

Intro: [Music].

Host Barry Lee: Hi Barry Lee with 92.5 WINC FM and I'm excited to be at Rouss City Hall to host our second season of the City of Winchester's podcast, the Rouss Review. The way this works, twice each month, on the second and fourth Thursday, we'll explore City services, programs and events and discuss the information that you need to know.

Host Barry Lee: So let's get started with our first Council BLUF - that's the Bottom Line Up Front recap of the January 14th, 2020 Council meeting. During the regular meeting, Mayor Smith presented his inaugural Excellence Award to Julia Kogut and Cheryl Reames for the great work that they do in the community. Mayor Smith also presented his annual report video, including an overview of the City's activities and accomplishments over 2019 as required by City Code. The video is available on the City's YouTube and Facebook pages. City Council also approved an Ordinance to amend City Code specifying water and sewer availability fees are to be paid before a building permit is issued. Council held the first reading and were presented with an updated memorandum of agreement and traffic counts on Cork Street regarding the Shenandoah University's proposal for the capital improvement and management of several ball fields in Jim Barnett Park. No action was taken since it was a first reading. The second reading, public hearing and official vote is expected to take place at the January 28, 2020 regular Council meeting. Following multiple public comments during the November 26 and December 10, 2019 meetings of the Common Council, Councilors requested that a discussion of options and potential impacts of a possible "Second Amendment Resolution" be added to a future Council meeting agenda. City staff researched actions taken by other localities and a summary was presented to Council during the January 14 Work Session. Actions taken have varied greatly from locality to locality. The most common of these actions are resolutions passed by local governing bodies declaring the locality a "Second Amendment Sanctuary." These resolutions generally state various levels of resistance to potential changes in state law which encroach on their residents' gun rights, including refusal to enforce such laws by local law enforcement officers, refusal to prosecute them by local Commonwealth's Attorneys, and/or refusal to expend local government funds on enacting or enforcing them. Other localities have chosen to not adopt "Second Amendment Sanctuary" resolutions, but have passed resolutions expressing support of upholding the U.S. and Virginia Constitutions and opposition to measures which would be considered to be violating them. These localities are generally referred-to as "Constitutional" cities or counties. Council discussed a resolution adopted by Virginia Beach and drafting a similar resolution to fit the City of Winchester. Each Councilor mentioned that they could not vote to become a sanctuary city because they swore an oath to uphold the Constitution when they were elected. Also, resolutions are symbolic in nature and Council did not want to take any action that would make it difficult for our police officers to enforce the law as they have sworn to do. After several failed motion in an effort to draft a resolution, Council will not take any actions to become a Second Amendment Sanctuary or

Constitutional City. For the background information and data related to this discussion, please refer to the Council agenda packet on the City's agenda management portal. Council reviewed the first AirBnB Conditional Use Permit for a property on Virginia Avenue. After discussion, Council decided to continue the discussion at the February 11, 2020 Council Work Session to allow for further research and discussion before making a decision. Council also reviewed a request by Winchester Baseball for a Conditional Use Permit allowing a private club for indoor baseball batting cages at 2640 Valley Avenue. After discussion about potential noise and other conditions, Council decided to forward the C.U.P. to the January 28, 2020 Regular Meeting for first reading. Last, recent state and federal legislation has established new provisions to streamline the review and permitting process for telecommunications facilities, especially those meeting the definition of "Small Cell." Following a review of our Zoning Ordinance provisions, staff presented some opportunities to facilitate a more streamlined review process and modifications of existing facilities as well as new installation of Small Cell and Micro-wireless facilities. At the November 19, 2019 meeting, the Planning Commission initiated this text amendment and scheduled a Planning Commission public hearing for December 17, 2019 before forwarding a recommendation to Council. Council discussed the ordinance and forwarded it to the January 28, 2020 Council meeting for first reading. For more information on these topics and to view the agenda packet, visit the City of Winchester website and click "Council Meeting Agendas" under the "Government" tab.

Host Barry Lee: Alright, so by now you've heard everybody's talking about this snow and wintery mix that's moving in this weekend. Here's a friendly reminder from the City of Winchester. Hit it Snowman.

Singer: [Song] When they're calling for three inches and we need to get it plowed, who's gonna get it cleared, it's The Snowman. When the ice will make you slip, you don't want to break your hip, get the salt and spread it thick. Here comes The Snowman. [Narrator] Ah yes, winter is here and snow will once again fall in Winchester. Have no fear, The Snowman is here.

Host Barry Lee: So, let it now be revealed that the superhero known as The Snowman is in fact Justin Hall, the City's Public Works Division Manager now joining that City Service League team of superheroes, including Michael Recycle. Justin, congratulations on being The Snowman and welcome to the Rouss Review. It's good to have you with us.

Justin Hall: Thank you.

Host Barry Lee: Okay, important question. How we set on salt?

Justin Hall: We keep a large amount of salt in hand. We use what we call a mixed abrasive, which is mixed with salt and gravel. The gravel adds traction along with the salt, which will melt the snow and ice.

Host Barry Lee: Excellent. Now as far as primary and secondary routes, explain what those are as far as plowing goes for the city.

Justin Hall: So our primary routes have the highest volumes of traffic and also our snow emergency routes to the hospital and stuff like that. Our secondary streets are our lower-volume streets that don't have as much traffic. So if you haven't seen our plows and you're wondering where we're at, we were on our primary streets until our primaries are done and then we'll move into our neighborhoods. So if it's snowing really hard and you still haven't seen us it's because we're still out on our primary streets. And once we get those under control and they're open, then we move into our neighborhood streets, which are the secondaries.

Host Barry Lee: You know, people that move here from outside the area, they're told, there's a time limit on when you have to get your snow removed off the sidewalk. So we'll set the record straight with The Snowman. How much time do we have to get the snow off our sidewalks?

Justin Hall: So, six inches or less of snow, you have 24 hours to clear your sidewalk. Six inches plus, you have 48 hours to clear your sidewalks and that's from when it actually stops snowing.

Host Barry Lee: Okay. The citizens need to be, I think, a little understanding here. Because when your crews are out there, and a lot of these folks have been out there for hours and hours and hours, and you're clearing streets and being diligent, citizens who are clearing sidewalks and driveways to get it all nice and clean and if it's still snowing, well, the plows have to come through again. And then we look and it's like, ah, you've got that little snowbank again. Is there any way really do avoid that? I mean, I'm sure you get complaints all the time, but, uh, I dunno, it seems like we need to have a little more understanding on the part of the citizens here.

Justin Hall: We tell our Snow Team, when they're plowing the streets, to plow the streets all the way back to the curb. So when we go up the street, we're going to come back down the street and we're going to get as close to the curb as we can. Then at that point, that's when we would like you to come out and clear your driveway. If we haven't been down your street to plow it, just know that we're going to be back. Each storm is a little different, so we try to stick with that. But typically when you see our snow plow and all the snow's over to the curb, we're done with your street.

Host Barry Lee: Okay. And you've got some tips, a video tip that's on the City website, isn't it?

Justin Hall: Yes. It's a VDOT video clip showing you how you should clear your driveway out.

Host Barry Lee: And if we have a really big snow, what about snow emergency routes? Those designations, what's the rule?

Justin Hall: The rule is when Snow Plan B goes into effect, you'll need to have your vehicles off the roadway and also Snow Plan C as well.

Host Barry Lee: You know what, that's a perfect segue because we hear on the radio, Snow Plan A in effect, Snow Plan B. Let's just briefly walk through it. Snow Plan A is...

Justin Hall: Basically when we're applying chemicals, things are getting icy out.

Host Barry Lee: And it's okay for motorist to be out under Snow Plan A.

Justin Hall: You can, but we're really telling folks to just be careful.

Host Barry Lee: All right. And then we move into Snow Plan B.

Justin Hall: Snow plan B is when we're actually plowing the roads and the snow emergency routes will go into effect.

Host Barry Lee: Alrighty. And Snow Plan C means what?

Justin Hall: We have a lot of snow [laughter] because we're actually hauling the snow at that point. And, we're definitely encouraging everybody not to be out on the street.

Host Barry Lee: Alrighty. Any other tips, Justin, that you'd like to share with our listeners?

Justin Hall: No, just if you don't have to be out during the storm, you stay at home and have fun.

Host Barry Lee: All right. And you know, the snow plows are trying to do their jobs so we can make it easier and safer for everybody. Be patient around the plows, never pass a snow plow. Be aware of the fact that there's reduced visibility. And you know, sometimes people try to pass a snow plow and you can end up, you know, side by side. That doesn't help help your plow driver at all, does it?

Justin Hall: No, we ask that you just keep your distance back from the snow plows and let them have plenty of distance because in those big trucks it is very difficult to see vehicles.

Host Barry Lee: Obviously, if you've got two plows in tandem, especially if you have a small car, you do not drive them between the two plows.

Justin Hall: That's correct.

Host Barry Lee: Alrighty. And, as far as an approaching plow, is there a safety rule there that we should keep in mind?

Justin Hall: We'd like you to stay back at least a hundred feet. If you're approaching the plow, try to get in a lane that's farther away.

Host Barry Lee: Alrighty. Justin Hall, City's Public Works Division Manager, thank you very, very much for being here with us. You know, now that it's revealed that you are The Snowman, I'm looking at the picture that they have of you and your superhero garb. Isn't it a little chilly to be out there in tights during a snow storm there.

Justin Hall: They're thermal tights, Barry.

Host Barry Lee: Oh. Oh, okay. That explains it.

Justin Hall: Thank you for having me.

Host Barry Lee: You bet. Thank you Justin very, very much. And remember stock up, check out the your battery situation, make sure you've got water, paper, bread, eggs, M&M's and uh, hey, stay in tune with the City of Winchester's website for any kind of snow plans or activations. Speaking of the City's notification system, are you signed up for the activation alert? Joining us is Amy Simmons, Communications Director with the City of Winchester. So how do we get signed up, Amy?

Amy Simmons: All you have to do is go to WinchesterVA.gov/getalerts and there'll be a link there for the notification system. You click that link, you create an account and while you're there you can choose which kind of notifications you want to receive. Those are anywhere from weather, to snow plan alerts as far as when we activate and deactivate those. We also have refuse and recycling collection changes. Those change sometimes with weather and also with holidays. We have planned road closures. We can let you know when there're roads that are scheduled to be closed. When the city closes for any reason, holidays or when the weather is bad, and several others. So if you want to stay in tune with what's going on, we can send you a text, an email or phone call with the system.

Host Barry Lee: All right, one more time on that site.

Amy Simmons: That's WinchesterVA.gov/getalerts.

Host Barry Lee: Thanks Amy.

Amy Simmons: Thank you.

Host Barry Lee: Next up on the Rouss Review, Tim Y the History Guy, with another Winchester 101 history lesson to compliment the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Then we're going to be talking about some upcoming events and activities and we'll end up with a special announcement from Winchester Fire and Rescue Chief William Garrett. So Tim, take it away.

Intro: [Music]

Tim Y: Hey, this is Tim Y the History guy, bringing you another episode of Winchester 101. This time we focus on some of Winchester's civil right history, particularly that impacting the City's black population in recognition of the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. We'll look at the actions of some people of color who had a role in changing segregationist rules that barred access to opportunity in Winchester- people like Thomas Laws, Dr. Henry Moss Brooks and Ruth Jackson. Winchester has come a long way from the Civil War era of the mid-19th Century when many African-Americans were considered property and denied or severely limited with regard to rights such as voting. In a new book, "To Be Free Some Day: Race and Freedom in the Shenandoah Valley During the Civil War Era" Shenandoah University Professor Jonathan Noyalas compiles accounts from numerous Shenandoah Valley slaves. His research repudiates the myths about conditions for African Americans in the Shenandoah Valley, as incorrectly put forth with the "Lost Cause" movement of the Early 20th Century. He documents the struggles that they endured and the risks that they took to ultimately gain freedom and create a better life. One of the many brave men from that period was Thomas Laws who, as a slave, was allowed to transport goods between areas like Winchester that in the Fall of 1864 was occupied by Confederate troops and areas occupied by or under the control of Union troops such as Berryville. Laws agreed to carry a message from Union-sympathetic Quaker Rebecca Wright who had written an account of Confederate troop strength in Winchester at the request of Union Gen. Philip Sheridan. Gen Sheridan was preparing for battle against Confederate General Jubal Early. The intelligence provided by the brave actions of Wright and Laws proved beneficial in the Third Winchester battle in September of 1864. It would represent the last time that the Confederate Army occupied Winchester. The rights obtained by blacks during the post-Civil War Reconstruction era, including the right to vote and hold elected office, were soon undone by the subsequent period of Redemption where southern states like Virginia rewrote their constitutions and rescinded or severely limited those rights via Jim Crow laws. These changes to state law were empowered by the Byrd Political Machine, including segregationist measures by Governor, and then U.S. Senator Harry F. Byrd, Sr., a native of Winchester. Following the U.S. Supreme Court finding segregation unconstitutional in 1954 and again in 1955, Senator Byrd called for Massive Resistance which, in 1958, effectively cut off state aid to any school in Virginia that integrated. This particularly hurt minority students whose families could not afford to send them to private schools. Local amateur historian Judy Humbert told recently about how black students in the N. Kent St neighborhood who had to attend the Douglas School instead wished to attend John Handley High School where there was a greater variety of courses. Both the Winchester School Board and the State Board of Education denied the request. It was not until 1962 when a VA Supreme Court decision required integrated schools. A precursor to integrating Winchester public schools was the efforts of Henry Moss Brooks while a college student. Well into the 1950s, the Handley Library was a segregated facility. Head Librarian C. Vernon Eddy had established many rules for library patrons one of

which was that black residents could not check out books other than when picking up books for white families. In 1953, Brooks was working on a paper for a class at UVA and Eddy denied him use of the library. Brooks and three others, confronted City Council to secure library privileges for the community's black population which otherwise had to use an inferior branch facility at the Douglas School. The brave move by Brooks paid off as the Council-appointed Library Board ruled against Mr. Eddy and instructed him to integrate the facilities. Dr. H.M. Brooks, as Henry Moss Brooks would later be known, also came up with a clever way to secure employment for people of color in the businesses along Loudoun Street. He quietly met with the white business owners and got them to agree in a coordinated manner to hire at least one black employee. That way, no single business would economically suffer being boycotted by white customers opposed to the hiring of black people. Another quiet leader in civil rights was Ruth Jackson who, together with her husband, operated Ruth's Tea Room on E. Cecil Street near the corner of S. Kent St. Ruth's daughter, Vivienne Jackson, recalls her mother applying for a liquor license back when Virginia required separate entrances for black and white customers. Since the place already had two entrances, the permit was issued. Jackson sat people in different sections but that didn't mean they stayed there. Jackson recalls the restaurant being the type of place that served people from all walks of life where they all got along. Yes, Winchester has come a long way since its pre-Civil War days. In 1975, amid growing racial tension at Handley High School, Effie Davis was appointed as the first black member of City Council. She would later be elected to that position. In November of 2016, John David Smith became Winchester's first black mayor. At his first Council meeting as Mayor in January 2018, he was elected by a majority of his fellow city councilors as President of City Council. Another black councilman, John Hill, was elected Vice-Mayor in 2018. Civil War-era slave Thomas Laws could probably never have imagined a black mayor here in Winchester, but his brave actions in 1864 helped make that possible. Well that's it for me, Tim Y the History Guy, until the next episode of Winchester 101.

Host Barry Lee: It's time for the Now U Know segment where we talk about interesting City of Winchester facts you may not be aware of. In honor of the first podcast of 2020, here are some interesting 2019 year end service delivery stats from our Public Services team that just may knock your socks off. In 2019, crews swept over 2,660 miles of streets to keep Winchester looking beautiful and to keep harmful debris out of our storm drains. Public Works crews also collected over 435 tons of leaves which will be composted and offered to the community for free. Almost 6,600 tons of refuse and over 2,400 tons of recycling were collected. 193 potholes were repaired. WinTran, the City's public transit program, served over 136,000 passengers in 2019. And finally, crews repaired 32 water main breaks, read 76,890 water meters, flushed 1,315 fire hydrants, cleaned 137,122 linear feet of sewer mains and responded to 348 calls for service for water or sewer emergencies 348 times. Well, if you didn't before, Now U Know!

Host Barry Lee: Looking for something fun to do with the kids this winter? Don't miss Winchester Parks and Recreation's free Family Movie Nights. One Friday each month, a different family movie will be shown in the Jim Barnett Park Rec Center at 6:15 pm. But come early, as fun family activities will begin at 5:30 pm. Remember to bring a blanket or seating. The first Movie Night will show Disney's Aladdin, the 2019 version, this Friday, January 17. Winchester Parks & Recreation has also revamped their Competitive Swim Training program for ages 7 to 18. The program is now 12 weeks long with a mock swim meet held at the end. The next sessions begin the week of January 27 so sign up now! Save the date for Old Town Winchester's Chocolate Escape on Saturday, February 8. There will be plenty of tasty chocolate treats, special deals, live music, and fun activities to get you ready for Valentine's Day

Host Barry Lee: And now we conclude with a very important announcement. We welcome back to the Rouss Review, Winchester Fire and Rescue Chief William Garrett. Great to see you again Chief.

Chief Garrett: Thank you for having me back on the show. There is an important date that we would like to make everyone aware of. The Winchester Fire and Rescue Department is conducting an evaluation of our system of services and on January 21 at six o'clock, we're having a community input meeting. That's where we would like members of the community to come share some thoughts and ideas about what they would like to see with their fire rescue department. It's a very exciting time and we would love the community's input.

Host Barry Lee: Excellent. Excellent. And the date and place again, and time, it's going to be?

Chief Garrett: January 21st 6:00 PM at Jim Barnett Park in the Lord Fairfax Room at the War Memorial Building.

Host Barry Lee: Alrighty, Chief, thanks very, very much. Happy new year, and thank you for joining us on the Rouss Review as we kick off another year of interesting conversations and information that you need to know. I'm Barry Lee with 92.5 WINC FM. We'll be back on the fourth Thursday of January at 5:00 PM. So long for now.

Outro: [Music]