

Mount Jackson  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
October 11, 2022

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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 the adoption of Ordinance O-01-2022 – An Amendment to Ordinance O1-01-2022, Section 3: Fees and Rates, Planning and Zoning Fees – Fiscal Year 2023. 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, and Roger Rudy in attendance. Councilmember Bonnie Good was absent. Also, in attendance, Neil Showalter, Town Manager; Erick Moore, Planning and Development Director; Keith Cowart, Police Chief; and Barbara Riggleman, Town Clerk. Guests included Randy and Denise Doyle, David Ferguson, Evelyn Burner, and Brandi Armentrout. Jim Hines was a visitor.

Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes: Mr. Showalter had an addition for Council's consideration for Resolution-03-2019 (2<sup>nd</sup> Revision). There was a small date change to discuss and hopefully approve.

Hear from Visitors: None

Opening Remarks from the Mayor: Mayor Pifer thanked the Hometown Partnership for the work they did for the Apple Harvest Festival on October 8, 2022. Crowds were up-and-down due to other events in other localities that day, but from what he understood, the vendors were very pleased and the one food vendor in attendance sold out. The festival turned out very good.

Presentations: None

Chief of Police Report: Chief Cowart stated for the month of September, there were 1227 calls for service; year to date total being 10,958. There were 3 reports of larceny; 1 was closed, 1 was a juvenile that had a petition brought against them; the report is showing 1 active, that needs to be corrected to closed with an arrest. There was a report of fraud that is still active. The report of narcotics on the police report shows closed (found property), someone found that in a place that was just purchased; ownership could not be established so it was disposed of as needed. There was also a report of a death within the community. There were 26 mutual aid/warrant services with other agencies, 8 open doors/windows in 4 different locations, and no ordinance violations to report. The Police Department is working with the Mt. Jackson-Edinburg Rotary Club to start a Coats for Kids/Toys for Tots program. They haven't stepped back from that fully, but they will be an observer for one of the Woodstock groups to get an idea of how it is run. The Rotary Club is still willing to do something, so they are still working on that. The Neighborhood Watch program was on September 22, 2022 with 7 attendees. The Broadway Police Department lent the Police Department their narcotics K-9, they had a discussion inside and then went outside for some demonstrations. There were a lot of good questions asked by the attendees and a lot of good information was given by the officer. Upcoming events – there is a Concealed Handgun Safety Class on October 22, 2022; that was just posted today and they have already got 10 people signed up, so it will probably be another full class. On October 29, 2022 there is a DEA Drug Takeback event in two locations; one right outside the Police Department and also at Mount Jackson Drug Store. Those times will be from 10 AM to 2 PM. Anything that is expired/unused medication, can't be liquids or sharps (needles, etc.). In addition, the Pharmacy and the Police Department are working on a full-time drop box so

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that unused medications and things can be dropped off throughout the year. There are none in the area – New Market, Mount Jackson, or Edinburg – the closest one is in Woodstock at the Sheriff’s Office. How this will work is that people will drop off prescriptions and every couple of weeks, the officers will remove the contents, bag it, and store it downstairs until the DEA does another event, at which point the officers will leave the contents with them. Mayor Pifer commented that the newest officer, Sarah Campbell, seems to be enjoying the area. Chief Cowart responded that she is a good fit. She has a lot of experience behind her; 3 years at the jail and 16 years on the road; mental health was a main focus for her, so this is definitely an added bonus.

Town Manager Report: Mr. Showalter provided the Council with a written report, so he would just emphasize certain areas. With Veteran’s Day coming up, if asked if all the Veteran’s Banners are up, indeed they are. Randy Lonas reported that he obtained enough brackets to extend them down to the Circle K station and all the banners that the Town has, and as far as Staff knows have been printed, are now hanging.

We are nearing completion of the design phase of the Equalization Basin Project at the wastewater plant. That \$3 million project is being designed by Consulting Engineer Rob Mangrum. Neil, Mario, and Joey had a lengthy meeting last week to go through the details of the plan. Joey had the opportunity to add his thoughts on positions of some of the valves and those types of those things, so the drawings are about 99% complete. The project manual is about 80% complete. They intend to go onto the state EVA site with the project on October 31, 2022, which is the deadline in the consent letter that the DEQ and the Town agreed to about a year and a half ago when they agreed to address the overages they were seeing back in 2017-2018. Earlier this summer, they thought they would take two tracks, as far as financing the project. One through Rural Development and the USDA, the other more with the state with the DEQ’s Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund and the WQIF grant program. Mr. Showalter reports that he had confirmation through a consultant that is currently helping Edinburg that the RDA/USDA route is currently backed up with projects, it is very difficult to get a project through and approved on time, so most of Staff’s efforts will go into the DEQ avenue. This past summer, paperwork was filed for the grant part of the project and will probably be followed up with the loan part once they know what the grant will be; they also intend to use some of the ARCA funds to pay for part of this project as well. Mr. Showalter stated that he is happy to see that this project is on-time and proceeding under the consent order.

Mr. Showalter reported that Robin Lytle of the Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project called him and said that there would be people at the Colored Cemetery to search the entire area with infrared and ground-penetrating radar to create the most accurate map of the cemetery and the graves that are found there. Mr. Showalter asked that if anyone has any knowledge of the boundaries, history, etc. or knows of any resources to please let him know as there is nearly nothing to be found in the town records. Ms. Lytle would be interested in anything that we might have.

Mr. Showalter reported that Randy Lonas is currently in UVA and hopes to be back this week. There have been a number of calls received about a water leak at the Food Lion shopping center. Maintenance is going to try to fix the leak tonight. Pavement needed to be marked beforehand so no traffic signal wires would be damaged when the road is cut; the water will be turned off at 11 PM when Food Lion closes. The hope is to have the leak and the road repaired before sunrise. Mr. Showalter stated that he would like to especially salute Roger Riggelman, who stepped forward and took control of this issue in Randy’s absence and has done a very good job of keeping him informed and keeping everyone in the loop about the issue.

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Mr. Showalter reported that many stakes have been placed along Route 11 and Conicville Boulevard where the sidewalk project is about to begin. There is a small cache of materials on the vacant Holtzman's lot and a temporary electrical service hookup, probably as a work base. He states that they expect GB Foltz to begin any day now. One of the first projects to be completed is to get the crossings over Route 11 finished so traffic won't continue to be an issue. Ed Carter has pledged to try to get the VDOT supplied material, regardless of where it may need to come from throughout the state, and he has been very helpful.

Mayor Pifer asked a question on the Equalization Basin – will that increase the Town's treatment ability. Mr. Showalter confirmed that yes, it will. He stated that the Town spent about \$9 million on the sewer plant back in 2007-2008 and we will be able to add 50% to our treatment capacity at the cost of \$3 million. The cost of \$9 million then would probably be about \$20 million today for that capacity, so to add 50% to that with a fraction of the cost is a nice opportunity to be out front of the growth the Town can expect to experience in the next 5-10 years, both at the Bowman Andros complex and the increase in housing and businesses in town.

Committee Reports:

1. Finance Committee Chairperson, Rod Shepherd reported that the Town had auditors visit last month. Their initial comments were laudatory and praiseworthy towards our staff, once again. Hopefully, they will have the audit wrapped up to present for the December Council meeting. Some years, they just present to the committee, some years they present to the whole Council. Mr. Shepherd anticipates a video link with the chief auditor at the December Meeting. He states that they will do a preliminary audit review sometime in November with Staff; Staff and Committee will present in December.

2. Ordinance Committee Chairperson, seat vacant - no report.

3. Personnel Committee Chairperson, Roger Rudy had no report.

4. Public Safety Committee Chairperson, Judy Fultz presented the September fire and rescue report. The total responses were 97 (72 EMS and 25 Fire); 39% of the total EMS responses included volunteer members on the apparatus; 80% of the total Fire responses included volunteer members on the apparatus; 61% of EMS calls responded to by a unit capable of advanced life support care. The total number of volunteer members taking calls was 17, total number of calls in Mount Jackson was 37, and total number of calls in the county was 60.

5. Public Services Committee Chairperson, Bonnie Good was absent. Mayor Pifer reported that Ms. Good had a knee replacement yesterday which went well, and is hoping to be released today. We wish her well.

6. Public Properties & Facilities Committee Chairperson, Whitney Miller reported that she is working with a vendor who designed the flags she purchased on two new designs. She is hopeful that once these are received she can get some more flags to fill in. The flags have been very popular and are a nice, bright addition to Main Street. Ms. Miller reported that unfortunately the zip line at the park is down again. While vastly popular, it has been a pickle to deal with. She reports that she has talked with Mr. Showalter about putting the zip line on a regular schedule for Maintenance to check it and potentially stock repair parts to eliminate the downtime of the zip line being repaired, because it is really popular. The hope is to have the zip line be an annual replacement.

Consent Agenda: Approval – Minutes of September 13, 2022 Regular Meeting and Approval – Minutes of October 4, 2002 Special Meeting.

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Councilmember Rudy MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Fultz to APPROVE the Consent Agenda item above.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

4 AYES, 1 ABSENT, motion carried

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Effort to bring YMCA to Mount Jackson – Guests David Ferguson and Randy Doyle.

Mr. Ferguson thanked the Council for the opportunity to share where they stand with bringing a YMCA facility to Shenandoah County. Having served on the Board of Supervisors for many years, Mr. Ferguson stated that he is aware of the issues surrounding Shenandoah County and what the needs are, not only for the youth, but for young adults and senior citizens as well, and that these needs often are not met here in the community. He is aware that economic development is on the forefront of everyone’s minds; this would be a big benefit to the county. Mr. Ferguson said that it is difficult to start a new YMCA as it takes a lot of help and a lot of input from people in Shenandoah County, both private citizens, businesses, town councils, and individuals who want to make it happen, so they started to put a Task Force together. Mr. Ferguson read a list of names of some of the people throughout the community and the state who are on the task force. As they have been working on this endeavor, they have been able to work with the school system to initially offer some programs at the middle schools so people could start seeing the benefits of having a YMCA. He stated that they hope to launch these programs this year or January 2023, with some after school tutoring lasting until 6:30 PM as a combination of tutoring and activity time for the students and childcare for the parents. Mr. Ferguson stated that he is under the Staunton-Augusta YMCA, under the leadership of their CEO and board, with the hopes to someday become their own YMCA - the Shenandoah County YMCA - with the guidance and oversight of the Staunton-Augusta chapter helping them to grown. The future hope is to have an aquatics center like the Wellness Center in Harrisonburg. In looking for a place, they began speaking with Todd Holtzman. They will be working on a lease for the old Triplett School, and if Mr. Holtzman, Mr. Ferguson’s task force, and the Staunton-Augusta YMCA are all agreeable to the lease, then they will start operating out of that facility with additional programs as they are developed. There are many aspects of this facility and grounds that can be used for many different programs for many different age levels, from childcare to senior’s programs. Shenandoah County Parks and Rec will also provide programs and services. Mr. Ferguson stated that it is too early to determine what and where each type of facility they envision could be, if an aquatics center could even be on this property or at another location in the county, but this is a great start to their base in the community.

Mr. Doyle stated his experiences growing up with the YMCA and why having one is such a benefit to the community. He appreciated the opportunity to tell the Council where they are and that they are very optimistic about this facility and all the programs and services that could be offered to the community. This could be a great benefit to the businesses in the area as it would make this area a more desirable place for

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employees to work, live, and raise a family. Mr. Doyle stated that the amount of support that they have developed has been extremely encouraging. Mr. Ferguson talked about the fundraising campaign that would be needed to start the programs. Mayor Pifer asked, if everything goes well, no roadblocks or hindrances, when would they hope to start. Mr. Doyle stated that one of the attractions for them for this facility is that it is very close to ready to use; there's not a whole lot of major construction that needs to take place. Mr. Doyle said it's hard to name a date but they are moving with urgency to keep things going. Mr. Ferguson stated that he would like to think it could be this year. Mr. Rudy stated that Mr. Doyle said the building is pretty much ready, but he is sure that some modifications will be needed to accommodate activities, handicapped access, etc., so he asked where would the funding come from to make these modifications onto a privately-owned building. Mr. Doyle stated that the YMCA is a 501c3 which already has a good reputation within the grants community, and that the Mount Jackson area, according to the federal government, qualifies for economic development funding. He stated that they will work towards those types of grants to help with funds and are also talking to foundations, individuals with private funding, and they have talked to the area Rotary Clubs. Mr. Doyle stated that once they get a plan together, they intend to submit an application to the Rotary Foundation to help with funds. Mr. Ferguson said there is an individual on the Shenandoah Valley Partnership in the Fairfax community that works with the counties and provides assistance in getting funding; in fact he got funding for ShenGO, as an example. That individual will be working with them to help secure grants where available. Mr. Ferguson stated that these things take time; the YMCA wants to be up and running. There are many things that will need to be done, so in the short term, they will need businesses and other entities to help them get started initially. He is very encouraged that they will make it happen. Mayor Pifer thanked Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Doyle for their presentation.

2. Installation of Brick Pavers at Section of Sidewalk on Main Street and Old Triplett School and Southward.

Mr. Showalter stated that Council had a choice to make. The sidewalk from the south of the entrance apron at the old Triplett Fire Station doors, along the stone wall, and to the edge of the Mill property at 6070 Main Street is in need of repair, including some curb and gutter, and a replacement entrance to 6060 Main Street. Mr. Showalter stated that Staff has received prices to replace them with strictly concrete or using brick pavers. Those prices compare \$17,550 for brick pavers and \$14,175 for strictly concrete. The Town has been replacing, when it needed repair, with brick pavers in the older part of town, basically in the B1 zone; sometimes there have been help with the funding but in this case, we do not. Staff recommends that Council authorize the installation of brick pavers in the aforementioned section of Main Street and the Town authorize the Town Manager to accept C&S's and Ozark's estimates for their work. Mayor Pifer commented that there is only \$3,375 difference.

Councilmember Shepherd MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Rudy to APPROVE the installation of brick pavers at Section of Sidewalk on Main Street and Old Triplett School and Southward.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Councilmember Good

4 AYES, 1 ABSENT, motion carried

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3. Ordinance O-01-2022 – An Amendment to Ordinance O-01-2022, Section 3: Fees and Rates, Planning and Zoning Fees – Fiscal Year 2023 – Eligible for Action.

Mr. Showalter stated that Erick presented this amendment item at the September 13, 2022 meeting and he didn't believe he could add much to that. Staff does recommend adoption of these fee changes in the budget ordinance. Mr. Showalter added that these fees will only be in effect only thru June 30, 2023 and if Council wishes to change them in the new budget, they are welcome to do so.

Councilmember Shepherd MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Fultz to APPROVE Ordinance O-01-2022 – An Amendment to Ordinance O-01-2022, Section 3: Fees and Rates, Planning and Zoning Fees – Fiscal Year 2023.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

4 AYES, 1 ABSENT, motion carried

4. Time and Date of November Regular Meeting – Potential Election Day Conflict.

Mr. Showalter reported that the next regular meeting is scheduled for November 8, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, which will be Election Day this year. There will be a lot of traffic in/out of the building, the Social Hall is the polling area, and this would also be a state holiday. It may be preferable to moving the meeting to the next day or the following week. Mr. Showalter stated that he spoke with the Town Attorney today about any particular form which should be followed, or expect to follow, should the decision be made to move the date. The direction given to Mr. Showalter was to advertise it in the newspaper, if that decision is made. Mr. Shepherd remarked that he has seen a couple times that Council meetings coincided with an election. It completely restricted citizen access to the council chambers for the meeting; traffic could enter through the front door, but it caused a lot of difficulty. Mr. Shepherd stated he doesn't know what the November meeting agenda will be but he would really like for the Town Hall to be used just for the election on Election Day; it would be his suggestion to have the Council meeting the next day, Wednesday, at 7 PM so there would be no confusion.

Motion made by Councilmember Shepherd, seconded by Councilmember Fultz, to RESCHEDULE the Tuesday, November 8, 2022 Town Council meeting to Wednesday, November 9, 2022 and make proper notification in both the newspaper and on the Town Facebook page.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

4 AYES, 1 ABSENT, motion carried

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5. Resolution R-03-2019 (2<sup>nd</sup> Revision) Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Resolution.

Mr. Showalter stated that this resolution relates, not to the sidewalk project soon to begin, but the sidewalk project that the Commonwealth Transportation Board has agreed to fund, which will go from the Triplett School down to the new bridge. In working with VDOT the past week or so, it was discovered that the authorization for the Town Manager to sign documents had expired, according to VDOT, on June 30, 2022. Mr. Showalter is now submitting a 2<sup>nd</sup> revision which changes the last sentence from "Fiscal Year 2021-22" to say "thru Fiscal Year 2024-25." Mr. Showalter stated the project should be complete by then.

Councilmember Rudy MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Shepherd to ADOPT Resolution R-03-2019 (2<sup>nd</sup> Revision) Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Miller			
Councilmember Shepherd			
Councilmember Rudy			
			Councilmember Good

4 AYES, 1 ABSENT, motion carried

Motion made by Councilmember Shepherd, seconded by Councilmember Fultz, that the Council of the Town of Mount Jackson convene a closed session under Virginia Freedom of Information Act in order to discuss personnel matters involving specific officers, appointees, or employees of the Town of Mount Jackson for the purpose of considering such individuals' assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation under Virginia state code §2.2-3711(A)(1).

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Miller			
Councilmember Shepherd			
Councilmember Rudy			
			Councilmember Good

4 AYES, 1 ABSENT, motion carried

Mayor Pifer adjourned the regular meeting at 8:03 PM to begin the closed session.

Motion made by Council Member Shepherd, seconded by Councilmember Rudy, to return to the open meeting.

The Council of the Town of Mount Jackson hereby certifies, by roll call vote, that to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council of the Town of Mount Jackson.

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VOTE:

Councilmember Fultz	I So Certify
Councilmember Miller	I So Certify
Councilmember Shepherd	I So Certify
Councilmember Rudy	I So Certify
Mayor Pifer	I So Certify

5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Councilman Miller MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Rudy to APPROVE the nomination of Evelyn Burner to fill the unexpired term of Dennis Andrick to expire December 31, 2024.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Miller			
Councilmember Shepherd			
Councilmember Rudy			
			Councilmember Good

4 AYES, 1 ABSENT, motion carried

Closing Remarks by Council Members, Mayor: Mayor Pifer and Councilman Shepherd related some of their observations from the VML Annual Conference in Richmond, VA.

Motion made by Councilmember Shepherd, seconded by Councilmember Rudy to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 PM.

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Barbara M. "Barbie" Riggleman, Clerk

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Donald "Donnie" I. Pifer, Mayor