

# WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES



Council for the City of Waynesboro, Virginia held a Regular Business Meeting on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Charles T. Yancey Municipal Building, 503 West Main Street, Waynesboro, Virginia, with Mayor Williams presiding and calling the meeting to order.

PRESENT: Council Members: Lana Williams, Mayor  
Jim Wood, Vice Mayor  
Bruce Allen, Council member  
Terry Short, Jr., Council member  
Kenny Lee, Council member

City Staff: Michael Hamp, City Manager  
Todd Wood, Assistant City Manager-Operations  
Michael Wilhelm, Assistant City Manager-Public Safety  
Cameron McCormick, Assistant City Manager-Finance  
Julia Bortle, Clerk of the Council  
David Shaw, Police Chief  
Greg Hitchin, Economic Development Director

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

ABSENT: None

\*\*\*\*\*

## CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The mayor opened the meeting and Council member Allen lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. The mayor then reviewed the procedure for the citizen comment period.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MEETING AGENDA

Council member Short moved to adopt the meeting agenda. Having been seconded and with no objections, the meeting agenda was adopted 5:0:

<b>Mayor Williams</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Allen</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Vice Mayor Wood</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Short</b>	<b>Aye</b>
		<b>Council member Lee</b>	<b>Aye</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

## MATTERS FROM THE MAYOR

The mayor thanked the Public Works staff for organizing the spring road cleanup. Thirty-six bags of trash were collected along several roadways.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MATTERS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Vice Mayor Wood, Mayor Williams and Greg Hitchin participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony that took place at the Grey Pine Lodge, the new boutique motel in Waynesboro, VA. It's where the Appalachian Trail, Shenandoah National Park, Skyline Drive and Blue Ridge Parkway converge.

Council member Lee attended the community block party hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department. He complimented the staff for the great turnout.

Council member Short also congratulated the Parks and Recreation staff for what became the highest turnout event of its kind.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council member Allen moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Having been seconded and with no objections, the consent agenda was adopted 5:0:

<b>Mayor Williams</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Allen</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Vice Mayor Wood</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Short</b>	<b>Aye</b>
		<b>Council member Lee</b>	<b>Aye</b>

- a. Consider adopting the minutes from the April 24, 2023 Regular Business Meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL POLICE WEEK**

Council member Lee read a proclamation naming the week of May 14-20, 2023 as National Police Week and Monday, May 15, 2023 as Peace Officers Memorial Day in the City of Waynesboro, VA. He then presented the proclamation to Police Chief Shaw who thanked Council for acknowledging the dedicated work of the police officers. <sup>(P23-09)</sup>

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Congress and President of the United States have designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which it falls as Police Week; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of law enforcement for the City of Waynesboro play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Waynesboro; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important that all citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of their law enforcement officers; and

**WHEREAS**, members of our police department recognize their duty to serve the citizens by safeguarding life and property, protecting them against violence and disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression or intimidation; and

**WHEREAS**, the police department for the City of Waynesboro has grown to be a modern law enforcement agency that unceasingly provides a vital public service;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I Lana Williams, Mayor, on behalf of the City Council of Waynesboro, call upon all citizens and upon all patriotic, civic and educational organizations to observe the week of May 14-20, 2023, as Police Week with appropriate acknowledgment in which all of our citizens may honor law enforcement officers, past and present, who by their faithful and loyal devotion to their

responsibilities have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and, in doing so, have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

**I FURTHER** call upon all citizens of Waynesboro to observe Monday, May 15, 2023, as Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor those peace officers who, through their courageous deeds, have lost their lives or have become disabled in the performance of duty.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Waynesboro, Virginia to be affixed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROCLAMATION – RISE ORGANIZATION FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

Mayor Williams read a proclamation acknowledging the RISE Organization’s five-year anniversary and presented the proclamation to Co-founders Sharon Fitz and Chanda McGuffin: <sup>(P23-10)</sup>

In Recognition of  
**RISE ORGANIZATION’S FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

---

**WHEREAS**, RISE Organization was officially established in 2018 in the City of Waynesboro, Virginia by founders Sharon Fitz and Chanda McGuffin; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of RISE is to give a voice to the voiceless, strength to the weak and support for those within the Black community; and

**WHEREAS**, for the past five years, RISE has provided after-school and summer programming, a Black History program, an all-Black library featuring almost 2,000 works by Black authors, tutoring services, and an advocacy program for Black scholars and their families in Virginia. Cornerstones of the RISE Organization are the annual Women’s Summit that brings women from across the country to the Shenandoah Valley for its networking, motivation and its yearly Community Stakeholders Conference that dives into bringing all walks of life, positions and leaders to the table to create the community in which we all wish to see. Courageous conversations happen during the conference; and

**WHEREAS**, RISE has been recognized on the House Floor in Richmond for the work it does with scholars in the Shenandoah Valley, Crozet and Charlottesville; and

**WHEREAS**, RISE associates have participated in two city rallies, spoken at City Council citizen comment periods against hate in the city which led to then-Mayor Terry Short, Jr. and the Council presenting a proclamation against hate in the city, and then-Vice Mayor Lana Williams and the City Council declaring Juneteenth as a city holiday, and encouraging Waynesboro citizen Mr. Kenny Lee, who is now Council member Kenny Lee, to run for office; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Waynesboro, Virginia appointed Co-Founder Chanda McGuffin to the Waynesboro Economic Development Board and the Historic Commission.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Lana Williams, Mayor, on behalf of the City Council of the City of Waynesboro, Virginia, do hereby recognize

**SHARON FITZ, CHANDA MCGUFFIN AND THE RISE ORGANIZATION**

on their 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and extend sincere gratitude to its officers and members, past and present, for their accomplishments, commitment, and dedication to the Waynesboro community as a model of advancement, fortitude and caring.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Waynesboro to be affixed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

\*\*\*\*\*

**TAXES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023**

The City Manager and the Assistant City Manager-Finance provided a presentation that summarized the City Manager’s recommended budget at this point. Vice Mayor Wood moved to adopt an ordinance **IMPOSING TAXES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023 ON PROPERTY AND PERSONS, FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON THE CITY DEBT, FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT, FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER EXPENSES, PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY, FOR THE COLLECTION OF TAXES, REVENUES, ASSESSMENTS, AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR THE FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS HEREOF.** Having been seconded and with no further discussion, the ordinance will be considered for adoption at the May 22, 2023 regular business meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONSIDER INTRODUCING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 30-58(H)(3)(A) AND (B), 66-3(C), 86-28(A), AND 86-139(A) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYNESBORO (UTILITIES)**

Council member Lee moved to introduce an ordinance amending the Waynesboro City Code Sections 30-58(H)(3)(A) and (B), 66-3(C), 86-28(A), and 86-139(A) (Utilities). Having been seconded and with no further discussion, the ordinance will be considered for adoption at the May 22, 2023 regular business meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONSIDER INTRODUCING AN ORDINANCE FOR THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024**

Vice Mayor Wood moved to introduce an ordinance for the Annual Budget (Appropriation Ordinance) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Having been seconded and with no further discussion, the ordinance will be considered for adoption at the May 22, 2023 regular business meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PRESENTATION – TOURISM INFORMATION CENTER**

The Economic Development Director made a presentation on the status and benefits of the Certified Tourist Information Center located at the top of Afton Mountain (attached), noting the benefits of tourism information centers and the personal interactions they provide that offer visitor experiences.

Council was asked to consider plans and options for the Waynesboro TIC, including re-opening for the season, permanently closing the Tourist Information Center, or moving the center to a different location. Staff recommended relocating the center to East Main Street, Waynesboro.

Council member Short stated that \$30,000 annually for 20 years is a substantial investment which he doesn’t support, preferring to accelerant the termination of the lease. He supports investigating the

purchase of an easement opposite the Exit 99 and Rt 250 intersection to install a Waynesboro branding sign. He noted that the Rockfish Tourism Information Center does not even acknowledge Waynesboro signage. Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Wood and Council member Allen agreed with Mr. Short's statements, noting that although it's a regional tourism center, Waynesboro is the only locality financing it.

\*\*\*\*\*

**REGIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION APPOINTMENT**

Council member Short moved to appoint Mr. Michael Stosh to the Regional Youth Commission as a Waynesboro representative, for an unexpired four-year term ending August 31, 2023. Mr. Stosh will be eligible for reappointment beginning September 1, 2023. Having been seconded and with no further discussion, the appointment was adopted 5:0:

<b>Mayor Williams</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Allen</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Vice Mayor Wood</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Short</b>	<b>Aye</b>
		<b>Council member Lee</b>	<b>Aye</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

**COMMUNICATION, CORRESPONDENCE, CALENDAR, CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

With no comments to make, the meeting continued.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD**

*Mr. Mark Harman, Swoope, VA:* As representative of the Harman family, he updated Council on the status of the Harman Monument that was donated from the city. It will be relocated from the Harman family property to the Lee-Jackson memorial Park (leejacksonpark.com) located at the Fairfield exit on Interstate 81, and it will be joined by other statues and monuments donated from other localities.

*Andrea Jackson, Waynesboro:* continues to support a rental inspection program in Waynesboro, and representatives will come before Council again on the topic.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ADJOURN**

Council member Allen moved to adjourn the meeting. Having been seconded and with no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. on an affirmative 5:0 vote:

<b>Mayor Williams</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Allen</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Vice Mayor Wood</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Short</b>	<b>Aye</b>
		<b>Council member Lee</b>	<b>Aye</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

---

Julia Bortle, MMC, Clerk of Council

---

Lana Williams, Mayor