

Town Council Actions March 14, 2017

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- 1) Prior to the regular meeting, Council held a Budget Workshop, where the Town Budget was finalized for the upcoming year without increasing any fees. A Public Hearing will be set as soon as possible.
- 2) Awarded the March 2017 Community Enhancement Award to Dominion Worldwide Ministries for remodeling work done on a house they own located at 811 Maryland Avenue.
- 3) Authorized adding the Assistant Town Manager (along with the Mayor, Town Manager, and Treasurer) as another signatory onto the Town's checks and certificates of deposits. Two (2) signatures are required for all actions, including writing checks on the Town's accounts.
- 4) Adopted a Resolution in recognition of the 101st Birthday of Shenandoah resident Mary Sprowls. The framed resolution and a plaque will be presented to her at the next Council meeting on March 28, 2017.
- 5) Adopted a Resolution proclaiming April 8-14, 2017, as Disability Awareness Week and to call observance to the attention of all of those people who live in the Town of Shenandoah to work together to raise awareness and understanding of the abilities of people with disabilities.
- 6) Adopted an Ordinance setting the 2017 Personal Property Tax Rate, the same as last year, at \$.40 per hundred for personal property and machinery and tools. Also, the rate was set, the same as last year, at \$25 per vehicle license fee with the exception of motorcycles which are \$15 per vehicle license fee.
- 7) Adopted an Ordinance setting the 2017 Real Estate Tax Rate, the same as last year, at \$.31 per hundred for real estate.
- 8) Received the February 2017 Website Statistics, which indicated there were 14,834 total page views and 7,558 unique visitors. Google was the most popular search engine bringing people to the Town's website and the events calendar was the most popular page visited. www.TownOfShenandoah.com
- 9) Received the February 2017 Town Vehicle Gasoline Log for review.
- 10) Received the February 2017 Police Vehicle Gasoline Log for review.
- 11) Received the February 2017 Police Report for review.
- 12) Received the 2016 Annual Project XL Permit Progress Report for operations at the Merck Plant in Elkton, indicating their emissions were considerable less than the currently allowed amount.

- 13) Council reviewed a donation request for the Caverns Shrine Club's Voices for the Children competition that is a fundraising event showcasing local talent. All proceeds will be donated to the Shriners Hospitals for Children. Patron donations of \$100 - \$500 are being accepted to assist this cause. Council agreed to review the budget and determine if there are funds available for this donation at the next meeting.
- 14) Received thank you letters from Choices of Page County and PCHS After Prom for the Town's donations to those organizations.
- 15) Received notice of the Cooter's Last Stand event being planned for July 29-30, 2017 at Cooter's of Page County, located on US Hwy 211 in Luray.
- 16) Approved water and sewer connections for two new homes on Second Street for James Shifflett and Shane Rickel.
- 17) Discussed there are several obstacles to extending the sewer and water to service new homes on Wahnona Avenue (currently undeveloped portion). One of the main obstacles is the slope of the land in this area and it appears the only way to have sewer at this location is through pumps. Council agreed to ask the Town Manager to begin contacting engineers to determine the feasibility and estimated cost of extending sewer to this area at this time.
- 18) Heard the Town, County, and State have been even more proactive in their work to combat illegal drug use in the community. Several arrests have been made and more are expected.
- 19) Received the February Budget Reports for review.
- 20) Committee Chairman Jenkins reported the following Parks and Recreation News: Authorized the final contract with Grace Construction for the new restroom at Big Gem Park, which will be in the amount of \$7,450. Noted the final price was higher because the Town elected for the contractor to paint the building and add heat for the winter events held there; Will obtain new signage for hiking and biking trail maps to be displayed at Big Gem Park for visitors; Will obtain a new sign for the gate at Big Gem Park when the park is closed for weather; Will obtain 2 price quotes to have the River Park walking trail resealed.
- 21) Authorized the April 2017 Community Enhancement Award for a newly remodeled apartment building on Maryland Avenue (this award will be presented at the next meeting).
- 22) The Town received information and passed it on to local businesses for a state program for a jobs grant for those who qualify.

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- 23) The Town is discussing setting up an outreach program for local businesses to stay better in touch with their needs.
- 24) Accepted the retirement notice, effective March 31, 2017, from Town Manager Larry Dovel after 41 years full-time employment.
- 25) Promoted Juanita Roudabush to Town Manager, effective April 1, 2017, and she will continue to serve as Clerk until that position can be filled.
- 26) Authorized advertising for a Town Clerk with a starting salary of \$18,000, which includes paid health insurance and paid holidays and vacation. The Clerk will be responsible for assisting customers in person and by phone, attending and taking minutes for Council and other commission meetings, and representing the Town at local events, etc. Applications, along with a cover letter, will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Friday, March 31, 2017.
- 27) Authorized a plaque to be presented at the opening day by Shenandoah Recreation League.
- 28) Mike Uram stated the Mayor and Town Council did an excellent job on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. He noted though no one likes increases in taxes, they are sometimes necessary to plan for future upgrades of aging water and sewer equipment. He also noted new technology in the water and sewer equipment is astounding as to what all it can do now. (Note: Council did not increase any taxes or fees in the upcoming fiscal year budget, but concluded this may something that will have to be done in future years to maintain required equipment and standards with the regulatory agencies.)