



City of Harrisonburg

409 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Meeting Agenda City Council

Mayor Ted Byrd
Vice-Mayor Charles Chenault
Council Member Kai Degner
Council Member Richard Baugh
Council Member Abe Shearer

Tuesday, April 22, 2014

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. 7:00 p.m. roll call
2. Invocation
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Comments from the public, limited to five minutes, on matters not on the regular agenda. (Name and address are required)
5. Consent Agenda (any item placed on the consent agenda shall be removed and taken up as a separate matter, if so requested by any member of Council, otherwise all items will be voted on with one (1) motion)

- 5.a Consider a request to enact Section 16-6-60 of the Harrisonburg City Code to add
restrictions on solicitations, begging, etc

**Review &
Recommendation**

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Over the past months the Harrisonburg Police Department and City staff have received an increasing number of complaints regarding aggressive tactics used by some panhandlers. These aggressive tactics include following individuals who deny requests for money, loud, abusive and argumentative language, and approaching citizens in parking garages and other secluded areas using an overbearing, sometimes threatening manner. These aggressive tactics are obviously designed to intimidate citizens into giving money.

The attached draft ordinance is designed to prohibit objectively threatening conduct by individuals demanding money, while protecting their First Amendment rights. The right to non-aggressively solicit money from individuals is protected except for a limited number of places, such as at ATM's, bank entrances, and on public transportation.

This ordinance was originally presented to Council at their April 25, 2014 meeting and at that time a public hearing was set for this meeting. A public hearing was held during the last meeting.

Council approved 5-0, first reading.

Attachments: [16-6-60 Ordinance](#)
[Public Hearing Ad](#)

5.b Consider a supplemental appropriation for VML Safety Grants

Review & Recommendation The City received \$8,000 from VML's Safety Grant program. The Public Transportation department used \$4,437.84 of the grant to purchase a Smart Board. The Public Utilities department used \$3,862.16 of the grant for a gas detection system.

Council approved 5-0, first reading.

Attachments: [Supplemental Appropriation](#)

5.c Consider a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$270,000 for the Public Works Department.

Review & Recommendation These funds were requested to complete funding for the City Landfill Account in order to pay the landfill fees to Rockingham County for the remainder of the FY14 fiscal year. The funds would be transferred from Landfill Fees that have been collected from monthly billing of City customers who use the County Landfill.

Council approved 5-0, first reading.

Attachments: [Supplemental Appropriation Form](#)

5.d Consider a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$1,000,686.58 for the Public Works Department in order to construct the Bluestone Trail.

Review & Recommendation These funds represent monies that will be received from the VDOT Revenue Sharing Grant program, DCR Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and JMU as outlined in the attached supplemental appropriation form.

Council approved 5-0, first reading.

Attachments: [Supplemental Appropriation](#)

5.e Public Hearing - Consider an ordinance closing and vacating a 3,647 square foot, twenty foot wide alley located perpendicular to Maplehurst Avenue.

Attachments: [Ordinance](#)

5.f. Consider an ordinance closing and vacating a 1,434 square portion of street right-of-way at the intersection of West Bruce Street and Old South High Street.

Attachments: [2013-11 Signed Agreement](#)
[Steetclosing 164 W. Bruce](#)

6.a Consider request for exemption from local personal property taxation for one City non-profit organization.

Review & Recommendation Cat's Cradle of the Shenandoah Valley has applied for personal property exemption. After review by the Commissioner of the Revenue, Treasurer and Director of Finance; it is recommended that the non-profit be granted exemption from personal property taxation. The application along with all of the supporting documentation is attached..

Attachments: [Letter of Recommendation](#)
[Financial Statements](#)
[501\(c\)\(3\) NON- PROFITS 2014](#)

6. Public Hearings

7.a Update on Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Attachments: [Report and Analysis on Homelessness](#)
[2008-2014 Homeless Count Chart](#)

7.b Presentation from Shenandoah Valley Innovation Coalition

Review & Recommendation

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The Shenandoah Valley Innovation Coalition (SVIC) is a public-private initiative that is actively working to build a culture of innovation throughout the central Shenandoah Valley. The City of Harrisonburg has served as a founding partner in this coalition. SVIC has organized two Startup Weekend events in Harrisonburg to enable entrepreneurs to explore their business venture ideas.

Members of the SVIC Process Team will present Council with an overview of the Coalition's Vision, Mission, and Goals. In addition, they will also lay out the Action Plan that has been endorsed by SVIC and will be implemented over the next three years.

Attachments: [SVIC Strategic Plan](#)

7.c Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance update

Review & Recommendation

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HDR will provide an update on promotions and special events, projects and programs.

7.d Consider request for Fundfest 2014 through the Rockingham Harrisonburg SPCA.

Review & Recommendation

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Reservation of the Turner Pavilion and adjacent parking lot to the first median on May 14, May 28, June 11, June 25, July 9, July 23, August 6, and August 20 (Every other Wednesday) from 4:30pm until 8:30pm.

Attachments: [Event Application](#)
[ABC License Application](#)

7.e Update on Harrisonburg/Rockingham Jail Expansion Needs

Review & Recommendation

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As Council is aware, the City and County have been working with the Middle River Jail Authority on a possible "buy-in" to the Middle River facility given that our jail has reached capacity. We have been unable to reach agreement on a "buy in" amount and as such for the near term, we will continue to rent space at that facility as needed.

Over the longer term, we need to proceed with developing our own plans to address the growing jail population, which will likely continue to grow as the city and county general populations continue to grow. The first step in that process is to prepare what is called a "Community Based Corrections Plan (CBCP)". The plan, which is required by the State if we wish to seek state funding support for a new or expanded facility. The County will be issuing an RFP for services to develop the CBCP as fiscal agent for the Sheriff/Jail. The City will be responsible for half of the cost of the Plan.

The CBCP should cost in the neighborhood of forty thousand dollars, and will consider building solutions as well as discussion of options to reduce incarceration (research to see what success other localities have had with alternatives, estimate number of potential program participants, what resources are needed, what type of physical plant or equipment is needed and input from judges as to whether or not they would use alternative programs.

The second step in this process will be a site assessment/planning study for one or several potential locations for a new facility. The cost for this step could be in the range of \$60,000 - 120,000, depending upon how many sites are selected for study. This amount would be equally shared by the City and County as well..

7.f. Presentation of Draft Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget

7.g Consider a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$10,229.88 for the Police Department.

Review & Recommendation

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Attachments: [Supplemental Materials](#)

Staff recommends approval

9. Other Matters

10. Boards and Commissions

10 Boards and Commissions

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10 Tree Advisory Board

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11. Closed Session

12. Adjournment