

WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA

CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES



Council for the City of Waynesboro, Virginia held a Regular Business Meeting on Monday, April 22, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Charles T. Yancey Municipal Building, 503 West Main Street, Waynesboro, Virginia, with Mayor Short presiding and calling the meeting to order:

- PRESENT: Council Members: Terry Short, Jr., Mayor
 Bobby Henderson, Vice Mayor
 Bruce Allen, Councilman
 Elzena Anderson, Councilwoman
 Sam Hostetter, Councilman
- City Staff: Mike Hamp, City Manager
 Jim Shaw, Deputy City Manager
 Julia Bortle, Clerk of Council
 Cameron McCormick, Finance Director
 Dwayne Jones, Parks and Recreation Director
 Michael Wilhelm, Police Chief
- Outside Counsel: Melisa Michelsen, Esq., Litten & Sipe LLC
- ABSENT: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Mayor Short opened the meeting Councilman Allen lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilwoman Anderson moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Having been seconded, the **consent agenda was adopted 5-0:**

Mayor Short	Aye	Councilwoman Anderson	Aye
Vice Mayor Henderson	Aye	Councilman Hostetter	Aye
Councilman Allen	Aye		

- a) **Council Meeting Minutes:** Consider approving the minutes from the following meetings, and dispense with the reading of the minutes:
 April 8, 2019 Council Meeting
 April 9, 2019 Budget Work Session.
- b) **Business License Tax Refund:** Consider authorizing the City Manager to approve a request from the Commissioner of the Revenue to refund \$4,394.80 plus interest to reimburse a business for a 2019 business license tax overpayment.
- c) **Real Estate Tax Refund:** Consider approving a request from the Commissioner of the Revenue to refund \$32,628.51, including interest to Waynesboro Village LLC for overpaid taxes in 2017 and 2018.

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Second consideration/adoption of the following appropriation ordinances:

- d) Cost Allocation Plan (\$20,000) (2019-29)
- e) Economic Development Tourism Grant (\$13,738) (2019-30)
- f) Economic Development Façade Grants (\$8,386) (2019-31)
- g) Public Works VDOT Street Maintenance Paving (\$111,569) (2019-32)
- h) Parks and Recreation Replacement Truck (\$20,000) (2019-33)
- i) Human Resources Compensation Study (\$45,000) (2019-34)

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilman Hostetter: reminded everyone that his open meeting will be on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the French Press Café.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE:

The Code of Virginia requires that all properties within the locality be assessed at 100% of their fair market value. It is the task of the Assessor to evaluate each property as if it were exposed to the real estate market by comparing it to comparable sales. The total assessed value of the property as of the date of the effective tax increase is equal to slightly more than \$1.8 billion, which is more than a 7% increase over the previous reassessment. The City is required to advertise a rate that would equalize the real estate tax revenue for the City. The equalized tax rate would be \$.85. The City has advertised the current tax rate of \$.90 per \$100 of assessed value. Tonight's public hearing is to receive public input on the reassessment, the increase in value that creates an increase in tax revenue for the City.

The public hearing was opened at 7:06 p.m.:

C.R. Burrett, 401 Ridge Circle: after providing a packet comparing Waynesboro's tax rate to neighboring localities, she asked Council to be thoughtful on how to spend the proposed tax rate and other rate increases and asked Council to put the tax rate at \$.85.

Ken Adams, Republic Committee Chair: stated the Republican Committee voted unanimously to oppose the increase to the real estate tax rate to \$.90, stating the proposed tax increases are predatory.

Bill Krzastek, 1321 Hollins Road: expressed concern over the proposed tax rate of \$.90. Mr. Krzastek's full comments are attached to the official transcript of these minutes (attachment 46-49).

Louis Price, 640 Maple Avenue: is opposed to the assessed value placed on his home he rents.

Chandra McGuffin, 644 Edwardian Lane: supports the \$.90 tax rate as she is opposed to the negative impact on the schools and capital improvements if the rate is lowered to \$.85 per \$100 of assessed value.

Milton and Judy Simora (declined to speak).

Gary Wade, 1200 Boxwood Circle: is concerned about the statistics he's heard here and asked Council for deep consideration on what they are doing when considering the \$.90 tax rate increase.

Diana Williams, 185 S. Delphine Avenue: supports the tax increase as a member of the School Board and as a member of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, stating that it would enable the City to catch up and keep up with neighboring communities.

Peter VanAcker, 708 Maple Avenue: stated that because of the lack of past planning, the roads, schools, and community at large is falling apart. He asked Council to make a responsible decision for the community.

Kristi Williams, 400 Pelham Drive: supports the tax increase to \$.90 as it is the first step to put the City where it needs to be. Keeping the taxes lower in the past is causing the need for the tax increases now.

With no further comments from the public, the public hearing was closed at 7:29 p.m.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET – TAX RATE:

Councilman Hostetter moved that Council schedule a public hearing for Monday, May 13, 2019 to receive public comments on the proposed tax rates for Land, Lots, and buildings, taxable tangible personal property, machinery and tools, and other property. Having been seconded, the motion was adopted:

Mayor Short	Aye	Councilwoman Anderson	Aye
Vice Mayor Henderson	Aye	Councilman Hostetter	Aye
Councilman Allen	Aye		

FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET - UTILITY RATE INCREASES:

Councilwoman Anderson moved that Council schedule a public hearing for Monday, May 13, 2019 to receive public comments on proposed utility rate increases. Having been seconded, the motion was adopted:

Mayor Short	Aye	Councilwoman Anderson	Aye
Vice Mayor Henderson	Aye	Councilman Hostetter	Aye
Councilman Allen	Aye		

FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET:

Vice Mayor Henderson moved that Council schedule a public hearing for Monday, May 13, 2019 to receive public comments on the City Manager’s recommended fiscal year 2020 budget. Having been seconded, the motion was adopted:

Mayor Short	Aye	Councilwoman Anderson	Aye
Vice Mayor Henderson	Aye	Councilman Hostetter	Aye
Councilman Allen	Aye		

RESOLUTION - VIRGINIA SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION:

Councilman Allen moved to adopt a resolution authorizing staff to initiate the process of requesting the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation to designate a portion of the South River a Virginia Scenic River Designation.

**A RESOLUTION ^(R19-06)
OF SUPPORT FOR**

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**REQUESTING A PORTION OF THE SOUTH RIVER IN WAYNESBORO, VA
BE DESIGNATED A VIRGINIA SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Waynesboro, Virginia hereby authorizes the staff to initiate the process of requesting the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation name a portion of the South River, from South Oak Lane to Hopeman Parkway, a Virginia Scenic Rivers Designation.

Having been seconded and with no objections, the resolution was adopted:

Mayor Short	Aye	Councilwoman Anderson	Aye
Vice Mayor Henderson	Aye	Councilman Hostetter	Aye
Councilman Allen	Aye		

CITY CODE AMENDMENT – CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT FINGERPRINTING:

In order to bring the City Code of Waynesboro into compliance with the State Code, Vice Mayor Henderson moved to introduce an ordinance amending the City Code, repealing Chapter 50, Section 10, Fingerprinting of Applicants for Concealed Handgun Permits, of the City Code of Waynesboro, Virginia. Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 13, 2019 Regular Business Meeting.

COMMUNICATION, CORRESPONDENCE, AND CALENDAR: With nothing to report from staff, the meeting continued.

CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD:

Bill Krzastek, 1321 Hollins Road: spoke about the traffic light at Windigrove Drive and Rosser Avenue and the Waynesboro School District (Mr. Krzastek’s full comments are attached to the official transcript of these minutes (attachment 46-49).

Diane Williams declined to speak at this time.

Peter VanAcker, was not available to speak.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Anderson.

Julia Bortle, MMC, Clerk of Council

Terry Short, Jr., Mayor