

Mount Jackson  
Town Council Regular Meeting

July 9, 2024

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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 Councilmembers Al Asbury, Evelyn Burner, Judy Fultz, Bonnie Good, Todd Holtzman, and Rod Shepherd in attendance. Also in attendance were Olivia Hilton, Town Manager; Greg A. Beam, Assistant Town Manager; Mario Rosso, Finance Director; Jennifer Frye, HR Manager; Barbara Riggelman, Town Clerk; Keith Cowart, Police Chief; Police Sergeant Mark Johnson; Police Investigator Christina Whorton; and Officer Chris Burns. Visitors included Judi Wakeman, Brenda Foley, Seth Jones, Barb Pifer, Darlene Cowart, Matthew & Heather Diehl, Emily Burner, Gary Kalwaytis, Karen Estep, Robert Frye, Karen Costie, and Ryan Fitzmaurice, reporter for the Northern Virginia Daily.

**Prayer:** Rev. Matthew Diehl, Mount Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, offered the invocation.

**Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes:** None.

**Hear from Visitors:** Seth Jones asked everyone present when the last time they, as an individual, sought the opinions of the people who live in Mount Jackson. If the answer would be “not often enough,” then maybe that should be worked on. Mr. Jones asked what is behind the Confederate Soldiers Cemetery across from Circle K. Ms. Hilton answered that it is the Mount Jackson Historic Colored Cemetery. Mr. Jones inquired if there is public access to this cemetery. Ms. Hilton answered that the Public Properties Committee has been meeting with the hope of revitalizing the space. Public access is currently blocked by property owned by Mr. Emmert. The Town is working on an easement for public access and also to revitalize their Board of Trustees in order to focus on beautification, revamping it. The Town currently mows it, but it does need a lift. Mr. Jones stated that this was something he has thought about, especially with the backlash from the renaming of the Stonewall and Ashby Lee schools. He felt it would bring a lot of light to the Town of Mount Jackson if they were to acknowledge this cemetery, give it the appreciation it should have, and give people access to the historic site, which they should have. Mr. Jones stated his appreciation to the Town for working toward this. Mr. Jones also spoke regarding the property on King Street being renovated to become a single-family home. Mr. Jones stated he has lived next door for almost 6 years. He was told that street parking was the only parking available, and other people living in the building next door have relied on the open lot on this property for parking. Mr. Jones inquired if this property were to be renovated and that parking removed, what parking would be available for the residents of 5959 and 5963 King Street. Ms. Hilton thanked Mr. Jones for speaking for the Colored Cemetery. Discussion ensued on history of the Colored Cemetery and plans for the future. Ms. Hilton also discussed future plans for King Street, as far as parking, lighting, and the dog park.

**Opening Remarks from Mayor:** Mayor Pifer thanked everyone who attended the reception prior to the council meeting honoring Bill Holtzman and the Town Staff for their work for the event.

**Presentations:** None.

**Chief of Police Report:** Chief Cowart reported for the month of June 2024, there were 717 calls for service; 4,347 year to date. There were 25 mutual aid/warrants service and 24 warrants served for other agencies. The cold cases have been added to in order to reflect the current situation. Stemming from August 2003 to June 30, there are 70 active cases. There was a report of larceny, active with warrants on file; 2 shopliftings, 1 active with warrant on file, 1 closed with leads exhausted; 1 assault, closed by arrest; 2 frauds, closed with leads exhausted; 1 sex offense that was unfounded; 2 vandalisms, 1 active with warrant on file, 1 closed with leads exhausted; and 1 DUI closed by arrest. The police department is accepting applications for 2 open positions; a few qualified applicants have expressed interest but no commitment yet. MJPD applied for and

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was approved for a HEAT (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) grant which will help support the Flock cameras; roughly 46% of the total cost. Upcoming Events include National Night Out on August 6 in the Mayors Park from 5:00-8:00 PM, and the VALOR Awards Ceremony on September 12 at American Celebration on Parade. MJPD will have 2 nominees along with an honoring of Officer Chazz Beaver.

**Town Manager Report:** Ms. Hilton gave a shout-out to Eric Schmidt in Public Utilities for celebrating 2 years being on staff. CREW will be hosting an open house/ice cream social on Thursday, July 11 from 4:00-7:00 PM at the future community center. Sugar Creek will be on site providing free ice cream. Ms. Hilton expressed her appreciation to the Town Staff for their support, as well as the MJPD being present at the meeting showing their support. Ms. Hilton stated that Staff is in a really good place.

**Committee Reports:**

1. Finance Committee - Chairperson Rod Shepherd had no report.
2. Ordinance Committee - Chairperson Evelyn Burner had no report. Ms. Hilton stated that some violation notices have been sent out for junk, inoperative vehicles, and tall grass. DMV stops have been placed as well.
3. Personnel Committee - Chairperson Todd Holtzman had no report.
4. Public Safety Committee - Chairperson Al Asbury read the May 2024 EMS Report and the May & June 2024 Fire Report. Total EMS calls in May were 73; 33 were in town, 38 were in the county. Of the calls that were run, 30 were staffed with Advanced Life Support personnel and 41 were staffed with Basic Life Support personnel. The Fire Report listed 24 total calls in May; 5 in town and 19 in the county. The June report listed 16 total calls; 4 in town and 12 in the county.
5. Public Services Committee - Chairperson Bonnie Good had no report.
6. Public Properties Committee - Chairperson Judy Fultz had no report.

**Consent Agenda:** **Approval** – Minutes of June 11, 2024 Regular Meeting and July 1, 2024 Organizational Meeting

Councilmember Fultz MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Burner, to APPROVE the Consent Agenda items above.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Asbury			
Councilmember Burner			
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Good			
Councilmember Holtzman			
Councilmember Shepherd			

6 AYES, motion carried

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

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**1. Resolution R-05-24** – Establishing July 9, 2024 as Bill Holtzman Day

Mr. Holtzman inquired if the resolution would need to be read, as it had been read in its entirety during the reception prior to the meeting. Mayor Pifer asked council members present if they consented to this; all members present were in agreement.

Councilmember Shepherd MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Fultz, to APPROVE Resolution R-05-24 Establishing July 9, 2024 at Bill Holtzman Day.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Asbury			
Councilmember Burner			
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Good			
Councilmember Holtzman			
Councilmember Shepherd			
6 AYES, motion carried			

**2. Resolution R-06-2024** – Retiring Unit 603 Assigned to Officer Chazz D. Beaver

Mayor Pifer requested Chief Cowart to read the resolution.

Councilmember Shepherd MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Good, to APPROVE Resolution R-06-2024 Retiring Unit 603 Assigned to Officer Chazz D. Beaver.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Asbury			
Councilmember Burner			
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Good			
Councilmember Holtzman			
Councilmember Shepherd			
6 AYES, motion carried			

**3. Fuel Bids for FY25**

Councilmember Holtzman MOVED, seconded by Councilmember GOOD, to APPROVE the Acceptance of the Emmart Oil Bid for Fuel for FY 2025.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Asbury			
Councilmember Burner			
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Good			
		Councilmember Holtzman	
Councilmember Shepherd			
5 AYES, 1 ABSTAIN, motion carried			

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**4. SU-01-2024: Request to Permit a Single Family Home within the B-2 District, 5967 King Street – Introduction and Set for Joint Public Hearing on August 5, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

Ms. Hilton stated that this is an introduction. After the public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation. At the August 13, 2024 council meeting, Council will have the opportunity to vote.

Councilmember Good MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Fultz, to SET a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission for SU-01-2024 on August 5, 2024 at 5:30 PM.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Asbury			
Councilmember Burner			
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Good			
Councilmember Holtzman			
Councilmember Shepherd			

6 AYES, motion carried

**5. SU-02-2024: Request for a Residential Building at 6143 Main Street – Introduction and Set for Joint Public Hearing on August 5, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

Councilmember Good MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Burner, to SET a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission for SU-02-2024 on August 5, 2024 at 5:30 PM.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Asbury			
Councilmember Burner			
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Good			
Councilmember Holtzman			
Councilmember Shepherd			

6 AYES, motion carried

**6. Kimley Horn – Final Draft of Master Park Plan**

Ms. Hilton reported that the Town has a contract in the works for the Baker property adjoining the park and thanked those who were a part of making this deal. Ms. Hilton stated that she was looking for feedback for the additional 4 acres, and a pause to incorporate this into the current plan rather than pass plans in increments. A first final draft was presented to Council. Ms. Hilton stated that she would be calling Kimley Horn tomorrow for feedback on things Council would like to see, specifically on the new addition, and how long this process will take. There will be 3 community input dates: August 6 at National Night Out, September 28 at TaterFest, and at the September 10 council meeting. Images of the park plan will be provided. Town residents adjoining the park will be personally invited. Ms. Hilton pointed to the draft plan on page 18 of the plan provided to council and asked for ideas.

Mr. Holtzman stated that he felt Kimley Horn should be advising the Town instead of asking for feedback as they are the design experts. Ms. Hilton stated that giving them some direction as to things that the Town would really want would be beneficial. Discussion ensued on the master park plan and the additional 4 acres.

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Mr. Holtzman asked Council if there was a consensus to take a step back and revisit the entire Master Park Plan. Council members were all in agreement. Ms. Hilton stated that she had spoken with VDOT this week preliminary confirming an entrance off Rt. 263. VDOT has requested a copy of the final draft to be sure everyone is on the same page. Ms. Hilton stated that the Town has doubled the space of the park in the last year and a half, which is wonderful.

**Closing Remarks by Council Members, Mayor:** Mayor Pifer asked Ms. Wakeman for a Hometown Partnership update. Ms. Wakeman reported on the first Gazebo Gathering on June 29. The next Gazebo Gathering will be on July 27. There was an Open Market on July 6, and Ms. Wakeman gave a report on that event. The next Market will be on August 3, featuring a Children’s Market for young entrepreneurs. This will be an opportunity for ages 18 and under to showcase their projects, etc. The next Hometown Partnership meeting will be on Thursday, July 11 – all are encouraged to attend. Ms. Wakeman stated that the Partnership is in the process of reorganizing. Madison Estep has taken over the chairman position; Ms. Wakeman is stepping down to be the secretary. Ms. Estep will be reporting to Council in the future. Pam Sperry is the Treasurer; still looking for a vice-chairman. Ms. Hilton reported that she had received a call from a bakery and they will be at the July Gazebo Gathering - Sammy Lou’s Bake Shop in Strasburg.

**Closed Session:**

Motion made by Councilmember Shepherd, seconded by Councilmember Holtzman, that the Council of the Town of Mount Jackson convene a closed session under Virginia Freedom of Information Act state code section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the discussion of personnel involving specific officers, appointees, or employees of the Town of Mount Jackson for the purpose of considering such individual’s assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salary, discipling, or resignation. Mr. Shepherd added to the motion that Mario Rosso, Finance Director, would be attending the Closed Session.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilmember Asbury			
Councilmember Burner			
Councilmember Fultz			
Councilmember Good			
Councilmember Holtzman			
Councilmember Shepherd			
6 AYES, motion carried			

Mayor Pifer adjourned the regular meeting at 7:37 PM to begin the closed session.

Motion made by Councilmember Shepherd, seconded by Councilmember Burner, to return to the open meeting at 7:53 PM.

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 Asbury	I So Certify
Councilmember Burner	I So Certify
Councilmember Fultz	I So Certify
Councilmember Good	I So Certify
Councilmember Holtzman	I So Certify
Councilmember Shepherd	I So Certify
Mayor Pifer	I So Certify

7 AYES, 0 NAYS

Motion made by Councilmember Shepherd, seconded by Councilmember Good, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. All members present signified approval by saying AYE; meeting was adjourned.

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Barbara Riggelman, Clerk

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Donald "Donnie" I. Pifer, Mayor

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Resolution R-05-2024

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MOUNT JACKSON  
ESTABLISHING JULY 9th, 2024, AS “BILL HOLTZMAN DAY”**

**WHEREAS**, William B. Holtzman, a visionary entrepreneur, an influential business leader, dedicated community advocate, and thoughtful philanthropist is here to be celebrated; and

**WHEREAS**, born in Shenandoah County, he graduated from Massanutten Military Academy and earned a bachelor’s degree from Virginia Tech, as a 1959 alumnus and a Master of Science in Pomology from Cornell University in 1961. His service has had a regional impact on the economic backbone of the Town of Mount Jackson and the agricultural community. Bill’s work ethic is second to none; and

**WHEREAS**, his companies, Holtzman Oil and Holtzman Propane, established in 1972 and 1997 respectively, are the largest oil and propane companies in the region, providing products to over 150 gas stations, serving tens of thousands of residential, commercial, and agricultural customers with oil and propane products and employing over 400 people. He has played a prominent role in the economic growth and vitality of Shenandoah County while faithfully serving its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill has generously given of his time and talents to help his fellow residents as a member of the local Elks, Jaycees, Lions, and Rotary Clubs; served in various positions at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, as a trustee of Mount Jackson Union Church; board member of Shenandoah County Memorial Hospital, Shenandoah County Fair Association, and Shenandoah Community Foundation; and president of the local unit of the American Cancer Society; and

**WHEREAS**, he has provided wise insight and guidance as a member of the Shenandoah County School Board, vocational advisory board for Shenandoah County Public Schools, and board of trustees at Shenandoah University; Everything Bill does is rooted in a respect for heritage, history, and love for this area and the people in it; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MOUNT JACKSON, VIRGINIA** that we do hereby extend to Mr. William Holtzman, our sincere and grateful appreciation for his dedicated service to the Town of Mount Jackson; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Council does hereby declare July 9th, 2024 as “Bill Holtzman Day” throughout the town, in honor and appreciation of his significant contributions to the Town of Mount Jackson.

**PASSED** by the Town Council of the Town of Mount Jackson, Virginia on this 9th day of July 2024.

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Donald I. Pifer, Mayor

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Barbara Riggleman, Clerk of Council