

Mount Jackson  
Town Council Special Meeting

May 14, 2024

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Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Mount Jackson Town Council was held May 14, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at 5901 Main Street. Roll call was taken with Mayor Pifer and Councilmembers Judy Fultz, Bonnie Good, and Rod Shepherd in attendance. Councilmember Evelyn Burner arrived at 6:14 PM. Councilmembers Al Asbury and Todd Holtzman were absent. Also, in attendance were Olivia Hilton, Town Manager; Greg A. Beam, Assistant Town Manager; Mario Rosso, Finance Director; Barbara Riggelman, Town Clerk; and Keith Cowart, Police Chief. Ryan Fitzmaurice, reporter for the Northern Virginia Daily, was a visitor.

Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes: None

New Business:

**Discussion of Proposed FY 2025 Budget Ordinance**

Mr. Shepherd stated that this item had been covered at the April 23, 2024 Work Session but Council should have had time to review the numbers and this was a time to ask questions. Mr. Shepherd referred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financial report for FY24 and noted that most items in red are grant funded and we are awaiting those funds. There will be a moderate increase in real estate and tax rates for FY25. We are dipping into reserves to cover some expenses, mostly capital improvements but not for everyday expenses, so everything looks good.

Mayor Pifer questioned the meals tax numbers on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financials and asked if those numbers in red would be improved upon. Ms. Hilton stated that once April, May, and June meals taxes have been received those numbers will go down. Mr. Rosso stated his agreement that this should be fine.

Discussion ensued on grants and how that schedule works. Mr. Rosso stated that the Town is on track to fully receive the amounts listed. Matching funding for CREW was also discussed, which is a New Business item for the Regular Council meeting this evening. Ms. Hilton explained how the matching funding will work, and that \$50,000 allotted to CREW in FY24 has already been paid to CREW. The other \$50,000 shown is for the upcoming year and is at Council's discretion. If CREW is successful in receiving the matching \$1 million, which would equal \$2 million in funding, the annual funding from the Town Council will no longer be needed.

Mr. Rosso stated that the raise in meals tax brings the Town up to what the other localities in the county are charging. All other rates are still the lowest in the county. Mr. Shepherd commended Staff on their work.

Ms. Hilton stated that the current proposed budget does reflect the additional full-time officer and full-time addition to the wastewater treatment plant, as well as a part-time parks & rec manager. The full-time ads will start rolling out soon. Ms. Fultz asked if ShenGo funding was included. Ms. Hilton answered affirmatively. Discussion ensued on ShenGo.

Motion made by Councilmember Shepherd, seconded by Councilmember Good, to adjourn the special meeting at 6:15 PM.

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Barbara Riggelman, Clerk

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Donald "Donnie" I. Pifer, Mayor