

Mount Jackson
Town Council Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
August 9, 2022

-1-

Public Hearing

Mayor Pifer opened the public hearing at 7:00 PM in the council chambers at 5901 Main Street to receive public comment regarding Special Use Permit SU-22-01 – Request to Permit Temporary Outside Storage at 5836 Main Street.

Mr. Moore stated this special use permit is a request by Randy Andes for temporary outdoor storage within the required side yard. A staff report was included with the council packet, and details this request accurately. The property is identified at 5836 Main Street, approximately 0.62 acres, zoned B-1 and is designated on the Town's comprehensive plan and future land use map as a commercial use. Under Article IV, Community Designs and Standards, Section 66-40 Standards for Specific Uses, Commercial Uses to include outdoor storage, the ordinance states that; a) outdoor storage of goods or materials shall not be permitted in any front or side yard area, and; b) in rear yards outdoor storage shall be allowed only when fully screened from residential and business zoning properties. Mr. Moore stated the request calls for a temporary outdoor storage area for materials and supplies, which will be placed along the main building. The area will be on the south side wall, to be screened from the corner 6 feet out with a white fence, and the materials will be lined up along that exterior side wall. This is a non-conforming structure on a non-conforming lot, believed to have been built in the 1940's before the Town's zoning ordinances were in place. Accessing the rear of this property is impossible due to residential properties to the left and right, and another structure used for a receiving area connected to the right side that blocks any access to the rear. Screening will be a solid 6-foot high, 6-foot long white vinyl fence and will obstruct the materials that will be stored along the side of the building from the public right-of-way. There will be green privacy slats inserted in the chain link fence to obstruct the view from the residential property to the right. This property slopes downward from the parking lot, so from that residential grade to the top of the chain link fence is 6-feet high. Staff's recommendation is although not a permitted design standard within the B-1 zoning district, staff feels the SUP request appears to represent good planning practices due to the temporary nature, limited impacts of the activity, and the reuse of a developed property. Staff recommends the temporary use be subject to the following conditions; 1) screening is required prior to the temporary use taking place, and; 2) limited use to no more than 24 months.

Mr. Shepherd asked if the green privacy slats will only run from the back of the property to the front of the building, and not all the way to the street, and that was confirmed by Mr. Moore.

There were no public comments and Mayor Pifer closed the public hearing.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Pifer called the regular meeting of the Mount Jackson Town Council to order following the public hearing. Roll call was taken with Councilmembers Rod Shepherd, Whitney Miller, Judy Fultz, Bonnie Good, Dennis Andrick, and Roger Rudy in attendance. Also, in attendance, Erick Moore, Planning and Development Director; Keith Cowart, Police Chief; and Debbie Allen, Town Clerk. Neil Showalter, Town Manager, was absent. Visitors included Christian Herrick with Randy's Do-It-Best Hardware, Kelly Stauff, and Jim Hines.

Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes: None

Hear from Visitors: None

Remarks & Recommendations from the Mayor: Mayor Pifer commended Chief Cowart and his department for all their work putting together National Night Out which was a huge success and well attended.

Mount Jackson
Town Council Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
August 9, 2022

-2-

Remarks from Councilmembers:

Ms. Miller asked Chief Cowart if there were any updates to the covered bridge. Chief Cowart stated there are still trucks trying to go through the bridge, the police department has backed out a few out, and luckily none have hit it thus far. He stated citizens are more aware and calling it in and/or getting in front of the trucks. Ms. Miller stated the I-81 sign is still missing at the intersection of Wissler and Industrial Park, and there is nothing on Wissler that specifically says no trucks, it only says restricted. She stated Council has discussed this many times, but is unsure what is happening between the Town and VDOT. She stated at some point the road will probably have to be closed, which is not good for the community and people coming from out-of-state to see it. Mayor Pifer stated he will speak to Mr. Showalter about the status.

Ms. Fultz also commended Chief Cowart and his department for the great job on National Night Out, which was a huge success and enjoyed by all. Ms. Miller stated the small children's bouncy house was a brilliant idea.

Presentations: None

Chief of Police Report: Chief Cowart stated there were 1175 police department calls in July, the majority of those being extra patrols/property checks/construction checks. There was 1 report of assault on law enforcement closed by arrest and multiple charges; 1 report of a narcotic violation with multiple charges; a violation of protective order; 2 reports of larceny both closed leads exhausted; 2 reports of fraud still active, and a report of shoplifting still active. There were 34 mutual aid calls for service, and 1 open door/window. Notes of interest, National Night Out has been discussed but in speaking with other Police Chiefs in the area, Mount Jackson had one of the largest attended. The next big event is the DEA Drug Take Back Event on October 29, with more details to follow.

Town Manager Report: None

Committee Reports:

1. Finance Committee Chairperson, Rod Shepherd had no report.
2. Ordinance Committee Chairperson, Dennis Andrick stated Chief Cowart has been providing him an ordinance violation report for several months, and thus far there were 22 violations and all were complied with.
3. Personnel Committee Chairperson, Roger Rudy stated there are three job openings currently, the clerk of council, a night time police officer, and a public works/maintenance department new hire to replace Preston Lutz. There were 4 applicants for the clerk position, 3 of which are scheduled for interviews Thursday afternoon, which may have to be rescheduled due to Mr. Showalter being out of the office. Mr. Rudy stated Chief Cowart has 1 applicant he has spoken with, but that position has been re-advertised with the hope they get more applications. He stated the Public Works position has also been advertised again, but he has not heard the status on that.
4. Public Safety Committee Chairperson, Judy Fultz had no report.
5. Public Services Committee Chairperson, Bonnie Good had no report.

Mount Jackson
Town Council Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
August 9, 2022

-3-

6. Public Properties & Facilities Committee Chairperson, Whitney Miller stated this is the last week the pool will be open on weekdays, therefore until Labor Day it will only be open Saturdays and Sundays, with pool parties scheduled for Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Consent Agenda: Approval – Minutes of July 12, 2022 Regular Meeting

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

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Special Use Permit SU-22-01 – Request to Permit Temporary Outside Storage at 5836 Main Street – Eligible for Action.

Councilmember Shepherd MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Good to APPROVE SU-22-01.

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			

Ms. Good stated she was asked to introduce the possibility of the Town installing a few bicycle racks in central locations in Town. Mayor Pifer asked the Public Properties Committee to research this.

Mr. Moore stated one of his goals is to start to categorize and catalog all the plans in the building, and a friend from Winchester offered their old storage system for free, since they have finished digitizing all their engineering plans. These four filing cabinets would have cost the Town \$8,000. Randy Lonas and his crew built the platform to keep them up off the floor. Mr. Moore stated he has been in communication with JMU's community development program people and will try to get a few interns to help with some zoning projects, and to come up with a better data base by tax map and parcel number, rather than address. He stated he was contacted by the Staunton YMCA representative, Randy Doyle, with an initiative and in the planning stage of adding a satellite location(s), and they will meet here downstairs on September 14 at 5:30. Ms. Good stated the Staunton YMCA has been around for a long time and gracious to work with the county-wide committee, but the plan is to have it here in the county with different projects in different locations.

Mount Jackson
Town Council Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
August 9, 2022

-4-

Kelly Stauff with Mount Jackson Rescue and Fire stated the month of July had 88 total responses, 66 EMS and 22 Fire. 23% of total EMS responses included volunteer members; 73% of total fire responses included volunteer members; and 89% of EMS calls responded to had advanced life support care. There were 14 volunteers taking calls; 39 calls in Mount Jackson; and 49 calls in the county. Their EMS license inspection takes place end of August 2022, once every 2 years. The new countywide radio system is scheduled to go live September 15, to eliminate dead spots and improve communication. They had to order 5 sets of turnout gear for over \$20,000. They would like to extend an invitation for Town Council to visit the station for a tour, have a question-and-answer session, and to look at and/or take a ride in the new Engine 21. Mayor Pifer suggested they bring the engine to the October Council meeting, which is fire prevention month.

Motion made by Councilmember Good, seconded by Councilmember Rudy, to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 PM.

Deborah "Debbie" L. Allen, Clerk

Donald "Donnie" I. Pifer, Mayor