

Mount Jackson
Town Council Regular Meeting
October 8, 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, Todd Holtzman, and Rod Shepherd in attendance. Councilmember Bonnie Good was absent. Also in attendance were Olivia Hilton, Town Manager; Greg A. Beam, Assistant Town Manager; Barbara Riggleman, Town Clerk; and Keith Cowart, Chief of Police. Brenda Foley, Larry Rinard, and Kim Cassford were visitors.

Prayer: Pastor Larry Rinard, Brighter Days Bible Church, offered the invocation.

Agenda Additions/Deletions/Changes: None.

Hear from Visitors: None.

Opening Remarks from Mayor: Mayor Pifer commended Staff for the fantastic job done for TaterFest. This was a rousing success that people are still talking about. Ms. Hilton stated that it took a lot of teamwork to pull off. Public Works worked hard all day and several people volunteered.

Presentations: None.

Chief of Police Report: Chief Cowart reported for the month of September 2024, there were 925 calls for service; 6,819 year to date. Criminal cases reported – 1 domestic assault (special needs), awaiting Commonwealth Attorney's Office; 1 report of larceny, Flock cameras assisted in confirming identification; 1 report of fraud (card skimmer), Flock cameras assisted with vehicle tag, suspect supposedly in Culpeper so awaiting identification; 1 report of other (prescription meds), call where someone gave another person meds as theirs had run out, awaiting Commonwealth Attorney's Office; 1 report of assault, closed/unfounded as individual had fallen and was not pushed as stated; 1 report of trespassing, closed by arrest; 1 report of fraud, turned over to cellular carrier, account was opened in someone else's name; and a report of an unattended death, closed due to natural causes. MJPD's Sgt. Johnson and Officer Burns assisted in coaching Triplett Tech Criminal Justice students for SkillsUSA competition at the Virginia State Fair on September 30. Triplett Tech sent 2 teams of students who placed 1st and 3rd out of 9. This is an awesome achievement for the school as this was the first competition entered by the Criminal Justice class. MJPD will continue to support the class as they prepare for district competition in January 2025. MJPD will be at Shenandoah Cavern's Trunk or Treat on October 10 from 6:30-8:30 PM. DEA Drug Takeback Initiative will be October 26 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Police Department and Mount Jackson Pharmacy. Halloween Trick-or-Treating hours will be from 6:00-8:00 PM; officers will be set up at the PD and patrolling neighborhoods.

Town Manager Report: Ms. Hilton stated that the Master Park & Pedestrian Connectivity Plan is still in the planning phase, which after tonight's vote will hopefully shift to implementation. There have been some productive meetings for the Red Banks Park and Daniel Gray Greenway. Staff is still getting some fencing quotes for the King Street Bark Park. The branding initiative should have some updates in the next few weeks. Staff has shifted to the seal portion to make a full brand packet for council review. Implementation of the Wastewater EQ Basin Project is expected to be fully finished by the year end, but ideally by the end of October. The basin is up and running as a test. The Mount Jackson 5 initiative is in their final 2 weeks of the 6-week boot camp. They will have accounting October 9, a Q & A Panel on October 16, and pitch night on October 23, which is the final night. Staff is hoping to announce a celebration in November. Councilmembers are encouraged to meet the group and say hello. The Town officially signed the purchase agreement of the Baker property today. Anniversaries – October is a big month, Mr. Lonas is celebrating 30 years and Mr. Riggleman is

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celebrating 10 years. These are the two longest serving employees. The library position will be coming up soon, along with a Parks & Rec position. The library board is shifting to an advisory committee. Staff will be meeting with them on October 9 to see how that will go. The Shenandoah County Library Board will take on the financial piece, so that when the library gets donations, they will still go thru a non-profit instead of the Town. Staffing will be thru the Town and Staff will work on getting funding from the County for things like programming. Ms. Hilton congratulated Gavin Wolfe on accepting a full-time position as a maintenance technician for Public Works, so he has shifted from seasonal to full-time. Staff has been doing a lot of trainings: Completing defensive driving, an OSHA mock-inspection, and Kyle Jones has gone to a conference for small-community wastewater treatment.

Mr. Beam gave a social media report from the last 28 days from the Town’s Facebook account. A lot of the posts are shared on Instagram, which tends to have a younger audience. In the coming months, Staff plans to do more videos, featuring Staff and community members talking about current, happening events. This will engage people more than graphics. Mayor Pifer stated that response on Facebook has been quick and commended Staff on their quick replies and correcting any misinformation.

Committee Reports:

1. Finance Committee - Chairperson Rod Shepherd stated that Staff has put together a report from the pool season which will be given to council members. Last swim season saw \$27,000 in revenue, which was the largest number in the last 7 years, however, expenses were \$65,000. The pool is a service to the community, much like streetlights and sidewalks, not a money-maker. The auditors had positive reports and will be presenting to Council in the near future via Zoom. Woodstock has a D-Day exhibit, which all are encouraged to attend. Check their website for dates.
2. Ordinance Committee - Chairperson Evelyn Burner had no report.
3. Personnel Committee - Chairperson Todd Holtzman had no report.
4. Public Safety Committee - Chairperson Al Asbury had no report. Printed report given to Council.
5. Public Services Committee - Chairperson Bonnie Good was absent.
6. Public Properties Committee - Chairperson Judy Fultz had no report.

Consent Agenda: Approval – Minutes of September 10, 2024 Special Meeting

Councilmember Burner MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Shepherd, 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			

5 AYES, 1 ABSENT, motion carried

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OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. RZ-01-2024: Request to Rezone 6091 Main Street from I-1 to B-1 – Eligible for Action

Ms. Hilton stated that the Planning Commission’s recommendation was approval.

Councilmember Shepherd MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Fultz, to APPROVE RZ-01-2024:
Request to Rezone 6091 Main Street from I-1 to B-1.

Mr. Shepherd stated his approval for restoring and refurbishing old historic properties.

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			

4 AYES, 1 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT, motion carried

2. SU-03-2024: Project Blueline Special Use Permit – Eligible for Action

Ms. Hilton stated that the Planning Commission recommended denial of the special use permit to encourage the applicant to stay within the 45 ft. or lower by right silo height. The request for 60 ft. silo height was denied recommendation by the Planning Commission. Ms. Hilton stated that Council can vote to either approve or deny the request. The maximum allowed height under Town Code is 45 ft. and the applicant was requesting to use 60 ft. silos for an industrial project. Denial of the special use permit would enable the project to be handled administratively, as 45 ft. height or below would be a by right use.

Councilmember Shepherd MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Burner, to support the Planning Commission’s decision and DENY SU-03-2024: Project Blueline Special Use Permit and encourage the applicant to use 30 ft. silos.

Mr. Holtzman requested Staff to take the consideration of 30 ft. silos to the applicant. Ms. Hilton stated that the most Staff could do from a Town prospective was to encourage 30 ft. silos as by right they are allowed to go up to 45 ft. height.

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 ABSENT, motion carried

3. Master Park & Pedestrian Connectivity Plan – Eligible for Action

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A copy of the plan was provided to Council. Ms. Hilton stated that the aim tonight was to ask for approval of the conceptual plan. The October 22 Work Session would be a deeper dive into implementation, time frame, and cost.

Councilmember Holtzman MOVED, seconded by Councilmember Burner, to APPROVE the Master Park & Pedestrian Connectivity Plan.

Mr. Sheperd requested clarification on the different designs in regard to the Little League ball field. Ms. Hilton stated that Plan showed a history of the Town’s journey thru conceptual plans. Page 19 states, “The little league field will stay where it is, parking will be improved and added close to the field.” Mr. Holtzman stated that Page 22 is the final design and that the Work Session, which is Phase 2, will cover approximate cost, priorities, and a decision as a group where to focus. Ms. Hilton stated that the leadership team will meet prior to the Work Session to make staff recommendations on the implementation schedule cost-wise and what could be bulked together.

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 ABSENT, motion carried			

Closing Remarks by Council Members, Mayor: Ms. Burner stated that Stonewall Jackson High School’s golf team made it to State and will be playing on Monday at Floyd. The volleyball team is collecting coats for needy children. If anyone would like to donate coats, you can bring them to the Town Office and Ms. Burner will take them to the school. Mayor Pifer inquired if coats with logos would be accepted. Ms. Burner answered affirmatively.

Ms. Hilton stated that Staff would be joining the MJPd and Public Works at Shenandoah Caverns’ Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 10. A couple families have signed up for the Jacktown Spooktacular haunted house tour; please encourage avid decorators to sign up. There will be a photo booth at Town Hall on Halloween. Chief Cowart stated that the PD would have glow sticks, candy, and handcuffs.

Ms. Burner commended the Police Department and all the officers for their wonderful job in the community.

Motion made by Councilmember Shepherd, seconded by Councilmember Fultz, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. All members present signified approval by saying AYE; meeting was adjourned.

Barbara Riggelman, Clerk

Donald “Donnie” I. Pifer, Mayor