MINUTES TOWN COUNCIL TOWN OF SHENANDOAH JANUARY 9, 2024

<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>: The Shenandoah Town Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., with Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr. presiding.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE:

Council Members present were: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr.; Vice Mayor William Kite(arrival at 7:11 p.m.); Council members Denise Cave; Lynn Fox; I. Michael Lowe; Richard Pierce; and Christopher Reisinger.

Council Members absent were: None.

Other Town Officials present were: Charles Jenkins, Town Manager; Paul Davis, Police Chief; and Tonya Southers, Town Clerk.

Citizens present were: None.

Media Representatives: None

AWARD PRESENTATION

None during this period.

RECEIVING OF VISITORS

None during this period.

December 12, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A *motion* was made by Councilman Fox, *seconded* by Councilman Lowe, to approve the *Regular Meeting Minutes* held on December 12, 2023, as presented.

Members Vote was as follows:

YEA: Councilwoman Cave NAY: None Councilman Fox Councilman Lowe Councilman Pierce Councilman Reisinger

ABSTAIN: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr.

ABSENT: Vice Mayor Kite (late arrival) **VOTE: Unanimous in favor of motion**

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A *motion* was made by Councilman Pierce, *seconded* by Councilman Reisinger, to approve the bills, dated January 9, 2024, in the Combined Accounts Disbursements Warrants #41684 - # 41756 and #41757 - #41770 in the amount of \$327,009.45.

Members Roll Call Vote was as follows:

YEA: Councilwoman Cave NAY: None Councilman Fox Councilman Lowe Councilman Pierce Councilman Reisinger

ABSTAIN: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr. **ABSENT**: Vice Mayor Kite (late arrival) **VOTE: Unanimous in favor of motion**

TREASURER'S REPORT

A *motion* was made by Councilman Fox, *seconded* by Councilman Lowe, to approve the **January 9, 2024** Treasurer's Report, submitted by Treasurer Christl Huddle, in the amount of **\$2,732,027.00**, as presented.

Members Roll Call Vote was as follows:

YEA: Councilwoman Cave NAY: None Councilman Fox Councilman Lowe Councilman Pierce Councilman Reisinger

ABSTAIN: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr. **ABSENT**: Vice Mayor Kite (late arrival) **VOTE: Unanimous in favor of motion**

CORRESPONDENCE

#1 – Received the December 2023 Vehicle Gas Logs for review.

#2 – Received the December 2023 Shenandoah Police Department Activity Log for review.

#3 – Received the December 2023 Shenandoah Police Department Vehicle Gas Log for review.

#4 – Received the 2023 Shenandoah Police Department Activity Log for review.

#5 - Town of Shenandoah Museum and Welcome Center Curator, Lora Jenkins, reported 293 visitors came to the Museum and Welcome Center in December. This included 156 who came to see Santa at the Museum on December 2nd and 9th and 74 who were there for the handbell concert.

#6 – Received memo from Councilman Pierce with Personnel Committee's recommendation to hire Tonya Southers as Deputy Treasurer, effective immediately, at a rate of \$17.00 per hour with a six-month probationary period.

A *motion* was made by Councilman Pierce, *seconded* by Councilman Reisinger, to concur with the Personnel Committee and hire Tonya Southers as Deputy Treasurer, effective immediately, at a rate of \$17.00 per hour with a six-month probationary period.

Members Vote was as follows:

YEA: Councilwoman Cave NAY: None Councilman Fox Councilman Lowe Councilman Pierce Councilman Reisinger

ABSTAIN: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr. **ABSENT**: Vice Mayor Kite – late arrival **VOTE: Unanimous in favor of motion**

#7 – Received memo from Councilman Pierce with Personnel Committee recommending to advertise for the Town Clerk position.

A *motion* was made by Councilman Lowe, *seconded* by Councilman Fox, to concur with the Personnel Committee's recommendation to advertise for the Town Clerk position.

Members Vote was as follows:

YEA: Councilwoman Cave Councilman Fox Councilman Lowe Councilman Pierce Councilman Reisinger NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr. **ABSENT**: Vice Mayor Kite – late arrival **VOTE: Unanimous in favor of motion** #8 - Received memo from Town Treasurer Christl Huddle in regards to the Town's lease on the current copier. She stated the current lease expires next month with Ricoh-USA and was for a black & white only copier for 48 months at a rate of \$159.91 per month.

Town Manager Charles Jenkins stated the current black & white only copier we have is great. He added we do not print a lot of color items and the small color printer we have works perfect.

A motion was made by Councilman Lowe, seconded by Councilman Fox, to go with Ricoh-USA for the new black & white only copier for 48 months at a rate of \$160.44 per month.

Members Vote was as follows:

YEA: Vice Mayor Kite

NAY: None

Councilwoman Cave Councilman Fox Councilman Lowe **Councilman** Pierce Councilman Reisinger

ABSTAIN: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr. **ABSENT**: None **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor of motion

#9 – Received a proclamation to recognize National Burn Awareness Week for February 4-10, 2024. The theme for this year's National Burn Awareness Week is Flammable Liquids, where a common risk of injury exists from flammable liquids. Burn injuries continue to be one of the leading causes of accidental death and injury in our Nation where tragically, children, the elderly, and the disabled are especially vulnerable to burn injuries, and almost one-third of all burn injuries occur in children under the age of 15. The CDC reports 276,086 people received medical care for treatment of unintentional burn injuries in 2020, with 3,028 deaths from fire and smoke inhalation. Of 87 hospitals reporting to the American Burn Association registry 91,875 people were treated in hospitals for burn-related injuries with 32% of those being for scalds.

A *motion* was made by Councilman Lowe, *seconded* by Councilwoman Cave, to adopt the proclamation to recognize National Burn Awareness Week for February 4-10, 2024.

Members Vote was as follows: **YEA**: Vice Mayor Kite Councilwoman Cave Councilman Fox Councilman Lowe **Councilman Pierce** Councilman Reisinger ABSTAIN: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr. **ABSENT**: None **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor of motion

NAY: None

#10 – Received a flyer from **Christ United Methodist Church** in regards to an evening meal on Saturday, January 13, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, located at 211 Central Avenue, Shenandoah, VA. Come out for a free meal, good music and great fellowship.

#11 – Received a memo from Town Manager Charles Jenkins in regards to Page County having asked the Town Council to help fill empty seats on their Planning Commission. It stated they currently are considering two options, with the first one being to have a current Town Planning Commission member act in the advisory capacity, with no ability to vote; and the second being to have the Town appoint a citizen of the Town to a position on the Commission, with the ability to vote on changes. The memo also stated the County is in the process of updating their comprehensive plan, ordinances and like items and the Town would need a good representative to help guide the County on these items. Town Manager Jenkins stated Brenda Haggett contacted him and stated she would be willing to serve, if asked.

Mayor Lucas stated if the Council chose Brenda Haggett, we should probably put her in the position to vote.

Town Manager Charles Jenkins stated the County was looking for feedback and had not yet made a decision on which option they will go with yet.

Mayor Lucas stated we will send them Brenda Haggett as our choice. Council unanimously agreed.

#12 – Received a flyer regarding **Austin Shifflett** with live music at the Town of Shenandoah Museum and Welcome Center, located at 507 First Street, Shenandoah, VA on January 27, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. Based in the Shenandoah Valley, Austin plays a lively mix of Americana roots music on guitar and harmonica. He likes to talk to the audience members about the history of the music he plays.

#13 – Received a thank you letter from **Massanutten Regional Library** in regards to the Town's generous donation in the amount of \$1,200.00. From local history programs, to reading/singing/dancing during children's Story Times, to community outreach efforts, to research assistance and powerful databases, to providing the latest bestsellers in hard copy and electronically and more, Massanutten Regional Library is a gathering place that brings people together, fosters creativity, and encourages lifelong learning.

#14 – Received a thank you letter from **Shenandoah Community Library** in regards to the Council's donation. The donation will be used to buy children's books and books that are on the Best Sellers List for adults.

#15 – Received some historical information about Milnes Bridge on Route 602. The information included things such as the VDOT inspection which stated the bridge would no longer be able to carry heavier commercial loads and this caused a weight restriction to be placed on the bridge for safety concerns. The inspection severely limited the weight on the bridge and this impacted a local business to the point of deciding whether to relocate or close. This business was Hensley Logging on Long Avenue, and their large log trucks could only reach the business by way of the Milnes Bridge due to the other access severely limiting their trucks with the 11'2" height

restriction on the railroad tunnel. Another business impacted by this weight restriction was Frazier Quarry and caused their trucks to have to re-route through the Town of Elkton and take Route 340 back into Page County with their loads. Following a more in-depth VDOT bridge inspection, the Town was told the weight restrictions were being redistributed by the number of axles on the trucks, alleviating the immediate weight issues for Hensley Logging and most of the companies loaded with stone from Frazier Quarry.

#16 – Received a thank you card from Cindy Breeden in regards to the retirement card and gift card.

#17 – Received a memo from Town Manager Charles Jenkins in regards to the Maryland Avenue Sewer Repair Project bids. He stated they had all been opened on Friday, January 5, 2024 and the tabulations for each bidder had been included with the Memo. He also stated the low bidder on this project was A-Team Construction who worked closely with Racey Engineering and knew what their work would consist of.

A *motion* was made by Councilman Fox, *seconded* by Vice Mayor Kite, to go with A-Team Construction on the Maryland Avenue Sewer Repair Project at a cost of \$334,452.00.

Members Roll Call Vote was as follows:

YEA: Vice Mayor Kite Councilwoman Cave Councilman Fox Councilman Lowe Councilman Pierce Councilman Reisinger NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr. **ABSENT**: None **VOTE: Unanimous in favor of motion**

Town Manager Charles Jenkins noted A-Team stated, if chosen, they would mobilize and get to work on this ASAP.

#18 – In regards to the Maryland Avenue Sewer Repair Project, Town Manager Charles Jenkins noted there was a remaining balance of \$279,500.00 in the obligated funds for this project. He added after adding the remaining cost from Racey and the amount for A-Team, this would put the total remaining cost for this project around \$420,000.00 which meant the Council would need to move \$140,000.00 from the ARPA 2nd Tranche unobligated funds into the Maryland Avenue Project (Utility Fund).

A *motion* was made by Councilman Fox, *seconded* by Councilman Lowe, to move \$140,000.00 from the ARPA 2nd Tranche unobligated funds into the Maryland Avenue Project (Utility Fund).

Members Roll Call Vote was as follows:

NAY: None

YEA: Vice Mayor Kite Councilwoman Cave Councilman Fox Councilman Lowe Councilman Pierce Councilman Reisinger

ABSTAIN: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr. **ABSENT**: None **VOTE: Unanimous in favor of motion**

#19 – Received a flyer regarding a local history program by **Nancy Beatty** at the Town of Shenandoah Museum and Welcome Center, located at 507 First Street, Shenandoah, VA. The topic of this program is St Peter Lutheran Church. The program will be held on January 20, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. and will be followed by a storyboard presentation about St Peter Lutheran Chuch to the Town of Shenandoah Museum by the Shenandoah River Chapter DAR.

#20 – Received a memo from Town Manager Charles Jenkins regarding a blockage in the Junior Avenue Sewer line from 340 to North Fourth Street due to tree roots. He added the Town Crew was able to get the line open at 33A and noted there seems to be a failure in the line in the area at 34 due to high water intake and will need to be filmed, however, we will have to wait until the flow goes down before doing this. Town Manager Jenkins stated the Rural Water Representative was here and informed him the relining systems are a cost-effective solution. Town Manager Jenkins also stated the line was worked on several years ago and the Town Crew are trying to determine where the line was replaced. He added there was water running into the manhole and the Town Crew needed to know how it was getting in there. Town Manager Jenkins also noted he has written a letter to the property owner regarding the dumping of debris in the area and the fact it is almost covering the manhole.

#21 – Received a memo from Town Manager Charles Jenkins regarding a sewer blockage at 226 North Fifth Street (Route 340 near Williams) caused by root infiltration. He stated the cutter machine could not clear the blockage and we had Moyer Brothers come clear it, but they were only able to punch a two inch or so hole in the root mass. Town Manager Jenkins stated this allowed water to flow, but the root problem is still there. He added on January 8, 2024, he had Moyer Brothers come back to tackle the roots from the other direction and they were able to again get through with a small hole, but their cutter tool will not go through. Town Manager Jenkins stated he got three quotes to replace the existing 8" terra cotta line, dating back to 1965, with Schedule 40 plastic.

Councilman Fox inquired about the bid from Bradford Morris General Excavating and wanted to know if we could wait months for them to get the job done if we chose to go with them.

Vice Mayor Kite stated the A-Team's bid was more than Moyer Brothers for the entire project.

Town Manager Charles Jenkins noted Moyer Brothers did not include the cost of 30 feet of line in their bid.

Mayor Lucas stated the responsibility of spending the ARPA money is ours to do as wisely as we can.

Vice Mayor Kite inquired about whether or not we were given a timeline for completion if we chose Bradford.

Town Manager Charles Jenkins stated we did not have a timeline for completion with Bradford Morris General Excavating. He added their contract with Rockingham County was due to renew and they were unsure as to whether it would be renewed or not.

Councilwoman Cave noted with the price difference, we should find out when Bradford Morris General Excavating could start.

Town Manager Charles Jenkins stated until Bradford Morris General Excavating finds out whether his contract is renewed or not, he cannot give a definitive timeline. He added until they find this information out, Bradford Morris General Excavating will only be able to tell us he can start on it as soon as he can, adding they are a wonderful company to work with but their timeline can be hit or miss.

A *motion* was made by Councilman Fox, *seconded* by Councilman Lowe, to go with Bradford Morris General Excavating for replacing 150 feet of the 8" terra cotta lines on North Fifth Street with Schedule 40 plastic at a cost of \$16,000.00.

Members Roll Call Vote was as follows:

NAY: None

YEA: Vice Mayor Kite Councilwoman Cave Councilman Fox Councilman Lowe Councilman Pierce Councilman Reisinger

ABSTAIN: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr. ABSENT: None VOTE: Unanimous in favor of motion

#22 – Received a memo from Town Manager Charles Jenkins regarding purchasing two new Dell Inspiron Desktop computers. He stated the sewer plant and the shop are each running outdated Windows software and to be able to do their reports, they need a desktop with current Windows software.

A *motion* was made by Councilman Fox, *seconded* by Councilman Lowe, to purchase two new Dell Inspiron Desktop computers for the sewer plant and shop at a cost of \$499.00 each.

Members Roll Call Vote was as follows:

YEA: Vice Mayor Kite

Councilwoman Cave Councilman Fox Councilman Lowe Councilman Pierce Councilman Reisinger

ABSTAIN: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr. **ABSENT**: None **VOTE: Unanimous in favor of motion**

#23 – Received a request from Town Manager Charles Jenkins for the purchase of a flow meter for the Tenth Street well. He stated for pumping water at the Tenth Street well, we have to keep track of the number of gallons pumped, adding the current meter has been rebuilt twice and it is to the point now where the numbers are becoming illegible.

A *motion* was made by Councilman Lowe, *seconded* by Vice Mayor Kite, to purchase a new flow meter for the Tenth Street well from Fortiline Waterworks in the amount of \$10,000.00 which includes the new meter with power supply as well as supplies for installation.

Members Roll Call Vote was as follows:

YEA: Vice Mayor Kite Councilwoman Cave Councilman Fox Councilman Lowe Councilman Pierce Councilman Reisinger

ABSTAIN: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr. ABSENT: None

VOTE: Unanimous in favor of motion

WATER AND SEWER

(Chair Kite, Councilwoman Cave, and Councilman Lowe)

Chair Kite informed Council he received applications for water and sewer taps from Clara Secrist for her home on Liberty Avenue (Lot 9A). He stated everything looked in order for both applications.

A *motion* was made by Vice Mayor Kite, *seconded* by Councilman Lowe, to approve the water and sewer applications for Clara Secrist's home on Liberty Avenue (Lot 9A).

Members Vote was as follows:

YEA: Vice Mayor Kite Councilwoman Cave Councilman Fox NAY: None

NAY: None

Councilman Lowe Councilman Pierce Councilman Reisinger

ABSTAIN: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr. **ABSENT**: None **VOTE: Unanimous in favor of motion**

Chair Kite mentioned on Quincy Avenue, at the corner, there is a wet spot continuously popping up. He stated he checked the day before and the wet spot went all the way down past Garcia's.

Town Manager Charles Jenkins stated the Town Crew were down there the other day and they checked the area and were unable to find the cause. He added they will continue to keep an eye on it.

Councilman Pierce stated he noticed there was a water meter cover broken at the corner of Seventh and Osceola.

Councilman Fox stated he noticed there is a loose water meter cover on Grandos, where there are three together. He added there looked to be a leak across the street from his home.

STREETS & PUBLIC PROPERTY

(Chair Fox, Vice Mayor Kite, and Councilman Lowe)

Chair Fox inquired when the Town would be turning the Christmas lights off on the poles through Town.

Town Manager Charles Jenkins informed Council these lights are plugged into a dusk to dawn timer adding we are on contract with SVEC for 50 days of power for the lights and we are only on day 26. He also added we cannot turn them off until we are able to get Stanley's bucket truck.

Councilwoman Cave stated she has received complaints regarding an abandoned white minivan on Fifth Street. She stated it has expired tags.

POLICE, SAFETY & JUDICIAL

(Chair Kite, Councilman Lowe)

Police Chief Davis informed the Council the alarms for the Town of Shenandoah Museum and Welcome Center as well as at Town Hall have been installed and are active as of 5:00 p.m. today. He added the alarm company informed him the system we have can be expanded at any point and time.

Councilwoman Cave stated this would be a good idea in the future.

TAXATION & FINANCE

(Chair Pierce, Vice Mayor Kite, and Councilman Fox)

Nothing during this period.

PARKS & RECREATION

(Councilman Lowe and Pierce)

Councilman Fox inquired about whether or not the decision had ever been made to lock the gate at Big Gem when it was closed.

Town Manager Charles Jenkins stated the sign says it is closed from dark until dusk.

Police Chief Paul Davis stated most of the issues with Big Gem after it is closed is not from vandalism, it is trespassing and the Officers have been handling these issues.

Councilman Fox stated the light on the sign at the tunnel is blinding when you come through it in the morning. He inquired if there can be something done about it – possibly turning it a bit.

INDUSTRIAL, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PROCUREMENT

(Chair Cave, Councilmen Lowe and Pierce)

Chair Cave stated the Council was invited to attend the Business Networking Breakfast at the Mimslyn.

Town Manager Charles Jenkins stated if anyone wished to go, they can carpool in the Town van. He added we needed people to represent the Town.

Chair Cave also noted the Page Valley Tourism Summit is happening the same week as the Business Networking Breakfast. She added it is being held at the Stanley Fire Hall and the deadline to RSVP is January 18th.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

(Chair Kite, Councilwoman Cave and Councilman Pierce)

Chair Kite stated the Old Rinaca house above the Post Office is looking good with the new siding on it.

PERSONNEL

(Chair Pierce, Councilwoman Cave and Councilman Lowe)

Chair Pierce stated the Personnel Committee had planned on interviewing for the Wastewater Treatment position tomorrow, but have cancelled them. He added the Committee will be reaching out to some of the other applicants and will schedule more interviews at a later date. Chair Pierce also added they will be advertising for the position of Town Clerk and will schedule those interviews as well.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilwoman Cave stated we needed to get Councilman Reisinger on a committee. She stated there were a few committees in need of another member including Police, Safety & Judicial; Parks & Recreation; and Personnel.

Councilman Reisinger stated he was fine with being on all three.

Councilwoman Cave stated Parks & Recreation was in need of a chairperson.

Councilman Reisinger stated he would serve as chairperson for Parks & Recreation.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Mayor Kite stated we have a lot of storage units popping up around Town.

Town Manager Charles Jenkins stated there were no restrictions within the Code as of right now. He added as long as the units meet the setback requirements, they are OK for now.

Councilman Pierce inquired about the Thompsons and their due date.

Town Manager Charles Jenkins stated their time is up on January 25th.

Vice Mayor Kite added they do have a gravel pad, but not much else has been done.

Mayor Lucas stated they are pushing their deadline.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Charles Jenkins stated the Town Crew has been going along Big Gem cleaning up alongside 340 with the inmate crew's assistance.

Town Manager Charles Jenkins informed Council about the Scout Park on Seventh Street. He stated there had been a railing put in but the property has grown up with weeds and such. He inquired if the Council would want to open it back up and restore the picnic area. Town Manager Jenkins added it would require manpower to get this achieved.

Mayor Lucas stated he will check with his Son-in-law to see if the Boy Scouts would like to take on this project and use it once finished.

Town Manager Charles Jenkins stated he met with the VDOT representative for a meet and greet. He showed them the issues we have around Town. Town Manager Jenkins stated the VDOT representative said he does not get much information about paving other than a six-month notification prior to any paving. Town Manager Jenkins stated the VDOT representative said the Town "has good streets" when it comes to how VDOT rates streets. Town Manager Jenkins also noted he asked the representative about VDOT money reserved for Page County and how much the Town would get. He stated they also discussed sidewalks within the Town and which ones were VDOT owned. The VDOT representative stated the only sidewalks owned by VDOT were from the stoplight along 340 North and only the one side with the Town owning the remaining sidewalks.

Councilman Fox stated the VDOT right-of-way was from curb to curb.

Town Manager Jenkins said he spoke with the VDOT representative about ideas about working with the High School to get some sidewalks repaired. He added this may be something Councilman Reisinger's students may be interested in.

Mayor Lucas stated the Seventh Street sidewalk had recently been fixed, however, it was only fixed with gravel.

Town Manager Jenkins discussed the random placement of sidewalks within Town and stated there have been a few spots fixed and the Town is not ignoring any of the other places in need of fixing, he stated it is just expensive to fix them.

Town Manager Jenkins informed Council he has contacted the Auditors again. He added they do not have the numbers and he stated without these numbers, he cannot look into other auditors.

Councilman Fox stated we need to have our lawyer contact them.

Town Manager Jenkins informed Council about the smoke testing done on Bank Street and there were six violation letters sent from this testing. He added with some of the issues found, it will be less expensive to fix the sewer lines than to replace the sewer system.

Town Manager Jenkins stated businesses within the Town are required to have backflow devices. He added letters are being sent to all the businesses notifying them they are required to have a backflow device installed and inspected by July 1^{st} .

Vice Mayor Kite added all the Town meters have backflow devices.

Town Manager Jenkins added home owners should also have a backflow device on their side of the meters.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Lucas stated prior to the New Year, Ralph Mowry, a former VDOT Official, passed away. He stated in the obituary, his family said they would like people to plant a tree in his memory. Mayor Lucas added he would like to plant a real Christmas tree at Big Gem park and put a plaque to memorialize Ralph Mowry. He also noted the Boy Scouts stated they would like to take on this project for their Eagle Scout project.

Council unanimously agreed to allow Mayor Lucas to contact local nurseries about trees for this.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE TOWN

None during this period.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, a *motion* was made by Vice Mayor Kite, *seconded* by Councilwoman Cave, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Members Vote was as follows: YEA: Vice Mayor Kite Councilwoman Cave Councilman Fox Councilman Lowe Councilman Pierce Councilman Reisinger

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr. **ABSENT**: None **VOTE: Unanimous in favor of motion**

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:

Clinton O. Lucas, Jr., Mayor

Tonya Southers, Town Clerk