



CITY OF HARRISONBURG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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October 2, 2023

**TO THE MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA**

SUBJECT: *Consider a request from Shenandoah Valley Organic LLC to close a portion of Massanutten Street*

**EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF HARRISONBURG PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON: September 13, 2023**

Chair Finnegan read the request and asked staff to review.

Ms. Rupkey said in November 1990, portions of both Massanutten Street and Jackson Street and a 10-foot-wide ally were vacated and purchased by Wampler-Longacre Turkey, Inc. Additionally, in 1991 there was a request to close another portion of Jackson Street (referred to now as Massanutten Street in the City GIS system) that Planning Commission recommended to be closed. It appears that request was never brought to City Council.

The current, subject request is to close the extension of Massanutten Street that extends from West Washington Street

Shenandoah Valley Organic LLC is requesting to close a section of public street right-of-way (ROW), known as Massanutten Street, which totals +/- 8,925 square feet. The street is adjacent to tax map parcels 40-N-14, 22, 27, and 30. The section to be closed measures approximately 35 feet in width and 255 feet in length perpendicular from West Washington Street. This section of public street ROW essentially serves as the southern entrance to the Farmer Focus facility.

Note that the applicant originally requested to close an additional public street ROW that is located off of North Liberty Street and serves as the northern entrance to the Farmer Focus facility. That ROW is the +/- 2,735 square foot portion of Jackson Street (sometimes also referred to as Massanutten Street). The applicant has since withdrawn the request to close that section of public street ROW. Note that staff anticipates the applicant to update their application prior to the Planning Commission meeting.

The applicant owns property on both sides of Massanutten Street, except for the property addressed at 40 West Washington Street, which is owned by Valley Real Estate LLC, a stakeholder for

Shenandoah Valley Organic LLC, who bought the property in September 2022 for use by Shenandoah Valley Organic LLC. The applicant explained that the closure is sought to enhance security, streamline property access, and support operational needs, specifically, the applicant's letter explains that they would like to close the portions of the street to limit the number of people that cut through the property. As shown in Exhibit A, the applicant plans to gate the section of the property along West Washington Street to have secure parking for the employees.

With regard to utilities, there are multiple utilities within the ROW, thus specific easements must be reserved for access to that infrastructure. The Department of Public Utilities will need public sanitary sewer and water easements over existing and proposed water and sanitary sewer lines; HEC will require an easement on all primary electric facilities and over what is now the street lighting circuits; and there may be other utilities in the ROW (i.e., cable, gas, etc.) that will require public general utility easements. It will be the applicant's responsibility to ensure the locations of the utilities are surveyed so that the City can reserve appropriate easements.

Staff recommends approval of the street closing request.

Chair Finnegan asked if there were any questions for staff. He also said I will say I cut through this area a lot and there are too many cars in that parking lot, I do not use that cut through on my bike. My office is just around the corner. I almost hit a pig on my way to the office the other day.

Vice Chair Byrd moved to approve the street closing request.

Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion.

Commissioner Armstrong	Aye
Commissioner Baugh	Aye
Vice Chair Byrd	Aye
Vice Mayor Dent	Aye
Commissioner Alsindi	Aye
Commissioner Washington	Aye
Chair Finnegan	Aye

The motion to recommend approval of the street closing request passed (7-0). The recommendation will move forward to City Council on October 10, 2023.