

Mount Jackson
Town Council Regular Meeting

June 14, 2022

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Regular Meeting

Mayor Pifer called the regular meeting of the Mount Jackson Town Council to order 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, Judy Fultz, and Roger Rudy in attendance. Councilmembers Bonnie Good and Dennis Andrick were absent. Also, in attendance, Neil Showalter, Town Manager; Erick Moore, Planning and Development Director; Mario Rosso, Finance Director; Keith Cowart, Police Chief; and Debbie Allen, Town Clerk. Brandy Freed was a visitor.

Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes: Councilmember Shepherd asked for the addition of Item #2 under New Business to set the annual organizational meeting for July 1, 2022.

Hear from Visitors: Brandy Freed stated she spoke with Sonja Miller at the library regarding the small room not being used in the Visitor's Center. She would like to use this space for a free library since the main library is volunteer ran and is not able to be open all hours. The main library has a lot of books taken out of circulation so there would be many books to fill it with, in addition to having a bulletin board for upcoming community events. Ms. Freed asked if this is an option, and what the next step would be. Mayor Pifer stated the Public Properties Committee will discuss this, and let her know.

Remarks & Recommendations from the Mayor: Mayor Pifer thanked Erick Moore for his participation in the Memorial Day event, in getting the sound system and making sure everything ran smoothly. He also thanked the Hometown Partnership for sponsoring this event.

Remarks from Councilmembers: None

Presentations: None

Chief of Police Report: Chief Cowart stated there were 1390 police department calls in May with several arrests resulting in 7 criminal charges placed, and 1124 extra patrols/property checks/constructions checks. There were 2 reports of a hit/run, closed leads exhausted; 1 narcotics violation with a single arrest with multiple charges; 1 false identification to a law enforcement officer; 1 larceny case that is still active with more materials forthcoming; and 2 ECO/TDO's which resulted in 20 hours involving 3 officers. There were 23 mutual aid calls and 5 open doors/windows in 5 locations. Chief Cowart stated the ad for the police officer position was submitted again with a deadline of June 24. Several more applications were received and one is very promising. He thanked the officers for their on-going coverage and providing a safe community. The police department has 2 upcoming events for the month of June; a basic concealed handgun class this Saturday at 9 AM, with 15 people signed up to obtain certificates to apply for concealed carry; and June 23 at 7 PM there will be a neighborhood watch meeting with the representative from dispatch to give an introduction on what they do, and himself and other officers will be there to answer questions. Throughout the month of May the police department attended a few events; Officer Whorton covered the Mountain View High School graduation, and officers covered the Shenandoah Caverns 100th Anniversary Celebration and the Memorial Day event.

Town Manager Report: Mr. Showalter thanked the town staff for doing an admirable job while he had to be out of the office. The pool opened with a full complement of lifeguards to be open full time. He stated the Council approved a siting agreement with the developers of the solar farm, and that final agreement was received and signed by Mayor Pifer. Monday is the state's observation of Juneteenth, which took the place of Lee Jackson Day, so the Town Office will be closed, and Tuesday the Visitor's Center will be hosting a primary

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election. Mr. Showalter stated GB Foltz had the winning bid for the sidewalk project, and staff has been working through paperwork, and expect him to be on the job within a month. The days to completion is currently listed as 300 because the thought is it will not get totally finished before cold weather. The Town is still accepting applications for the Town Clerk position and if Councilmembers have someone in mind, please have them apply.

Committee Reports:

1. Finance Committee Chairperson, Rod Shepherd had no report.
2. Ordinance Committee Chairperson, Dennis Andrick was absent.
3. Personnel Committee Chairperson, Roger Rudy stated Joey is looking into a promising candidate for the water treatment plant position. Preston Lutz’s retirement is approaching and there was an application received that looks promising. Chief Cowart already spoke on the night shift police officer position that looks good in terms of a candidate. A Clerk of Council application was received today, making the total three, and lifeguards are in good order. Mr. Rudy stated the hope is to have all positions filled by the end of the month.
4. Public Safety Committee Chairperson, Judy Fultz presented the Fire and Rescue report. The total responses for May were 74 (61 EMS and 13 Fire); 23% of the total EMS responses included volunteer members on the apparatus; 69% of the total Fire responses included volunteer members; 79% of the EMS calls responded to by a unit capable of advanced life support care. The total number of volunteers taking calls was 15, total number of calls in Mount Jackson was 25, and total number of calls in the county was 49. The special fund drive contributions as of June 9 are \$41,178, and they are hoping to be open in July for various fundraising breakfasts, dinners, and other scheduled meetings. Mr. Rudy stated since Mount Jackson Fire and Rescue reached \$41,000, the Town is matching \$40,000.
5. Public Services Committee Chairperson, Bonnie Good was absent.
6. Public Properties & Facilities Committee Chairperson, Whitney Miller had no report.

Consent Agenda: Approval – Minutes of May 10, 2022 Special Meeting
 Approval – Minutes of May 10, 2022 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting

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 Shepherd			Councilmember Andrick
Councilmember Rudy			
			Councilmember Good

4 AYES, 2 ABSENT, motion carried

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Old Business:

1. Ordinance O-01-2022 - 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 2023 – Eligible for Action.

Councilmember Shepherd MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Fultz to APPROVE Ordinance O-01-2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Miller			
Councilmember Shepherd			Councilmember Andrick
Councilmember Rudy			
			Councilmember Good

4 AYES, 2 ABSENT, motion carried

New Business:

1. Resolution R-03-2022 – Exoneration of 2016 Personal Property Taxes.

Mr. Showalter stated staff works hard to try to collect every penny on tax bills. The Town bills once a year, which simplifies the process for citizens and Town staff. The efforts go on for several years with DMV stops and late charge assessments, to try to get those bills collected, however there are some people that cannot be found to collect. He stated Councilmembers have the detail, and it is the personal principal column that staff is asking Council to exonerate. The collection percentage for year 2016 was 99.37% which is the highest of bills collected in the last 4 years, and excellent work by staff, Sharon especially. State law makes those taxes no longer enforceable/collectible by locality, so it is the auditor’s advice they be charged off, in the amount of \$1692.21 of personal property taxes assessed in 2016.

Councilmember Shepherd MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Rudy to APPROVE Resolution R-03-2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Miller			
Councilmember Shepherd			Councilmember Andrick
Councilmember Rudy			
			Councilmember Good

4 AYES, 2 ABSENT, motion carried

2. FY 2023 Annual Organization Meeting on July 1, 2022.

Councilmember Shepherd stated three Councilmembers and the Mayor are serving an extra 6 months due to the change in the election date, with terms ending December 31 rather than June 30. The normal procedure is for the Town to have a reorganizational meeting on July 1 of every year, to appoint the Chief of Police, Finance Director, Town Manager and various other constitutional offices.

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Councilmember Shepherd MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Fultz to APPROVE Setting the Annual Organizational Meeting for July 1, 2022 at 9:00 AM.

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

4 AYES, 2 ABSENT, motion carried

Motion made by Councilmember Fultz, seconded by Councilmember Shepherd, to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM.

Deborah "Debbie" L. Allen, Clerk

Donald "Donnie" I. Pifer, Mayor