

# WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA

## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES



Council for the City of Waynesboro, Virginia held a Regular Business Meeting on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Waynesboro High School Auditorium, 1200 West Main Street, Waynesboro, Virginia with Mayor Henderson calling the meeting to order. This meeting was also viewable by accessing the City’s YouTube channel.

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

City Staff: Michael Hamp, City Manager  
James Shaw, Deputy City Manager  
Julia Bortle, Clerk of Council  
Cameron McCormick, Finance Director  
Gary Critzer, Director of Emergency Management  
Michael Wilhelm, Police Chief

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

ABSENT: None

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

The Mayor opened the meeting and the City Manager reviewed the process for citizens to comment via telephone during the citizen comment period. Council member Allen then lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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### BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Council member Short moved to adopt the Business Meeting Agenda, removing item 12, appointment to the Economic Development Authority Board, to a future Council meeting. Having been seconded, **the amended Business Meeting Agenda was adopted 5:0:**

<b>Mayor Henderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Allen</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Vice Mayor Williams</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Short</b>	<b>Aye</b>
		<b>Council member Hostetter</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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### CONSENT AGENDA

Council member Short moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Having been seconded and with no objections, **the Consent Agenda adopted 5:0:**

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<b>Mayor Henderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Allen</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Vice Mayor Williams</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Short</b>	<b>Aye</b>
		<b>Council member Hostetter</b>	<b>Aye</b>

- a. Council Meeting Minutes: Consider adopting minutes from the April 19, 2021 Budget Work Session and the April 26, 2021 Regular Business Meeting.

Second consideration/adoption of the following ordinances:

- b. Rezone 1115 Ivy Street. (2021-34)
- c. Receive the City of Waynesboro's Compliance Reports and Reports of Independent Auditor.

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**MATTERS FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor stated that Vice Mayor Williams is participating in the meeting remotely as she was unavailable to attend in person due to personal reasons.

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**MATTERS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Council member Hostetter provided a COVID-19 update for the City, stating fewer cases and two deaths were reported and vaccination administrations are now available to all people in multiple locations.

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**PROCLAMATION – POLICE WEEK AND PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY**

Mayor Henderson read and presented a proclamation to Police Chief Michael Wilhelm observing May 9-15, 2021 as National Police Week and Saturday, May 15, 2021 as Peace Officers Memorial Day in the City of Waynesboro, Virginia.

**PROCLAMATION (P21-06)**

**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, Virginia 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 problems, duties and responsibilities of their police department, and that members of our police department recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence or disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression or intimidation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Police Department of Waynesboro, Virginia has grown to be modern and scientific law enforcement agency which unceasingly provides a vital public service;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bobby Henderson, Mayor, on behalf of the City Council of Waynesboro, call upon all citizens of Waynesboro and upon all patriotic, civic and educational organizations to observe the week of May 9-15, 2021, as Police Week with appropriate acknowledgement in which all of our people may honor police 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 Saturday, May 15, 2021, 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.

**WITNESS WHEREOF**, I here unto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Waynesboro to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.

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BOBBY HENDERSON, MAYOR

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**PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL EMS WEEK**

The City Manager read a proclamation and the Mayor presented it to the Director of Emergency Management observing May 16-22, 2021 as National Emergency Medical Services Week in the City of Waynesboro, Virginia.

PROCLAMATION (P21-05)  
National EMS Week Proclamation

To designate the Week of May 16 - 22, 2021, as  
Emergency Medical Services Week in Waynesboro

**WHEREAS**, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of our emergency medical services agencies, the Waynesboro First Aid Crew and the Waynesboro Fire Department, supported by the Waynesboro Police Department, and the Department of Emergency Management and EOC, are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week; and

**WHEREAS**, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

**WHEREAS**, emergency medical services has grown to fill a gap by providing important, out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and

**WHEREAS**, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Council of the City of Waynesboro does hereby proclaim May 16 to May 22, 2021 as EMS Week in Waynesboro and calls the attention of the vital work of our EMS system and the career and volunteer professionals who perform it to the attention of all of our citizens. With the EMS Strong theme, "THIS IS EMS: Caring for Our Communities", I encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

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Robert Henderson, Mayor

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Mr. Critzer thanked Council for the recognition and provided a summary of the original and duties of emergency services.

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**PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK**

The City Manager read a proclamation and accepted it on behalf of the Director of Public Works naming May 16-23, 2021 as National Public Works Week in the City of Waynesboro, Virginia.

PROCLAMATION <sup>(P21-07)</sup>  
NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

To designate the Week of May 16-23, 2021, as  
Public Work Week in Waynesboro

“Stronger Together”

WHEREAS, public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and to the public health, high quality of life and well-being of the people of the City of Waynesboro; and,

WHEREAS, these infrastructure, facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, who are engineers, managers and employees at all levels of government and the private sector, who are responsible for rebuilding, improving and protecting our nation’s transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders and children in the City of Waynesboro to gain knowledge of and to maintain an ongoing interest and understanding of the importance of public works and public works programs in their respective communities; and,

WHEREAS, the year 2021 marks the 61st annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association/Canadian Public Works Association be it now,

RESOLVED, I, Bobby Henderson, on behalf of the City Council of Waynesboro, Virginia, do hereby designate the week May 16 – 22, 2021 as National Public Works Week; I urge all citizens to join with representatives of the American Public Works Association/Canadian Public Works Association and government agencies in activities, events and ceremonies designed to pay tribute to our public works professionals, engineers, managers and employees and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and quality of life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State (to be affixed),

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Robert Henderson, Mayor

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**TAXES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021**

At the April 26, 2021 Council meeting, Vice Mayor Williams introduced an ordinance imposing taxes for the calendar year 2021 on property and persons at \$.83 per \$100 of assessed value, for the payment of interest on the City debt, for the support of City government, for the maintenance of the public

schools, and for other expenditures necessary for 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. At this meeting, Council member Allen seconded the motion, stating his reasons for equalizing the tax rate. The motion failed on a 3:2 vote:

<b>Mayor Henderson</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Council member Allen</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Vice Mayor Williams</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Short</b>	<b>Nay</b>
		<b>Council member Hostetter</b>	<b>Nay</b>

Council member Short introduced an ordinance imposing taxes for the calendar year 2021 on property and persons at \$.90 per \$100 of assessed value, for the payment of interest on the City debt, for the support of City government, for the maintenance of the public schools, and for other expenditures necessary for 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, this ordinance will be voted on at the May 24, 2021 Regular Business Meeting. Mayor Henderson stated his reasons for voting against the equalized tax rate.

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**CODE AMENDMENT – UTILITY CHARGES AND RATES:**

At the April 26, 2021 Council meeting, Council member Hostetter moved to introduce an ordinance amending Sections 30-58(h)(3)(a), 30-58(h)(3)(b), 66-3(c), and 86-139(a) of the City Code to increase sewer utility charges and rates, refuse user rates, and stormwater equivalent residential unit rates. This evening, having been seconded, the ordinance was adopted on a 4:1 vote:

<b>Mayor Henderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Allen</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Vice Mayor Williams</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Council member Short</b>	<b>Aye</b>
		<b>Council member Hostetter</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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**FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET**

Because the tax rate ordinance was introduced at a different rate than the previously considered ordinance, the City Manager recommended Council consider the fiscal year 2022 budget after staff has had an opportunity to review and, if necessary, amend it. Council member Short moved to carry consideration of the fiscal year 2022 budget over to the May 24, 2021 Regular Business Meeting. Having been seconded and with no objections, the motion was adopted 5:0:

<b>Mayor Henderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Allen</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Vice Mayor Williams</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Short</b>	<b>Aye</b>
		<b>Council member Hostetter</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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**APPOINTMENT TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD**

As noted in the adoption of the Business Meeting Agenda, consideration of an appointment to the Economic Development Authority Board was moved to the May 24, 2021 Regular Business Meeting.

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**COMMUNICATION, CORRESPONDENCE, AND CALENDAR**

With no comments from Council or staff, the meeting continued.

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**CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD**

**In-person:**

*Robert Horowitz, Frederick Street:* spoke in favor of the \$.90 cent tax rate.

*Diane Williams, N. Bath Avenue:* spoke in favor of the \$.90 cent tax rate.

*Laura Riggan, Village Drive:* spoke in favor of the \$.90 cent tax rate.

*Brian Edwards, Poland Street:* spoke in favor of the \$.90 cent tax rate (*full comments attached*).

*Dan Sullivan, Crompton Road:* spoke in favor of the \$.90 cent tax rate, and disagreed with privatizing utilities.

*Sharon VanName, Belvue Road:* spoke in favor of the \$.90 cent tax rate.

*Jeff Fife, Chatham Road:* spoke in favor of the \$.90 cent tax rate.

*Danny Ledford, S. Wayne Avenue:* spoke in favor of the \$.83 tax rate.

*Curt Lilly, Skyland Avenue:* spoke against the \$.90 cent tax rate in combination with raising utility fees.

**Phone Caller:**

*Adolph Young:* did not speak.

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**ADJOURN**

Having no further business to discuss, Council member Allen moved to adjourn the meeting. Having been seconded and with no objections, the meeting was adjourned 5:0 at 7:59 p.m.:

<b>Mayor Henderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Allen</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Vice Mayor Williams</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Council member Short</b>	<b>Aye</b>
		<b>Council member Hostetter</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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Julia Bortle, MMC, Clerk of Council

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Bobby Henderson, Mayor

May 10, 2021

Good evening, Mr. Mayor, members of council, Mr. Hamp and members of city staff:

Over the past several weeks you have heard much rhetoric from other citizens regarding the city manager's 21-22 budget and the 90 cent real estate tax rate needed to fund it. Much of what has been thrown at you has been the same short sighted drivel like the "Do More with Less," "Now's not the time!" "Raise taxes and we'll vote you out" mentality that has put our city in the predicament it's in now. Underfunded schools, underfunded public safety, underfunded public works which threaten to diminish the quality of our neighborhoods and way of life.

Instead of loading you up with more catchy clichés that really offer little in the way of data or evidence, I ask you to listen to the wisdom of this "catching up, keeping up and getting ahead." I hope that sounds familiar because it is the theme of the City of Waynesboro 2018 *Comprehensive Plan* adopted by this body. Described as "a decision-making guide to help the community <sup>Successfully</sup> ~~successfully~~ navigate the challenges Waynesboro faces." It was a bold expression by Council to make it the blueprint for Waynesboro's successful future. And what is ironic and confounding is that it was compiled by many of these people in this room tonight whose aim is to abandon it three short years later.

Is the pandemic to blame for that shift? How have things changed since 2018, here's one way from page 8 of the *Comprehensive Plan* "...confidence in the local [real estate] market has weakened relative to nearby locations within the Valley. Lower housing costs reflect that {{{Waynesboro is less the solidly middle income community it used to be}}}" People want to move into Waynesboro and pay much higher prices for homes here propelling the increase in real assessments. I for one am extremely willing to pay my share in extra real estate tax money to call Waynesboro home and I feel confident the city council will put that money to good use if it follows its own *Comprehensive plan*. I fully buy into the statement in the *Comprehensive Plan*, "In short, the community will have to badly want Waynesboro to be able to compete and demonstrate a willingness to pay for it."

With the a .90 real estate tax rate, you, as our city leaders, will be able to use the revenue to address the five project areas spelled out in the *Comprehensive Plan*. In over 25 years of being part of Waynesboro, each one of the projects holds significance for me and should every citizen of Waynesboro.

1. **Education.** As a parent of WHS students and graduates and current WPS teacher, I agree that funding is needed "to perform necessary school repairs, to have Best-in-the-Valley Compensation Package for educators, and pre-K programs." Good public education is essential to economic development.
2. **Economic.** As chairperson of the Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry, I agree that funding is needed for our Economic Development Authority to bring in more businesses so that we can be on "solid economic footing" bringing in jobs and tourism dollars and reducing our homeless and low income population.
3. **Quality of Life.** As a retired police officer, I agree that funding is needed so that Waynesboro can have the "Best-in-Valley 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Compensation Package." Otherwise, Waynesboro will continue to be the training ground for other localities.
4. **Infrastructure & Neighborhoods.** As a Waynesboro citizen and homeowner of nearly 20 years, I agree that funding is needed to make necessary improvement to our roads, sidewalks, bridges, and the east side of the city, and support the great work of our Public Works Department. In

addition, the funding will assist the Building & Zoning Department step up code enforcement of blighted properties and improve the overall look and individuality of our neighborhoods.



In closing, let<sup>me</sup> add another quote from the Comprehensive Plan and that is “Waynesboro is at a crossroads.” It’s not the same crossroads that existed when the plan was composed and adopted in 2018. Back then, our housing market was stagnant, not robust like now; our unemployment was higher than the nation’s (4.3% to 3.9%); not lower like it is now (5.5% to 6.1%). We’re getting better and we need to use the Comprehensive Plan as it was designed for: “the decision-making tool for every City Council and Planning Commission for the next decade....it lays out a solid blueprint for the community’s future.” By doing so, and approving a 90 cent real estate tax rate, Waynesboro can “catch up, keep up... and get ahead.”