



Town Council Minutes 39 W. Main Street

February 8, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Town of New Market was held February 8, 2012, in the Town Hall, 39 West Main Street, New Market, Maryland, with Mayor Winslow Burhans presiding. Members of the Council present were: Shane Rossman, David Price, Dennis Kimble, and Jake Romanell. Councilmember David arrived during the meeting (see below). Councilwoman Rita Mueller was absent.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Mayor & Liaison Reports:

Councilman Romanell: The Board of County Commissioners has agreed to fully fund the tax equity formula for FY13. FY08 would be a good estimated rate for preparing the budget for FY13. The highway user fees were \$9.5 million in the last budget and for FY13 they are listed at \$6.1 million. The state budget has not yet been signed. There is a proposed sales tax on gasoline. If that were to pass then it is likely we would be fully funded.

Councilman Price arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Councilman Kimble: At the Planning and Zoning meeting there was another discussion of the Royal Oak right of way at the end of Isaac Russell Street. Planning and Zoning member, Sandy Pucciarelli, thought it was supposed to be 16 feet instead of the 40 feet that is indicated on the mylars. However, that was incorrect. Forty feet is the correct distance and the mylars have been released to the developer. Ms. Pucciarelli had requested an emergency HOA meeting for Royal Oak residents for Wednesday, February 8. After the last Town Council meeting, the Mayor and Council sent a letter to all Royal Oak residents on January 15, 2012 explaining the misunderstanding of the right of way. The letter also indicated that the Mayor and Council would be available to meet with the residents to answer any questions on this issue. The right of way will be on the agenda for the Town Council meeting in March. [A copy of the letter is at the top of the following page on the Town website: <http://townofnewmarket.org/government/reports>]

Mayor Burhans: The State Department of Taxation will be doing new assessments in New Market in August and September of this year. These new assessments will be mailed out in January of 2013 and residents will have forty-five days to appeal. The link to the state website for the appeal process is: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/appeal.html>. The town of Thurmont went through a reassessment this past year and their property tax revenue decreased by 31%. New Market will likely see a similar decrease. The plans for expansion and diversification of the tax base will decrease the likelihood of having to raise taxes to offset the loss in revenue. This diversification has been slowed by the ongoing Friends of Frederick lawsuit. The lawsuit is against the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Bid Opening – Weatherization of Town hall

There were two bids received for the weatherization of Town Hall. The bids were opened but no bid was awarded. Councilman Kimble plans to modify the specifications for the attic insulation. The original spec calls for the flooring to be removed. The attic would no longer be able to be used for storage. Instead, Councilman Kimble would like to insulate the rafters of the attic while maintaining the flooring. Councilman Kimble will contact the company that is in charge of the grant to see if this is possible. Once a new specification has been prepared there will be a new posting in the Frederick News Post and bids would be received for the March 14, 2012 Town Council meeting. Work must be completed by June 1, 2012.

Old Business

1. **Water Issue at 8th & South Alley** – Councilman Romanell is continuing to monitor the situation at 8th & South Alley. The subcontractor for Mealey's has installed a drain and it has seemed to help the problem. The Mayor has spoken to Carl Miller (owner of Mealey's) and he is aware of the issue and will work with the town if there continues to be a problem.

New Business

2. **1812 Proclamation** – The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution requested that the Mayor and Town Council sign a proclamation in honor of the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, making June 18, 2012 as the "War of 1812 Remembrance Day". Mayor Burhans read the proclamation and there was the following motion:

Decision: Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the signing of the proclamation making June 18, 2012 as the "War of 1812 Remembrance Day".

Second: Councilmember Romanell

Discussion: None

Vote: *For* – 4 (Romanell, Rossman, Kimble, Price) *Against* – 0. *Abstain* – 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Decision: Councilmember Kimble made a motion to approve the minutes of January 11, 2012 as written.

Second: Councilmember Price

Discussion: None

Vote: *For* – 3 (Rossman, Kimble, Price) *Against* – 0. *Abstain* – 1 (Romanell)

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Councilmember Kimble to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Councilmember Romanell

Discussion: None.

Vote: *For* – 4 (Rossman, Price, Romanell, Kimble) *Against* – 0. *Abstain* – 0.

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Butler, Clerk to Council