

Regular Meeting
December 9, 2014

The regular meeting of the Mount Jackson Town Council was held on December 9, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at 5901 Main Street. Roll call was taken with the following in attendance: J. Bucky Miller; Dennis Andrick, Ken Hackenbracht, Whitney Miller, Donnie Pifer, Roger Rudy and Rodney Shepherd, Councilmembers. Also in attendance: Doug Arthur, Town Attorney; Kevin Fauber, Town Manager; Judy Fultz, Town Clerk and Heather Taylor, Deputy Clerk. Visitors present: Don Albright, David Brinegar, J. D. Fadley, Chief of Police, Jenna French, Bill Holtzman, Bill Ryan, Daniel Lauro from Botkin Rose and Randy Mullins from Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy.

Visitor Bill Ryan from Bridge Street raised the issue that traffic cannot be seen in either direction due to visibility being blocked by parked cars along the section of Main and Bridge Streets and asked if a parking space could be eliminated to improve visibility. Councilman Dennis Andrick will meet with the Chief of Police to discuss this problem.

Visitor Bill Holtzman from Mount Jackson requested that the Council and Planning Commission please reconsider the town requirement for new buildings in town limits to be built with the side or back of the building facing Main Street. This design originated through the Virginia Tech Study which was done several years ago. Mr. Holtzman shared that this is not visually pleasing and is not attractive for any business to be built this way. His comment was in reference to the new dollar store being built and the already existing dollar store further north on Main Street.

Don Albright from Mount Jackson commented that the man behind the Town Park, north of the Town Office, was the late Mayor, Joe Williams. Mr. Albright shared that in honor Mayor Williams he would like to see the park named after him. Mayor Miller stated that he has plans that he is working on to bring that together.

Mayor Miller commented in his report that approaching the holidays, there is a lot of construction in town. The parade scheduled for 12/13/2014 has 47+ entries and will probably exceed 50. This is a very good turnout and he is grateful to Candice Lopresti who has helped him organize this event. The water tower project is coming along nicely although the weather has been an issue. The artist hopes to be finished by Christmas. There was a nice article about this project in the local paper.

Kevin Fauber introduced Jenna French, the Shenandoah County Tourism & Marketing Director, and she did a very thorough presentation on the tourism in the Valley and town of Mount Jackson's effect on this. Mount Jackson is a hub within the Valley that contributes with attractions such as Shenandoah Caverns, Bryce Resort as well as other important businesses and restaurants and has contributed to the growth in traveler's spending. The Shenandoah Valley is ranked #3 in economic growth behind Roanoke and Bath County. For every \$1 spent on tourism in the County \$1,100 is generated in return.

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There is future focus within this department on public relations as well as an Outdoor Recreation Guide to be published early next year. Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg are going to be involved in the annual Yard Crawl event which takes place in August every year.

Mayor Miller presented Town Clerk Judy Fultz with a retirement gift and an enormous thank you for all she has done as Town Clerk for the past thirty four years. Mayor Miller wished her well with her retirement.

Town Manager, Kevin Fauber gave an update on the health situation with Finance Director, Neil Showalter. Neil was doing much better and has been discharged from the hospital and hopes to be back in the office 12/10 or 12/11/2014. Kevin also reported that the TW3 has good news with the VDOT approvals. The Water Project will have news after the holidays.

Public Properties Chair, Whitney Miller reported that in regard to the old Triplett School building, there are people interested in meeting to discuss alternative plans for this building. The meeting is scheduled for 12/12/2014 at 2:15 p.m.

Public Safety Chair, Roger Rudy reported that the police department answered 427 calls in November which averages to 14 per day. Of those, 3 were cleared and 3 remain active. The Mount Jackson Rescue and Fire calls for the same month totaled 64 EMS, 18 Fire and Rescue. Of these calls, 2/3 of them were responded to by volunteers.

David Brinegar from Mount Jackson Rescue & Fire gave an update on the new building; the footers have been placed and the steel is expected to be delivered by the end of the month. The department has a Christmas project of sending a care package to an Active Duty soldier named Caleb. This will include the entire platoon.

Motion by Councilman Pifer and second by Councilman Andrick to approve the consent agenda considering of: 1- Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2014, Regular Meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Andrick	None	None
" Hackenbracht		
" Miller		
" Pifer		
" Rudy		
" Shepherd		

6 AYE, motion carried.

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Old Business-Kevin Fauber reported that he discussed the Council's concerns of the 15 year term with the Transfer and Renewal of the Cable Franchise Agreement. The points were discussed and understood by Shentel and they have agreed to a 10 year term agreement. This agreement puts Shentel in legal standing to maintain services in town and this is a non-exclusive agreement. Doug Arthur, Town Attorney recommends that arrangements be made by Staff for someone from Shentel to explain the franchise and Ordinance and to get answers to any questions. The Mayor has tabled this Resolution with a request for Town Manager, Kevin Fauber to arrange for someone from VML to offer an explanation.

Motion made by Councilman Andrick and second by Councilman Pifer to table Resolution 06-2014.

ROLL CALL VOTE

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Andrick	None	None
" Hackenbracht		
" Miller		
" Pifer		
" Rudy		
" Shepherd		

6 AYE, Motion carried.

New Business-Kevin Fauber introduced Daniel Lauro from Botkin Rose who has been working with the EDA and the Concurrence Resolution for the Benefit of the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy 2005 refinance loan. Mr. Lauro highlighted that the town has no money involved in this refinance and that there has been no out of pocket expense by the town. All funds have been paid by the Academy in bonds through EDA financing. He also stated that the Academy assumes all of the legal issues associated with this loan.

Motion by Councilman Shepherd and second by Councilman Hackenbracht for approval of Concurrence Resolution for the Benefit of the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy.

ROLL CALL VOTE

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Andrick	None	None
" Hackenbracht		
" Miller		
" Pifer		
" Rudy		
" Shepherd		

6 AYE, Motion carried.

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Joint Agreement- Chief Fadley explained that the Mutual Aid Agreement which is presently in place in all departments as well as the county. This agreement requires officers and deputies to make requests before action can be taken when working in other jurisdictions. Chief Fadley stated that this extra step causes problems for personnel in taking action in a situation. The additional distance traveled to the Regional Jail in Front Royal requires jurisdictions to overlap and go where needed. Removal of the MAA would assist the officers in taking action in a situation without having to make the request to the specific jurisdiction. The towns involved would include Mount Jackson, New Market and Woodstock. This plan is being used in Roanoke and is working well there and Chief Fadley mentioned that this has the support of the Commonwealth Attorney. This action is to aid and assist local personnel.

Motion made by Councilman Andrick and second by Councilman Rudy to enter into the Joint Agreement with New Market and Woodstock, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Andrick	None	None
" Hackenbracht		
" Miller		
" Pifer		
" Rudy		
" Shepherd		

6 AYE, Motion carried.

Appointment of Town Clerk with the retirement of Judy Fultz. Recommendation of Deputy Clerk, Heather Taylor to be appointed Town Clerk for the period of January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015.

Motion by Councilman Shepherd and second by Councilman Andrick to appoint Heather Taylor as Town Clerk.

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ROLL CALL VOTE

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Councilman Andrick	None	None
" Hackenbracht		
" Miller		
" Pifer		
" Rudy		
" Shepherd		

6 AYE, Motion carried.

Question was raised as to the need to appoint a Deputy Clerk. Motion by Councilman Pifer to adjourn the meeting. Time 8:38 p.m.

CLERK

MAYOR