

# WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA

## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES



Council for the City of Waynesboro, Virginia held a Work Session on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Charles T. Yancey Municipal Building, 503 West Main Street, Waynesboro, Virginia, with Mayor Henderson presiding and calling the meeting to order:

PRESENT: Council Members: Bobby Henderson, Mayor  
Lana Williams, Vice Mayor  
Bruce Allen, Council member  
Terry Short, Jr., Council member  
Sam Hostetter, Council member

City Staff: Mike Hamp, City Manager  
Jim Shaw, Deputy City Manager  
Cameron McCormick, Finance Director  
Luke Juday, Planning Director  
Greg Hitchin, Economic Development Director

Counsel: Melisa Michelsen, Esq., Litten & Sipe LLC

ABSENT: None

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### **OVERVIEW:**

A Council member asked that at the October 26 business meeting, the agenda be amended to table the Scenic River resolution until the November 9 meeting.

*Columbia Gas Natural Gas Distribution Franchise Agreement*, outlines the legal scope, safety, and construction notices. It includes when Columbia Gas will post a bond based on their construction activity, insurance that ensures the City is covered as an additional insurer on Columbia Gas' liability policies, and their liability to restore pavements during their activities. New to the agreement is a tighter timeline when they are working in the downtown Enterprise Zone area. It was emphasized that these only pertain to activities that occur within the public right-of-way.

*Second consideration to vacate the 7<sup>th</sup> Street At-Grade Railroad Crossing*: The closing is required as part of the Southern Corridor Project, and the objective of the road is to solve transportation issues at Rosser Avenue and create a secondary access to the Town Center, providing economic opportunities to the City. The City Manager reviewed the project cost of \$17 million, the City's contribution, the cost of infrastructure, grading, and a return on investment. The City Manager recommends that Council proceed with the closing. Staff does not undervalue the inconvenience to the neighborhood but reflects the need for the project, and the investment for the community warrants and justifies the recommendation. Council member Hostetter confirmed that the closure would not occur until the Southern Corridor road is developed.

*CARES ACT Update*: The Finance Director reviewed the encumbered items provided in the Council packet for the October 26 business meeting and subsequent updates including the eligibility of dedicated public safety personnel salaries already budgeted by the City and Waynesboro public school assistance relating to online education and personal protection equipment. Council member Short asked about the

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\$20,000 increase in the “Other” category, and the Finance Director stated he will supply that information at the Council meeting.

*Finance Update:* Council can expect a CAFR and audit report by the first December Council meeting. Fiscal year 2021 updates will be provided either at the Council Retreat in November or at the regular business meeting on November 23. The schools have a few items they want appropriated from their fund balance, and preliminary figures indicate that those will exceed 1% of the adopted budget; therefore, a public hearing will be required at the next Council meeting.

**City Manager Updates:**

*Assessor’s Office:* The City Manager has been working on overcrowding issues in the Gorsuch Building. He plans to enter in to a lease for temporary office space for the Assessor’s Office.

*Fire Department:* The City Manager has been working on a temporary location for the Fire Department staff.

*Leaf Collection:* The annual leaf collection schedule will begin on November 30, with the Deputy City Manager explaining the difference between scheduled and unscheduled leaf collections. With the lack of prisoner assistance, the collection will proceed at a slower pace. Council member Short suggested a press release or public notice be made alerting citizens of the leaf collection schedule, the personnel shortage, and the property placement of raked leaves and avoiding placing them in the street.

*Voting:* Council member Hostetter suggested that citizens be reminded of the early voting schedule and the election day voting locations and times.

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With no further discussion, the meeting concluded at 6:50 p.m.

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Julia Bortle, MMC, Clerk of Council

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Bobby Henderson, Mayor