

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. Hi Amy.

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

Hi Dan.

Dan Hoffman ([00:13](#)):

Hi. Amy's got maybe a cold, but it's not COVID cause we literally just tested her for COVID minutes ago.

Amy Simmons ([00:21](#)):

Yes. I've got a frog in my throat.

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

I would not allow her to be in the same room with me until she got tested.

Amy Simmons ([00:27](#)):

Or at work.

Dan Hoffman ([00:27](#)):

Yeah. Or at work. Well, I'm gonna send you home as soon as we're done with this anyways, cause you are still clearly affected with the boogers. So, if you hear her sniff or cough or girgle or whatever, please...It's, you know, great for podcasts.

Amy Simmons ([00:44](#)):

But I was so excited to get back to our podcast. I had to come in today.

Dan Hoffman ([00:48](#)):

Happy New Year.

Amy Simmons ([00:49](#)):

I know. You too.

Dan Hoffman ([00:49](#)):

Happy New Year, everybody. It's our first podcast of the year. We're going to switch up the format just slightly. So what you guys are gonna get moving forward, what we're gonna try out is, there's gonna kind of be a part one and part two of the Rouss Review. Part one is gonna be the more current event stuff. Hey, here's what's gonna happen at the meeting tomorrow. Hey, here's some of the events in the city that are coming up, here's some things you need to be aware of. Part two is an interview. More of an interview with somebody about of the City works. Something that is not gonna be really time-sensitive. So you could go back and listen to it any time you could share it with somebody. Today, we're gonna talk to a police officer about the process of becoming a police officer. So, it's gonna be content that you could go back and refer to or share with somebody at any time. We'll occasionally do seasonal stuff, but part one is gonna be the topical time-sensitive things you need to know. It's gonna be

relatively quick. And then if you've got time, and you wanna learn a little something about how the City works, listen to part two.

Amy Simmons ([01:52](#)):

Yeah, I'm excited.

Dan Hoffman ([01:54](#)):

All right. So right into it. <Laugh>

Amy Simmons ([01:59](#)):

Council meeting.

Amy Simmons ([01:59](#)):

Council meeting tomorrow. Actually, it's probably one of the shortest agendas I've seen since I've gotten here. We have one second reading. And then we have a handful of things in consent and then nothing on the regular agenda. And no work session. So if you are gonna come to a meeting to see us in action this probably isn't the one you want to pick. But if you're there to talk about the personal property taxes, come and see the second reading on it, but it's gonna be a pretty slim agenda. It will pick up a lot over the next, I'd say, couple of months. We're gonna get some pretty significant land use proposals coming through as we really kind of get into the swing of things in 2022. The meetings aren't gonna be this short forever.

Amy Simmons ([02:53](#)):

Anything on the consent that might be of interest?

Dan Hoffman ([02:57](#)):

We're appointing a bunch of people to different boards and commissions, and we're updating our Emergency Operations Plan, but that's about it.

Amy Simmons ([03:09](#)):

Okay.

Dan Hoffman ([03:09](#)):

That's all we got. But around the city, there's a lot going on. Amy, what do we have going on?

Amy Simmons ([03:14](#)):

Okay. We're currently soliciting public feedback for proposed voting ward adjustments. Even though Council's not gonna discuss that until March 8 [2022], we are collecting feedback from the public in writing, if they would like to do that in advance instead of waiting until March. So we're collecting those through February 28th and we have an online public comment form. Or you could send your comments to Kerri at clerk@WinchesterVA.gov, or just mail it to us and then we can make sure the Council gets those. We've been getting a lot of snow lately. It's been cold.

Dan Hoffman ([03:48](#)):

Yes. Very slushy.

Amy Simmons ([03:49](#)):

It's very wintery. So, I wanted to make sure everybody was aware of how to find information about City services when they change or when we close the buildings or when we activate a Snow Plan. We have four different ways you can get that information. We have the notification system, which I promote a lot. You can opt-in to receive those messages. We have, of course, social media. We post everything on Facebook and Twitter, even if it's five o'clock in the morning. And then we have our Comcast cable channel. We'll put that there. Then, our website, we have a storm information web page. You can search for that. Or we also have a banner on the main page. So it's www.WinchesterVA.gov/storm-information. Do you wanna remind everybody about sidewalks?

Dan Hoffman ([04:31](#)):

Oh yes. Everybody, let's talk real quick. If you have a sidewalk in front of your house, that's kind of your sidewalk. It's available to the public, but it's your responsibility. You have 24 hours to clear that sidewalk after the last snowflake falls.

Amy Simmons ([04:52](#)):

If...

Dan Hoffman ([04:53](#)):

If it's under six inches. If it's more, then you have 48 hours. If it's under, then you've got 24. Please clear your sidewalks.

Amy Simmons ([05:04](#)):

For our students and pedestrians.

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

Students, pedestrians, the handicap. I drove down Valley [Avenue] this morning. A significant number of folks have not cleared their sidewalk. The City can give you a ticket for this. We can issue a citation for not clearing your sidewalks.

Amy Simmons ([05:22](#)):

It's a law, right?

Dan Hoffman ([05:23](#)):

It's a law it's actually in City Code. It's not just a good human thing to do. It's a thing that you have to do by law. Now, if you can't do it yourself, then find somebody that can. Reach out to a neighbor, reach out to a friend, hire somebody.

Amy Simmons ([05:39](#)):

Neighbors, help your neighbors.

Dan Hoffman ([05:40](#)):

Neighbors help your neighbors. If you know that you've got, let's say, an elderly person next door that struggles to clear their sidewalk offer to help them out. But it's still the responsibility of the homeowner or the business owner to clear the sidewalk. Nothing bugs me more, particularly with businesses, that do not clear the sidewalk in front of their business. It is just bad form people. So, last week we had some slush. We had a pretty good sheet of ice. Even on Friday, when I was driving down days afterwards, still people hadn't cleared. Now, it's frozen. It's hard. So people get out there, clean your sidewalks, be a good neighbor. And we'll all be fine.

Amy Simmons ([06:32](#)):

Pretty please. <Laughs>

Dan Hoffman ([06:32](#)):

Pretty pleased. Thank you.

Amy Simmons ([06:34](#)):

Okay. On a happier note. Winchester Parks and Recreation, they're hosting their We Love Volleyball Hat Tournament again. They always do that around Valentine's Day. It's on February 13th at 9:00 AM. It's only \$20 per person, and you just sign up and come and they'll draw your name, put you on a team. That's why it's called hat. They'll draw your name out of a hat. Register by February 11th at 9:00 AM. You can just call Winchester Parks and Rec and register on online.

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

This is a Valentine's Day...Is this for singles?

Amy Simmons ([07:02](#)):

Whoever.

Dan Hoffman ([07:02](#)):

Whoever? Okay.

Amy Simmons ([07:05](#)):

Yeah, it's the day before Valentine's Day, on the 13th.

Dan Hoffman ([07:08](#)):

So you might find somebody taking on a date.

Amy Simmons ([07:10](#)):

You might. And you can go celebrate how much you love volleyball.

Dan Hoffman ([07:13](#)):

Exactly.

Amy Simmons ([07:14](#)):

Get some exercise.

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Dan Hoffman ([07:15](#)):

Now, is this for good volleyball players? Or like, can I show up?

Amy Simmons ([07:18](#)):

Anybody. Unfortunately somebody will have to have you on your team though.

Dan Hoffman ([07:23](#)):

I'd be good. I get really competitive. So, it might not be best thing for me.

Amy Simmons ([07:28](#)):

Okay. You are wearing pink today.

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

I am. It's more of a salmon color. But yeah, it's so dreary and icy outside I figured I'd wear something a little bright.

Amy Simmons ([07:37](#)):

Okay. Well, another Park program is where you can try scuba diving before you sign up for the long certification program. It's called Try Dive and they are gonna hold that also on February 13th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. So if you wanna try it out, see if you like to breathe underwater and have all that scuba gear on before you do the certification, you could try it out there. You do have to sign up, though, at the Rec Center. You can't do that online. And the registration [deadline] is February 9th. One more. Last but not least, we still have some calendars left.

Dan Hoffman ([08:14](#)):

The beloved calendar.

Amy Simmons ([08:15](#)):

Yes. Some people did not get 'em. We were at the mercy of the post office because it's an Every Door Direct Mail. All they do is just put one in every mailbox, so we can't really address it to everyone. So some people may have been missed accidentally, but we do have some at City Hall and they're free to take.

Dan Hoffman ([08:32](#)):

Get 'em while supplies last. And don't come in and ask for like 10 of 'em. Come get one, maybe two.

Amy Simmons ([09:32](#)):

Unless you have a whole street that got missed, but I hope not.

Dan Hoffman ([09:32](#)):

Then, we'll go take care of that.

Amy Simmons ([09:32](#)):

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Thank you. That's it.

Dan Hoffman ([09:33](#)):

All righty. So coming up, part two. If you're not interested in becoming a police officer, well, have a good day.

Amy Simmons ([09:41](#)):

Maybe, you know somebody who does.

Dan Hoffman ([09:42](#)):

Maybe, you know somebody who does. Maybe share it along with them. Yeah. Katlynn Slonaker from Winchester Police Department's coming in here in a minute, and we'll talk about the police. Everybody, hope to see you around City Hall and have a good rest of your January.