

Dan Hoffman ([00:05](#)):

Hello, and welcome to another edition of the Rouss Review. I'm your City Manager, Dan Hoffman. And with me is Communications Director Amy Simmons. Hello, Amy.

Amy Simmons ([00:13](#)):

Hello. I'm back.

Dan Hoffman ([00:14](#)):

You're back. Yeah. That's right. You were gone last time.

Amy Simmons ([00:17](#)):

Yeah, I had a little surgery.

Dan Hoffman ([00:19](#)):

Yeah, but everything's fine.

Amy Simmons ([00:20](#)):

Was coming in. [Laughs].

Dan Hoffman ([00:21](#)):

No, no, that's fine. And you're fine. You're back. I felt lonely without you.

Amy Simmons ([00:28](#)):

I could tell [Laughs].

Dan Hoffman ([00:30](#)):

But we are back at it for our final podcast of the year.

Amy Simmons ([00:36](#)):

That's right.

Dan Hoffman ([00:38](#)):

We're gonna talk to Justin Hall, here in a moment about snow and leaf removal. Wish everybody a happy New Year. Merry Christmas, happy holidays. All of the above.

Amy Simmons ([00:55](#)):

All of them. There's lots of holidays going on.

Dan Hoffman ([00:57](#)):

There's a lot of stuff going on. We're not, especially since we're not gonna have another one for over a month.

Amy Simmons ([01:03](#)):

Yeah. We're gonna take a little hiatus before we do you things a little different next year.

Dan Hoffman ([01:07](#)):

Yep. So let's talk about the agenda for tomorrow. Okay. So, first and foremost as everyone's probably aware, the city suffered an enormous loss with the passing of Councilor Judy McKiernan. The last week, going on two weeks now, have been really just a gut punch to everybody here, you know, the suddenness of it. And the shock of it has really just started to sink in for a lot of folks around here who worked very closely with her. Who got to know her and understood how much of a part of this community she was. Not just in her role here on the City Council, but also the Director of Student Services over with the public school system and her decades of service there. And of course, wife, mother, just a horrible loss for the city. So, the meeting tomorrow is gonna be a tough one. It's our first regular Council meeting since her passing. We've kept the agenda as light as we can really with only the things that we need to get done because of time sensitivity. We've pushed more things on the consent agenda than we normally do in order to give us enough space and time to adequately reflect and recognize Judy for her impact to the city as a whole. What that means for anybody that wants to come tomorrow is we will be reading a resolution of sorrow which is something that we do when any person of note passes in the community. Normally, it's past mayors, past counselors. This is the first time in a long time. By our research, last time a sitting counselor passed was 1969. So it's the first time in a long time that something like this has happened and we've had to process this, but yet still keep putting one foot in front of the other. Knowing Judy, I know she would've wanted us to keep doing the people's work.

Amy Simmons ([03:54](#)):

Absolutely.

Dan Hoffman ([03:54](#)):

She was passionate. She was energetic and committed to service. I'm sure the idea that we would take a break on her account...

Amy Simmons ([04:06](#)):

She would not be happy.

Dan Hoffman ([04:08](#)):

She wouldn't be happy about it, but she deserves this recognition and there are some things that we will have to get done.

Amy Simmons ([04:15](#)):

That's the only one in December.

Dan Hoffman ([04:18](#)):

Yeah. We might be able to do it a little differently, but this is our only December meeting and we do have some deadlines that we have to meet. Particularly in filling her seat. So that's one of the more you know, significant items on the agenda tomorrow.

Amy Simmons ([04:35](#)):

And there's a special meeting earlier.

Dan Hoffman ([04:38](#)):

Correct. Right now it's scheduled for two o'clock. The Council will go into Executive Session and interview residents of Ward Four who have submitted a resume and a letter of interest to fill the vacant seat. The person appointed tomorrow will fill that seat until it is until the election next November. That seat was going to be up for election anyways at that point, so there's no need for a special election. By the time swearing-in occurs, this person will be filling the vacant Ward Four seat for approximately one year.

Amy Simmons ([05:23](#)):

And they could run.

Dan Hoffman ([05:25](#)):

There's nothing that prevents that person from running for the same seat or any other open seat.

Amy Simmons ([05:32](#)):

Like a trial run.

Dan Hoffman ([05:33](#)):

So this is now in the hands of the Council. It was posted. It came down last night at five o'clock. The Council outlined a process last February after it filled the seat vacated by Bill Wiley. hat seat. Council wanted a more formal process to follow in filling a vacant seat. We posted the announcement for the meeting the minimum required allotment of time. We will then interview all the candidates that meet the mandatory requirements. And then, I believe, it will be the last item on the agenda tomorrow night. Council will vote to fill that seat. That portion and the regular meeting of course, is open to the public. The interviews themselves happen in closed Executive Session. It's a difficult task, but it's one that's still our job and we still have to make sure that we follow the rules and the law. City Code only provides us 30 days to fill that seat.

Amy Simmons ([06:55](#)):

Anything else on the agenda?

Dan Hoffman ([06:59](#)):

Yeah. Beyond the Resolution of Sorrow, our recognition of Judy, and filling the vacancy, we do have a handful of other items. Like I said, there's a number of things on consent. Councilors, if they do wanna still discuss them, they can pull them off of consent. But the naming of Bridgeforth Field is on consent. Our legislative priorities for this year, that's on consent. Councilors have all given us their feedback, and now they're just blessing the final document. In essence, we have an agreement with Frederick Water that we're very proud of. That will make the City some additional revenue or at least I should say, mitigate some revenue loss and save some money for County residents. Your welcome County residents. And then, I think there's a few other kind of more administrative, or procedural things that you'll see on the agenda. But the big one that I think a lot of folks will be coming out for is the development off of Amherst on the property owned by the Glass-Glenn Bernie Foundation. It's referred to as The Preserve. That development has gotten a lot of attention. It got a lot of attention in public

comment at the last meeting right before Thanksgiving and it was continued to tomorrow night. The public hearing was already held. So for anybody that's showing up to speak about that item, you can do so during public comment, which happens at the beginning of the meeting. But the public hearing itself has already occurred. So there's no public comment for that specific item. If you show up and you wanna speak, make sure you speak during the regular public comment section and Council will decide now. Because there are currently eight councilors, in a tie vote--in effect, it doesn't pass. If it's a 4-4 vote, the motion will die. So, it would require a 5-3 vote to pass. And that's true of anything tomorrow night. With that...

Amy Simmons ([09:30](#)):

Let's talk snow.

Dan Hoffman ([09:31](#)):

Let's talk snow. So let's get Justin in here. All right. Welcome to Justin Hall here to talk about really one of the topics that we get the most questions about. I think other than trash pick-up, it's leaves and snow.

Justin Hall ([09:47](#)):

I would agree.

Dan Hoffman ([09:47](#)):

That's probably the things that the residents are most curious about.

Amy Simmons ([09:53](#)):

Well, it affects your daily life.

Dan Hoffman ([09:54](#)):

Every day. Trash. Well, snow is obviously one time a year, but leaf pick-up people are always concerned about that. So we're in the midst of leaf season now, right?

Justin Hall ([10:07](#)):

That's correct. Today, we're actually in area five and we'll be working towards area six, seven, starting by over in area one. Area two starts to process all over again. Start of round two.

Dan Hoffman ([10:21](#)):

So we do two rounds.

Justin Hall ([10:23](#)):

Two complete rounds.

Dan Hoffman ([10:24](#)):

Perfect. That was actually a question I was gonna ask off mic just in case we didn't cover it. We put a bunch of leaves out and then more leaves came down and so, now we have all these leaves. I really despise bagging the leaves. So this is great 'cause if you miss the first one, or if you got a bunch of leaves

left over, blow 'em out to the curb. What are the tips for how should people leave them at the curb? You don't want 'em blown into the street, right?

Justin Hall ([10:52](#)):

Right. We don't want 'em in the street. We don't really don't want 'em in the gutter pan either, because once rains, all the leaves are gonna run down the storm drains. The perfect spot is the green space right behind the backside of the curb, in between the sidewalk. When our crews go by, we just simply blow them into the gutter pan. We suck 'em up with the big machines and we carry on.

Amy Simmons ([11:12](#)):

What if you don't have that little green space?

Justin Hall ([11:14](#)):

You can put 'em out as best you can try. Not put 'em in areas where people park. We hear about some people parking on leaves that if your engine it's hot, you could catch on fire. So we don't wanna encourage that.

Dan Hoffman ([11:29](#)):

And it really also kind of pulverizes the leaves down. I see that and then when the wind blows, it kind of ends up everywhere.

Amy Simmons ([11:36](#)):

Dust.

Dan Hoffman ([11:37](#)):

Yeah. Leaf dust.

Justin Hall ([11:38](#)):

One thing you'll notice is round two is gonna go a lot quicker than round one. Right now, most of the leaves are off. As we're going down the street, we're collecting all the leaves. We're getting a majority of them. We hope that in the next couple weeks things will start picking up. As long as we don't get any of the S word: snow.

Amy Simmons ([11:59](#)):

[Laughs]

Dan Hoffman ([12:00](#)):

Which we almost got a little bit this week. I saw flurry.

Amy Simmons ([12:04](#)):

Last week. Yeah.

Dan Hoffman ([12:04](#)):

Last week. Yeah.

Justin Hall ([12:05](#)):

I think last week they called for a little bit of snow. And then, a lot of people ask questions, you know, like, I'm the weather guy. 'Justin, how much are we gonna get?' We're prepared for pretty much anything.

Dan Hoffman ([12:24](#)):

Gotcha. So we're wrapping up round one of leaves. We'll go back and do another round. We anticipate that will be about when?

Justin Hall ([12:34](#)):

You know, that's really hard to do. Depending on if we get weather, snow. That could push it back. I would think by February we could wrap things up once we get done and we're completed with round two. We will also allow citizens to call in if they have a large pile that maybe we missed or somebody put out, and we'll come back out and do a special collection.

Dan Hoffman ([12:59](#)):

Cool. So snow. We're already getting threats of snow. Tell us a little bit about the process 'cause we get these questions all the time. Why does this street get plowed before that street? Why didn't you plow? It snowed and maybe there wasn't enough. Tell us a little bit about the science behind it.

Justin Hall ([13:22](#)):

We break our streets down into primary streets and our secondary streets. Our main focus when we start plowing and putting chemicals down is on our primary streets. Then, once we get those under control, we move into our connector streets, which are pretty much the streets that connect the primary roads, our main roads. And then we move into our secondaries and we stay on those until we get done.

Amy Simmons ([13:49](#)):

Sometimes you have to come off of those secondaries when it's snowing really hard, right?

Justin Hall ([13:53](#)):

Yeah. If it continues to snow and we get additional snow coverage, we'll have to go back out on our primaries and keep those under control.

Dan Hoffman ([14:01](#)):

Got it. What about the amount of snow? Sometimes we'll get like an inch, two inches, and people are complaining because the streets aren't plowed. What's the threshold that triggers a plowing?

Justin Hall ([14:13](#)):

Typically, plowing starts around an inch and a half to two inches of snow. Really depends what type of snow and if it's a wet snow, dry snow. If we know that temperatures are gonna continue to rise and it's an inch and a half, mother nature's gonna take care of it before we get to every street, anyway.

Dan Hoffman ([14:31](#)):

Gotcha. When does that typically start during the day. We have a snow event, you know you're gonna have to plow, is it based on when the snow stops? When the crews come in, when do we actually start plowing? If we know we're gonna have to plow.

Justin Hall ([14:49](#)):

Typically, we're in here well in advance. Typically, we're putting chemicals down first on some of our hills or our bridges. And then once it's getting close to being able to plow, our supervisors are out driving around, checking the road conditions, and they will determine when we start plowing streets.

Dan Hoffman ([15:11](#)):

What can residents do if they know that the streets are gonna get plowed, what can they do to help you guys out?

Justin Hall ([15:18](#)):

One of the things you can do is really think about when you're cleaning your driveways out, your sidewalks, where you're putting the snow. A lot of people will put the snow right in front of their driveway. So, when our trucks come by, we have no choice but to put the snow back in front of your driveway. We can't pick the snow up and put it where we want it. It can only really go one direction. Think about where you're putting the snow, so when our trucks come by, we're not plowing your driveway closed.

Amy Simmons ([15:47](#)):

We have a VDOT video on our website, on the snow plan webpage that will show you where to put it. When you're plowing your sidewalk and your driveway, where you put the snow, so the snow plow doesn't close it back in again.

Justin Hall ([15:59](#)):

One thing to keep in mind, too, is once the snow stops and we're out plowing your street, our drivers are trained to plow the whole street. We're just not gonna make one pass down and then leave and come back for two or three hours. We're gonna go up and back and push it back as far as we can, so we don't have to come back. It's frustrating if we were to plow the street one time, you go out and clean your driveway, and here we're coming back three hours later.

Dan Hoffman ([16:24](#)):

And we do not shovel your sidewalks for you.

Justin Hall ([16:28](#)):

That's correct.

Dan Hoffman ([16:29](#)):

That's your job,

Amy Simmons ([16:30](#)):

Wish we could, but no. We don't have an army for that.

Dan Hoffman ([16:35](#)):

We've talked about how we do it, what residents can do to help. What about parking and especially downtown. We've got some narrow streets down here in the downtown area. Where should people park? What kind the consideration should they keep in mind? If they know they're gonna have to park in the street or if they normally park in the street?

Justin Hall ([16:59](#)):

No, that's good. Of course, we always encourage during a snow storm, if you can park in your driveway, if you have a driveway, park in your driveway. Downtown, park in the parking garages. We encourage people to use them to get their vehicles off the street. But just keep in mind how we plow and where we have to put the snow.

Amy Simmons ([17:26](#)):

Yeah. We only open the garages on Snow Plan C, right? The third one. There's A, B and C. Explain the snow plans for us.

Justin Hall ([17:34](#)):

Snow Plan A is basically when the roads start getting icy a little bit, we start treating the vehicles. Basically, you'll see from Amy's team, they'll put out Snow Plan A. City of Winchester's in Snow Plan A.

Amy Simmons ([17:48](#)):

That's the first one.

Justin Hall ([17:50](#)):

Yeah, that means we're out, roads are getting a little icy, take your time, we're out putting chemicals down. Snow Plan B, we are in the plow mode. No vehicles are supposed to be parked on the Snow Emergency Routes. They'll need to be removed and we require chains. Snow Plan C, that's when we haul the snow from our downtown area. In our downtown area, we only have so much room to put the snow. We have to bring trucks in and we haul it from our downtown area.

Amy Simmons ([18:24](#)):

We've only done that twice, I think in the 20 years I've been here.

Dan Hoffman ([18:28](#)):

Oh really? Where do we take it?

Justin Hall ([18:32](#)):

Various places. We have some lay down yards in the city that we'll take it, but we've also reached out to developers if we had to.

Amy Simmons ([18:41](#)):

It's gonna be kind of contaminated with salt and gravel and oil.

Dan Hoffman ([18:44](#)):

Crud. I'm not gonna build a snow fort out that stuff.

Amy Simmons ([18:46](#)):

Right.

Justin Hall ([18:47](#)):

We really gotta be careful where we put it.

Dan Hoffman ([18:50](#)):

I hear you cool.

Amy Simmons ([18:51](#)):

But for the C, whenever we activate that, usually the garages will open for free. It's a little partnership with the Parking Authority.

Justin Hall ([18:58](#)):

Typically, if we know there's a large-scale event coming, we'll go ahead and put in Snow Plan B, just to get the word out, 'Hey, get your vehicles off to snow emergency routes' and let people know ahead of time. Snow Plan A is a little iffy because we've had storms miss us.

Amy Simmons ([19:14](#)):

We will send those out with our notification system. If people sign up for Snow Plan activation alerts, we'll send those out.

Dan Hoffman ([19:22](#)):

Very good. When typically, do you decide to cancel schools?

Justin Hall ([19:27](#)):

[Laughs] That is not my decision.

Dan Hoffman ([19:31](#)):

For those of you wondering, we do not make that determination. That is the Superintendent and his team. We're just talking about City government operations, but we do coordinate closely with with school system on closures and whatnot. But it's not our call.

Amy Simmons ([19:49](#)):

Do get a lot of complaints when you guys do such a good job on the roads, but yet they still close school.

Justin Hall ([19:56](#)):

Yeah. We take a lot of pride in that actually. That's something that I know the kids don't like, and probably some of the teachers, but when we hear other schools are closing and we're still able to get to school.

Dan Hoffman ([20:10](#)):

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Yeah. Or when the roads look clear, but school's closed, parents are grumpy.

Amy Simmons ([20:16](#)):

But I think that's because of when we stay closed because the roads looks so good, it's because of sidewalks usually, I think.

Dan Hoffman ([20:23](#)):

Yeah. Well, it's sidewalks and at the time when these buses have to get moving. By 11:00 AM, maybe we've pretty much got 'em all knocked out, but at six, 7:00 AM, the roads could look pretty bad and that's when really the buses start getting going.

Justin Hall ([20:44](#)):

Yeah. And then once we're done with our snow on the roads, our employees will go straight to sidewalk duty. That takes probably another 10 hours to do as well. Anything, six inches or below our residents have 24 hours to get the snow removed. Anything six inches or more, it's 48 hours.

Amy Simmons ([21:06](#)):

And we're clearing sidewalks on the primary roads on public properties that we're doing?

Justin Hall ([21:11](#)):

That's just on City-maintained. But that also includes the Green Circle Trail or our walking paths because a lot of people do use the Green Circle Trail to get to work every day.

Dan Hoffman ([21:25](#)):

Cool. Anything else that we should know about snow season before we get there?

Justin Hall ([21:30](#)):

No, I think we're ready.

Dan Hoffman ([21:32](#)):

Where can people go to get information if they're curious at 6:00 AM about whether or not city operations are closed? Although, probably wait till like 7:00 AM.

Amy Simmons ([21:41](#)):

Well, I get the call at 5:00 AM, so that's when I'm up making the announcements. But it's on the website. We'll have an emergency page posted if it's a really bad storm. Otherwise, you can just go to the Public Works website and there's a Snow Plan page. We'll post it there and also on the main Public Works page. And then of course, all of our social media and our alert system. So all of those, that's where we put the information.

Justin Hall ([22:06](#)):

Also during larger events, we'll also have a direct line into Public Works to allow people to call straight into us if they have a problem.

Amy Simmons ([22:13](#)):

Yeah. Because a lot of times that's when the City's closed, but you guys are still working.

Dan Hoffman ([22:18](#)):

Was that when we gave out Mary Blowe's direct line or was that for trash?

Amy Simmons ([22:21](#)):

No, that was the calendar.

Dan Hoffman ([22:24](#)):

Oh yeah. But we put her direct line where we were supposed to have put the trash? Was it solid waste or snow?

Amy Simmons ([22:35](#)):

I think it was just the calendar.

Justin Hall ([22:36](#)):

Solid waste would've been a good.

Amy Simmons ([22:38](#)):

It might have been gotten other places because of the calendar. Cause I had it on my mind...

Dan Hoffman ([22:41](#)):

But on the calendar, what did we put...

Amy Simmons ([22:43](#)):

Public Works.

Dan Hoffman ([22:44](#)):

Oh, it was just public works in general. That's right. So public works was actually Mary Blowe's direct line.

Justin Hall ([22:47](#)):

That's great.

Dan Hoffman ([22:48](#)):

Which you can still residents please feel free to use Mary Blowe's direct line for those types of questions.

Justin Hall ([22:54](#)):

What's that number again, Dan? [Laughs]

Dan Hoffman ([22:56](#)):

I wish I knew it off the top of my head.

Amy Simmons ([22:58](#)):

Why don't you give us the correct number.

Dan Hoffman ([23:00](#)):

Yes. What is the correct number for public works?

Justin Hall ([23:02](#)):

That is a very good question. We'll be releasing a new phone number here very shortly.

Dan Hoffman ([23:06](#)):

Oh, really? Because of the new building?

Justin Hall ([23:08](#)):

That's correct.

Justin Hall ([23:09](#)):

Oh, that's good to know.

Dan Hoffman ([23:10](#)):

Exactly. Maybe we should make sure that number's in the calendar?

Amy Simmons ([23:12](#)):

We should fix that in the calendar because I just sent it to the printer.

Justin Hall ([23:14](#)):

We are in the process right now of doing that.

Dan Hoffman ([23:19](#)):

Excellent.

Justin Hall ([23:19](#)):

Stay tuned.

Dan Hoffman ([23:19](#)):

We'll go and wrap that up so Amy [laughs] can go make a quick change before the calendar goes to print. And if you can't find the number still call Mary. All right, Justin, thank you very much for keeping us up to date and fingers crossed that we get a...

Amy Simmons ([23:35](#)):

Mild winter.

Dan Hoffman ([23:35](#)):

A mild winter. A little bit of snow or maybe one or two good snows and then, not all of these little snows. Cause last year, we got like three inches, four inches, three inches, five, six, and it was just sprinkled all through the season.

Justin Hall ([23:49](#)):

Actually, those create so much more work for us. We rather it just snow and get some bigger ones and get outta here.

Amy Simmons ([23:59](#)):

You guys do like 12 hour shifts, don't you?

Justin Hall ([24:01](#)):

Yeah. All around the clock. We have about a hundred employees that work within Public Services for snow removal.

Dan Hoffman ([24:09](#)):

All right. Thank you very much for coming in Justin. Good luck this season.

Justin Hall ([24:13](#)):

All right. Thank you.

Dan Hoffman ([24:14](#)):

All right. So that was Justin.

Amy Simmons ([24:18](#)):

Can you sing? Can you sing the let it snow song?

Dan Hoffman ([24:20](#)):

I can't sing at all.

Amy Simmons ([24:21](#)):

I can't either.

Dan Hoffman ([24:22](#)):

I wonder if I had been trained from a young age, I wonder if I could actually sing.

Amy Simmons ([24:28](#)):

I don't think I have the...

Dan Hoffman ([24:28](#)):

I think I sound good in the shower sometimes, but I don't...But maybe it's just the acoustics in the shower.

Amy Simmons ([24:35](#)):

Yeah, usually it is.

Dan Hoffman ([24:37](#)):

Well, thanks for bursting my bubble. All right. You have coming ups.

Amy Simmons ([24:42](#)):

I do.

Dan Hoffman ([24:43](#)):

Tell us what's coming up.

Amy Simmons ([24:44](#)):

I had a few. Last week, we unveiled the Officer Hunter A. Edwards Memorial Circle. The memorial there looks really awesome and there are signs on the roundabout to designate that after him. Winchester Parks and Recreation is accepting applications for their Pee Wee Basketball and Cheer programs. That is for the wee little ones from five to eight. So if your little guy or a girl is interested in basketball or cheerleading, they can register. The deadline is not until early January, but there's an early bird discount. If you register by December 27th at 9:00 AM. So it'll save you about \$6, but if you live in the city, doesn't matter because it's free. Sign up ASAP. Then, our annual calendar. I mentioned that during our talk with Justin. I did send that to the printers, but I'm gonna have to retract that if I can get that new phone number, but we are still on track to have those delivered before the holidays if everything goes well. After we get those in, there will be extra copies at City Hall, the visitor center, the Jim Barnett Park Rec Center and the Creamery Building for those who did not get one. They will mail to all city residences.

Dan Hoffman ([25:53](#)):

People love the calendar.

Amy Simmons ([25:55](#)):

Yay. Me too.

Dan Hoffman ([25:56](#)):

It's very beautiful.

Amy Simmons ([25:56](#)):

It is. It's because we did the photo contest this year. This is the largest amount I've ever received. We had 39 photographers submit at least one, but most of the time they can submit up to five. So I had a lot to choose from. It was really awesome. It's really pretty calendar this year. December 14th at 5:30 PM, we'll be holding that ribbon cutting. Oh, actually, you didn't mention that earlier. There's a ribbon cutting at 5:30 on the 14th.

Dan Hoffman ([26:24](#)):

Right, right. Oh, I'm remiss.

Amy Simmons ([26:26](#)):

So much going on.

Dan Hoffman ([26:27](#)):

Yeah, goodness. A very packed day tomorrow. We are also recognizing former Mayor Charles Zuckerman by renaming the old Council Chambers, which if you're at City Hall, it's the big room just behind the Charlie Rouss statue.

Amy Simmons ([26:47](#)):

Behind the stairs. Yeah. It used to be the Treasure's office when they were here.

Dan Hoffman ([26:51](#)):

Right, right. So, we have a beautiful stained glass...

Amy Simmons ([26:57](#)):

Window. [Laughs].

Dan Hoffman ([26:57](#)):

Sign, window, where the transom is. The transom is that little part right above the door.

Amy Simmons ([27:03](#)):

It matches the other one for Council Chambers for Liz Minor.

Dan Hoffman ([27:07](#)):

And it turned out really nice. We are doing a little ribbon cutting ceremony to honor Mayor Zuckerman.

Amy Simmons ([27:17](#)):

People are welcome to come join us.

Dan Hoffman ([27:18](#)):

Come join us. That is at 5:30 tomorrow.

Amy Simmons ([27:21](#)):

Yeah. Right before the Council meeting.

Dan Hoffman ([27:22](#)):

Correct.

Amy Simmons ([27:23](#)):

Okay. So Rouss City Hall...This is something that you were real proponent for.

Dan Hoffman ([27:30](#)):

I was? I hope it was good.

Amy Simmons ([27:33](#)):

[Laughs] The new security protocols in City Hall to help make everyone safe. So when you visit City Hall now, you cannot go to the third and fourth floor unless you are allowed up by our security guards.

Dan Hoffman ([27:45](#)):

Visitors, if you're a visitor to City Hall, you just gotta check in like any other government building that you've walked into, probably most of your life. There's not a metal detector. You don't even have to get screened. You just have to register as a visitor with the security guard in the lobby. And then that person will direct you where to go. We hope that obviously makes the building a little safer. But also, when you first come into the building, it's someone to greet you, point you in the right direction. Also it's good for us to know who all is in the building. If there was a significant event, whether it's a fire, God-forbid an active shooter event, we need to be able to pull a list of all the visitors that are in the building. We know what employees are here, but, right now, or previously, we didn't have a good list of all the visitors that might be in here. And we have people in here all the time. So this was a necessary change and I think when people get used to it, it'll work out just fine.

Amy Simmons ([28:52](#)):

Yep. You can still come up the front and back entrance with the stairs, or if you do the accessible entrance on the main floor that's facing Boscawen, you would hit floor 2F.

Dan Hoffman ([29:01](#)):

Yep. And if you're just up and use the restroom or pay your utility bill, you don't need to check in. That's all right there in the first floor.

Amy Simmons ([29:06](#)):

Yeah, it's right by the door.

Dan Hoffman ([29:07](#)):

You also don't need to sign in as a visitor if you're here for the Council meetings.

Amy Simmons ([29:10](#)):

Right. The Winchester-Frederick County Metropolitan Planning Organization, the MPO, they're conducting an online public survey. They wanna know residents' perceptions of transportation needs in the Winchester area. They're putting together their 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. They're collecting survey and thoughts from the community, English and Spanish available, until January 31st. We do have a link on our website and you can also go to the MPOs website and find that link. And last but not least, this is the last one, and we're hoping to do things a little different next year with our podcast. So stay tuned for new and improved. I hope.

Dan Hoffman ([29:51](#)):

Yes. I forget exactly what we discussed doing.

Amy Simmons ([29:55](#)):

We haven't decided for real yet.

Dan Hoffman ([29:57](#)):

Okay.

Amy Simmons ([29:57](#)):

We've just brainstormed.

Dan Hoffman ([29:57](#)):

So, stay tuned. Like all aspects of this show, we typically make it up about a day in advance.

Amy Simmons ([30:02](#)):

No, not just a day.

Dan Hoffman ([30:04](#)):

At least three or four days.

Amy Simmons ([30:07](#)):

A few days in advance. I did this this morning. [Laugh] My notes this morning.

Dan Hoffman ([30:12](#)):

There you go.

Amy Simmons ([30:12](#)):

But it works out.

Dan Hoffman ([30:13](#)):

It works out. So thank you everybody for listening. Happy holidays, Merry Christmas, happy New Year. I hope to see you all at some point in the new year, if not tomorrow, during the meeting. Again, keep Councilor McKiernan and her family in your thoughts and prayers, and we will see you around City Hall next year.