



TOWN OF MOUNT JACKSON

P.O. Box 487, 5901 Main Street
Mount Jackson, Virginia 22842
(540) 477-2121

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Mount Jackson Town Council Considers Proposal to Incorporate Library as Town Department

Mount Jackson, VA – The Mount Jackson Town Council took a significant step forward in enhancing community resources by reviewing a proposal which would incorporate the current Mount Jackson Library as a town department. The proposal by town staff was presented during the August 13, 2024, town council meeting aims to create a new chapter for the library and promises expanded services, increased hours, and enhanced community engagement.

“This is an exciting opportunity for our town,” said Mayor Donnie Pifer. “A library is a valuable piece of a community, and by bringing the Mount Jackson Community Library under the town’s umbrella, we would be able to better support its growth and development in the coming years.”

Under the proposed plan, the library will maintain its affiliation with the Shenandoah County Library System, ensuring continued access to a vast collection of resources and professional development opportunities for staff. However, the town will assume primary responsibility for the library’s day-to-day operations, including staffing, budgeting, and programming.

“We envision the library becoming a true community hub,” said Town Manager Olivia Hilton. “By increasing staff, expanding hours, and offering new programs, we can better serve the needs of our residents and visitors.”

Sandy Whitesides, Director of the Shenandoah County Library System, expressed enthusiasm for the partnership. “We are thrilled to see the Town of Mount Jackson take such a proactive role in supporting their library,” he said. “This collaboration will benefit not only the Mount Jackson community but the entire county.”

The proposal would include the Town of Mount Jackson hiring a part-time community library manager, expand the library’s hours weekly as well as seek additional volunteers. Additionally, the library will undergo some updates, develop new programs to better serve the community moving forward.



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"We would anticipate being able to significantly expand hours with a fresh look and exciting new offerings by February 2025," said Hilton.

The Town Council has allocated \$10,000 in the upcoming fiscal year to support the library's transition and ongoing operations. Additional funding is expected to be considered in future budgets. Mount Jackson Town Council will vote on the proposal during the September 10, 2024, meeting.

The Mount Jackson Library is located within the Town Hall building at 5901 Main St, Mt Jackson, VA 22842. **For more information** about the library or the town, please visit: www.mountjackson.com or contact Ms. Olivia Hilton, Town Manager at 540-477-2121.