

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Mt. Jackson Town Council was held on February 12, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Present were: Joseph Williams, Mayor, Gene Bodkin, Todd Holtzman, Rodney Shepherd, and George Whiting, Councilmen. Absent: Michael Koontz and Kay P. Whetzel. Also present: James Allamong, Town Attorney, Charles Moore, Town Manager, and Judy Fultz, Clerk.

Motion by Councilman Whiting and seconded by Councilman Shepherd to amend the agenda to change R-07-2002 to O-05-2002 which is an agreement to approve joint powers association agreement for the purchase of electricity to approve as an ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Bodkin	None	Councilman Koontz
“ Holtzman		“ Whetzel
“ Shepherd		
“ Whiting		

4 AYE, 2 ABSENT, motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Whiting and seconded by Councilman Bodkin to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 8, 2002 and special meeting of January 24, 2002 as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Bodkin	None	Councilman Koontz
“ Holtzman		“ Whetzel
“ Shepherd		
“ Whiting		

4 AYE, 2 ABSENT, motion carried.

Al Alsbury asked to make a statement. He stated he was not an enemy and that he did not want to make anyone mad. He asked the financial condition of the Town. Motion by Councilman Bodkin and seconded by Councilman Whiting to allow Mr. Alsbury an additional ten minutes.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Bodkin	None	Councilman Koontz
“ Holtzman		“ Whetzel
“ Shepherd		
“ Whiting		

4 AYE, 2 ABSENT, motion carried.

Councilman Whiting gave him the following balances: General Fund - \$377,821.89; Water & Sewer Fund - \$893,928.29; Water & Sewer Deposits - \$24,456.00; Capital Improvements - \$224,126.71; and Equipment Replacement - \$72,745.34. He asked why the cost of town stickers was reduced. He was advised because the Mayor wanted to do something to help the citizens of Mt. Jackson since we had a good year and had more in reserves than was anticipated.

Mayor Williams reported the Governor stated there is no money available this year. There will be big reductions to the localities.

Town Manager Moore advised construction schedules are running well on the projects. There is going to be a public forum on February 21st at 7:00 p.m. to receive comments on senior citizen housing by grants, CDBG grants for low income housing, and whether to proceed. There was a meeting with possible purchases of the J. E. Morgan building. The purchase depends on a federal contract for making berets.

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Town Attorney Allamong reported he and Attorney Arthur had researched the subject on town stickers. He reported if the town did not collect money for town stickers, the citizens of town would have to purchase stickers from the county. He advised their law office now has E-Mail. Their address is:aalw@shentel.net.

Councilman Whiting stated the reassessed values for the town have been received and we may need to reduce the tax rate on real estate.

Councilman Bodkin reported on the water line work. If there is any asbestos pipe it will be left in the ground.

Motion by Councilman Shepherd and seconded by Councilman Whiting to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following: 1- O-01-2002 Modifying Floodplain Regs. Set Public Hearing for 3/6/2002 at 7:30 p.m., 2- O-02-2002 Delete Req. for Sep. Bus. W/S. Set Public Hearing for 3/12/2002 at 7:30 p.m., 3- O-03-2002 Amending Zoning Code. Set Public Hearing for 3/6/2002 at 7:30 p.m., 4- O-04-2002 Changing Bus. Lic. Fees. Set Public Hearing for 3/12/2002 at 7:30 p.m., 5- Approving Subdivision – Remove Lot Line – Berlin Frye, 6- Approving Subdivision – Valley Fertilizer Amend to show water site, 7- Approving Subdivision – Norfolk Southern/Town Hall Site, 8- R-02-2002 Exonerating Pers. Prop. Taxes for 1995 and earlier, 9- R-07-2002 Changed to O-05-2002 Approving Joint Powers Agreement for Electricity Purchase, and 10- R-09-2002 Waive Rezoning Fees.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Bodkin	None	Councilman Koontz
“ Holtzman		“ Whetzel
” Shepherd		
“ Whiting		

4 AYE, 2 ABSENT, motion carried.

Town Manager Moore reported the Town advertised for auditing services and received proposals which were reviewed by the finance committee. A special thanks to Councilman Whiting for his extra time. Motion by Councilman Whiting and seconded by Councilman Shepherd to approve Hottel & Willis for a three-year period for \$12,000.00 per year.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Bodkin	None	Councilman Koontz
“ Holtzman		“ Whetzel
“ Shepherd		
“ Whiting		

4 AYE, 2 ABSENT, motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Whiting and seconded by Councilman Holtzman to approve R-08-2002 authorizing purchase of Visitors' Center/Town Hall Site from Norfolk Southern Railroad 1.657 acres of land for approximately \$91,667.00. A significant amount (\$350,000) for the building will be from the TEA -21 Grant.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Bodkin	None	Councilman Koontz
“ Holtzman		“ Whetzel
“ Shepherd		
“ Whiting		

4 AYE, 2 ABSENT, motion carried.

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There was a discussion about the real estate tax rate since the reassessment. Motion by Councilman Whiting and seconded by Councilman Holtzman to use \$.15 per \$100.00 as the basis for the budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Bodkin	None	Councilman Koontz
“ Holtzman		“ Whetzel
“ Shepherd		
“ Whiting		

4 AYE, 2 ABSENT, motion carried.

The current tax rate is \$.19 per \$100. with 67.7 million taxable real estate. The reassessment figure is 87 million. We will try to achieve no net increase in the real estate taxes collected. There will be an increase to some property owners if they had an increase in their assessment value. Councilman Whiting stated that an amazing per cent of our operating budgets has been from grants.

Town Manager Moore reported that WSIG Radio and WSVG Radio will be sold if the contract negotiation is approved. The Council is concerned because of local reporting and public service work for the Town. Motion by Councilman Holtzman and seconded by Councilman Whiting to draft letters to the SCC and to the future owner of the radio station. Councilman Shepherd stated WSIG is very essential to the Town.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Bodkin	None	Councilman Koontz
“ Holtzman		“ Whetzel
“ Shepherd		
“ Whiting		

4 AYE, 2 ABSENT, motion carried.

There was a discussion on the Visitor Center/Town Office. The TEA -21 Grant will pay for anything that would be for a free-standing building. The library has 2500 square feet. They are raising money from donations and having fund raising projects. The balance for the Town will be from reserves and a low interest loan from the federal government. Mayor Williams stated the groundbreaking is set for April 13, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. All former mayors and councilmembers will be invited. Some of the others who will be invited are: Virginia Tech students who worked on the Main Street project, Libby Welsh, Allen Louderback, and Bob Goodlatte.

Councilman Bodkin stated a lot of things come and go but he hates to see WSIG go because it is a part of the community. He would like to see it stay. Councilman Whiting stated he feels we should do what we can to help it stay a part of our community. Motion by Councilman Whiting and seconded by Councilman Bodkin to draft a letter opposing the area losing WSIG.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Bodkin	None	Councilman Koontz
“ Holtzman		“ Whetzel
“ Shepherd		
“ Whiting		

4 AYE, 2 ABSENT, motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Whiting and seconded by Councilman Shepherd to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.
