

**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF SHENANDOAH**

July 9, 2024

The Shenandoah Town Council held a public hearing on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m., with Mayor 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; 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; Angie Schrimsher, Town Clerk, Lt. Brandon Morris, Officer, Shenandoah Police Department.

Citizens present were: William Foltz, Robert Zirkle, Sue Zirkle, Deborah Comer, Amos Thomas, Mary Queen, Greg Thompson, Nathan Comer, Brittany Sutherland, Brenda Hagggett, Storm Hammer, Freddie Kite, Brenda Lam.

Media Representatives: None.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Lucas opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m. He stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is to discuss the Town Water and Sewer rate increase, effective August 1, 2024. He noted each member received a copy of the proposed rate increase for review. He also stated the proposed rate increase was advertised in a local newspaper, and a copy has been on display at the Town Office for the public to review.

Mayor Lucas inquired if there was anyone present to speak *for* the water and sewer increase rate.

No one present spoke for the proposed Water and Sewer Rate increase.

Mayor Lucas inquired if there was anyone present to speak *against* the proposed Water and Sewer rate increase.

Greg Thompson works for water and sewer for Rockingham County. He spoke about the rates and comparing rates in Dayton, Harrisonburg, Bridgewater, Stanley and Elkton to Shenandoah.

Billy Foltz is a longtime resident of the Town and is concerned how the 1000-gallon decrease will affect large household families.

Deborah Comer inquired about why we need to increase the water rates.

Mayor Clinton responded the Town of Shenandoah operates as a business and the revenues need to match the expenditures.

Freddie Kite inquired how many homes were built in the Town of Shenandoah in since 2022.

Town Manager Charlie Jenkins stated only two homes have been built since 2022.

Storm Hammer inquired about the increase on tax rates and asked the question about possible grants to fix the water pipes in Town.

Town Manager Charlie Jenkins stated the average household income in the Town of Shenandoah is \$64,410.00 and is above average, so it excludes The Town of Shenandoah from grants.

Deborah Comer is concerned about how the new water and sewer rates will affect children of the Town.

Chris Hensley stated the Town has been wasting money, noting the new Police cars and company trucks and Public Works crews running back and forth through the Town.

Town Manager Charlie Jenkins stated only one new company truck was purchased and the Police cars were purchased from grants.

Amos Thomas has calculated the usage of water he has used over the past 40 years. Amos Thomas also stated he has 32 PSI water pressure in his home.

Brittaney Sutherland inquired about just leaving the rate at 2000 gallons.

Brittaney Sutherland inquired about cell phones used by the police officers. She suggested the Town use an unlimited phone service to lower phone charges.

Brittaney Sutherland inquired about spending \$664.00 dollars a month for inmate meals.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Lucas closed the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASE

A *motion* was made by Vice Mayor Kite, *seconded* by Councilman Fox to approve the water and sewer rate increase, as proposed.

Members Vote was as follows:

YEA: Vice Mayor Kite
Councilwoman Cave
Councilman Fox
Councilman Lowe

NAY: None

Councilman Pierce
Councilman Reisinger

ABSTAIN: Mayor Clinton O. Lucas, Jr.

ABSENT: None

VOTE: Unanimous in favor of motion

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, a *motion* was made by Councilman Lowe, *seconded* by Councilman Fox to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 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

Angela Schrimsher, Town Clerk