playground equipment company to possibly get two picnic tables to place between the zipline and the new equipment, so parents and families have a place to sit and supervise or have a snack.

Consent Agenda: Approval – Minutes of March 9, 2021 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting.

Councilmember Andrick MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Rudy 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: None

New Business:

1. Extension to Close Land Sale to Route 11 Chips.

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Mr. Showalter stated last spring the Town negotiated a sale of approximately 10.8 acres of industrial park land for nearly \$445,000 to Route 11 Chips. At that time, the contract, dated May 8, 2020, negotiated May 1, 2021 as a closing date, with the stipulation if that date could not be met, both parties would have to agree to an extension. Mr. Showalter stated asked Town Attorney, Jay Neil, to draft an extension, which is attached to the memo, and asked Route 11 Chips to send it to their attorney as well. Mr. Showalter stated late Friday afternoon he heard from their attorney, John Flora, and they have no changes. Mr. Showalter stated staff recommends Council approve this extension document and authorize the Mayor to execute the extension on behalf of the Town.

Mr. Neal stated an extension is not unusual these days in real estate. He did not know if Route 11 Chips has obtained their appraisal yet, but commercial appraisers are not as plentiful as residential appraisers, and all appraisers are extremely busy at this time. Mr. Neal stated he spoke to their attorney and they are anxious to buy the land, there is no hesitation, they just need more time to close.

Councilmember Good MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Fultz to APPROVE the Extension to Close the Land Sale to Route 11 Chips.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYE

NAY

ABSTAIN

ABSENT

Councilmember Fultz
Councilmember Miller
Councilmember Andrick
Councilmember Shepherd
Councilmember Rudy
Councilmember Good
6 AYES, motion carried

2. Resolution R-03-2021 Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Mount Jackson Amending FY 2021 Annual Budget. Introduction/Set for Public Hearing May 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Councilmember Shepherd stated this is a formality the Town does approximately this time every year after reviewing the current year budget. He stated all the numbers were very close, with the exception of the Route 11 Chips real estate transaction which was just extended. Mr. Shepherd stated Resolution R-03-2021 is to amend the Town's previous year budget, and there will be a public hearing right before the May Council meeting.

Councilmember Shepherd MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Andrick to APPROVE the Introduction of Resolution R-03-2021 and Set a Public Hearing for May 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYE

NAY

ABSTAIN

ABSENT

Councilmember Fultz
Councilmember Miller
Councilmember Andrick
Councilmember Shepherd
Councilmember Rudy
Councilmember Good
6 AYES, motion carried

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3. Ordinance O-02-2021 Adopting Budgets for the General Fund, Utilities Funds, Capital Projects, and Equipment Replacement Funds; Establishing Real and Personal Tax Rates, Establishing Compensation Amounts/Rates, Setting Fees for Water, Sewer, Refuse Services, Auto License Tax, and Other Fees, Charges, Penalties, and Taxes, and Establishing Annual and Specific Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2022. Introduction/Set for Public Hearing May 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Shepherd stated the budget will be introduced tonight. It is not a carbon copy of previous years, but is similar. He stated staff has prepared a memo to be included in the May water bill newsletter, and it will be online as well. There will be a Finance Committee meeting at 6:00 PM on May 11, prior to the public hearing and council meeting, for an opportunity to ask staff detailed questions.

Councilmember Shepherd MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Good to APPROVE the Introduction of Ordinance O-02-2021 and Set a Public Hearing for May 11, 2021 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			

Mr. Showalter recognized Mr. Rosso and thanked him for his hard and efficient work on the budget. He stated this is only Mr. Rosso's second year, and he provided 90% of the detailed numbers.

Motion made by Councilmember Shepherd, seconded by Councilmember Good, to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 PM.

Ms. Good asked if the Town Park is open and if the zipline fixed. Ms. Miller stated yes to both, and at this point it is mainly up to parents and children to be aware of their surroundings and follow social distancing guidelines.

Deborah "Debbie" L. Allen, Clerk

Donald "Donnie" I. Pifer, Mayor