

Dan Hoffman ([00:06](#)):

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

Amy Simmons ([00:12](#)):

Hello, Dan.

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

We've had some beautiful weather recently.

Amy Simmons ([00:14](#)):

Oh my gosh. I wish you could say this all the time.

Dan Hoffman ([00:17](#)):

Yeah, I know. There's some folks that talk about San Diego's amazing weather. It's 75 and sunny all year round. Yeah, that's true. Some places you don't get all four seasons though. And, sunny all year round also means, wildfires and water shortages, and all kind of crap. Take advantage of this season, spring early summer, the fall, because those are really the sweet spots for Winchester.

Amy Simmons ([00:50](#)):

Yes. All so nice.

Dan Hoffman ([00:51](#)):

I do love a little snow. I do love a nice hot day. But this is the best time of the year. All right. We've got few things to go over, and then, in the second portion, we're gonna talk about what a City Clerk does and how a bill becomes a law. No songs or jingles with it like...What was it? Was it Schoolhouse Rocks that did how a bill becomes a law? You remember that?

Amy Simmons ([01:19](#)):

No, I don't think I ever watched that.

Dan Hoffman ([01:20](#)):

Oh my God.

Amy Simmons ([01:21](#)):

I know. I apologize.

Dan Hoffman ([01:24](#)):

Yes. Normally I would say, 'oh, no, it's fine.' But no, apology accepted.

Amy Simmons ([01:30](#)):

<Laugh>

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Dan Hoffman ([01:31](#)):

Because how you don't know what Schoolhouse Rocks is. That was like a big thing growing up.

Amy Simmons ([01:36](#)):

Maybe I just don't remember. Maybe I tuned it out. I don't know.

Dan Hoffman ([01:38](#)):

Maybe. All right. Well, after we record this, then we're going to sit down and make you watch how a bill becomes a law by Schoolhouse Rocks.

Amy Simmons ([01:46](#)):

We're gonna educate me. Okay.

Dan Hoffman ([01:50](#)):

Okay. We gotta Council meeting tomorrow.

Amy Simmons ([01:53](#)):

We do.

Dan Hoffman ([01:53](#)):

Let's talk about it. Got a few land use things. You might notice that we have a re-approval for the Lindon Drive project where the old middle school was.

Amy Simmons ([02:06](#)):

Why is it a re-approval?

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

So too much time lapsed in the process. So we approve certain things and then a developer has a period of time before they have to file plans or take certain steps in their development. That didn't occur this time. So, now we we have to get it reapproved. Nothing's changed. Nothing material has changed. I think there might be a few small odds and ends, but they just have to go get, basically, reauthorized. Resetting the clock, so to speak.

Amy Simmons ([02:36](#)):

So, it's not something that the City didn't do. They just didn't meet their deadlines.

Dan Hoffman ([02:41](#)):

Yeah. There's some deadlines, and now Council's just giving them the go ahead to keep doing it. We will be discussing an Ordinance changing some speed limits on city streets. Nothing's going up if my memory serves me correctly, but we are lowering the speed limits on a number of city streets. So make sure you go check that out. I won't go through all of it, but make sure you go check that out. A fun item, there is a resolution on the next phase of the Green Circle Trail. Make sure if you're curious about this one, go check it out. We are choosing the slightly more expensive option, well, I should say the PED [Planning &

Economic Development] Committee approved the more expensive option. It's now gonna go to full Council. It is gonna be really nice.

Amy Simmons ([03:39](#)):

It's safer and more scenic, right?

Dan Hoffman ([03:40](#)):

Safer, more scenic. It goes along Abrams Creek. It's just a much better route for it. My personal opinion is that it's worth the investment. I think staff feel the same way.

Amy Simmons ([03:51](#)):

You want people to use it. You don't want people to feel unsafe while they're on it.

Dan Hoffman ([03:55](#)):

Absolutely. You don't wanna jog next to a highway.

Amy Simmons ([03:57](#)):

Right. And this will complete the entire circle, right?

Dan Hoffman ([04:00](#)):

This will complete the loop. Yes. Absolutely. Now, we are planning future spurs or connected loops particularly over in the North End and northeast part of town. I know there's some conversations about doing a little extension over into SU [Shenandoah University] as part of another phase. We'd love to do something going down Valley to loop down in the southern part of the city.

Amy Simmons ([04:23](#)):

But the original Green Circle will be finished finally.

Dan Hoffman ([04:26](#)):

Yes. The circle itself will be done.

Amy Simmons ([04:27](#)):

It's only been what, 10, 15, 20 years, at least.

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

The wheels turned slowly. You might notice, for those of you that check out the agenda item, construction's not supposed to start until April of 2024. And you might be thinking, well, goodness, that's cuz the government is slow. We have to acquire the right of way. There's the engineering that goes into it. Just right of way acquisition is a very time-consuming process cuz basically we're negotiating with every single property owner along the route to get a tiny sliver of their property. So think about it in terms of we're buying land, and we have to negotiate with, in some cases for bigger projects, dozens of people. So that kind of thing takes a while to do.

Amy Simmons ([05:14](#)):

And we're applying for State funding, which takes at least 2, 3, 4, sometimes five years to even go through the application process before you even get the money. We apply five years in advance to getting the money.

Dan Hoffman ([05:26](#)):

Exactly. So but we're very happy at least to be approving the route for the fourth phase of the Green Circle Trail. We have a few finance items on there. Some resolutions, changes to our City Pay Plan. All that is, is updating the City Pay Plan to be in line with the budget that was just passed. Really an administrative action. And also a few resolutions with the State of Virginia, the Frederick Water Service Authority, some administrative stuff. One major thing, we will have a Work Session. We will have a Work Session with one item on it and that is to discuss a Storm Water Utility. Make sure you check out. That left the PED Committee with a favorable recommendation. It is, as many of you're aware, we have some significant storm water issues in the city. There are creeks that overflow when we get a heavy rain in the spring or in the summer. Some of the roads around here become mini rivers. We have tens of millions of dollars worth of storm water projects that we can't fund solely out of property tax and meals tax. So a Storm Water Utility Fee is being proposed to help fund those projects, and it can just fund those projects. If you're interested in that, check it out. Our next podcast, I believe we're gonna do prior to it going back to Council for approval. We will get in depth on the Storm Water Utility a little bit more. We chatted about it briefly with Kelly Henshaw the last time she was here, but we're gonna get more into the weeds on what a Storm Water Utility is in an upcoming podcast.

Amy Simmons ([07:20](#)):

Yeah. There's a lot of details that people need to know. It sounds worse than it is, I'm sure.

Dan Hoffman ([07:25](#)):

Yeah. Cause you're thinking, 'Well I'm being charged because it's raining.' Some people call it a rain tax and then the same people will complain because...

Amy Simmons ([07:36](#)):

Flooded. <Laugh>.

New Speaker ([07:37](#)):

Their backyard flooded and there's standing water. Well, we gotta build curb and gutter. We gotta build pipes. This stuff doesn't just pay for itself, unfortunately. And we are hoping that in the coming years, there'll be Federal funding available for these types of things. We do look at that, but our portion will continue to grow. So we don't wanna get too far behind with our aging infrastructure.

Amy Simmons ([08:00](#)):

And we also have so many requirements and things that we have to do for the Chesapeake.

Dan Hoffman ([08:05](#)):

Absolutely. We have State water quality requirements. The projects down on Hope Drive, a lot of that project...

Amy Simmons ([08:11](#)):

Yeah. Tevis.

Dan Hoffman ([08:13](#)):

Yeah. Tevis and Hope. A lot of the money for that project was storm water improvements to help us meet State standards. So that's what you might call an unfunded mandate.

Amy Simmons ([08:23](#)):

Chesapeake Bay Initiative, isn't it?

Dan Hoffman ([08:24](#)):

Yeah. Although, we do get a ton of State money to do it.

Amy Simmons ([08:27](#)):

It helps.

Dan Hoffman ([08:28](#)):

It's not like they completely ditch us with the entire bill. All right. So that's our meeting for tomorrow night. What else have we got going on, Amy?

Amy Simmons ([08:34](#)):

Okay. I've got some announcements. We have Juneteenth coming up this weekend. That's on the 19th. It's a new holiday for us, so City offices, the Joint Judicial Center, and the Jim Barnett Park Rec Center will be closed on Monday, June 20th. How is it mid-June already?

Dan Hoffman ([08:49](#)):

<Laugh> I don't know.

Amy Simmons ([08:50](#)):

<Laugh> It went by so fast. Okay. So that's coming up on that Monday. Recycling will be moved to Wednesday the 22nd. So if your recycling's usually picked up on Monday, we're gonna move that to Wednesday, and there'll be no yard waste collected this week. Speaking of holidays usually WinTran routes would have canceled on City holidays, such as Juneteenth, but they recently announced a new, shorter holiday schedule to better accommodate customers. Help them get around on holidays as well. So good news is WinTran will be running on June 20th, as well as several of the holidays, too. Check out their new schedule on our website. There are so many special events happening in Jim Barnett Park right now. They have camps and programs as well as they always do, but lots of special events. So coming up soon though, is the popular Family Day Fishing Rodeo. Do you like to go fishing?

Dan Hoffman ([09:44](#)):

I do love to fish, but where do people fish around here?

Amy Simmons ([09:47](#)):

This is at Wilkins Lake. On June 18th at 7:00 AM. You register in advance. I think it's only like \$5 for kids, five and up and adults. Register in advance or day of at Wilkins Lake.

Amy Simmons ([11:30](#)):

All right. There are also several outdoor movies being held at Jim Barnett Park in the large field behind the Rec Center. The next movie is Space Jam: A New Legacy. Is it the one with LeBron?

Dan Hoffman ([11:42](#)):

I guess. I don't know.

Amy Simmons ([11:42](#)):

Okay. I haven't seen it.

Dan Hoffman ([11:43](#)):

I don't think I saw the first one a long time when we,

Amy Simmons ([11:46](#)):

I didn't either. I didn't like it. I didn't like that kind of movie.

Dan Hoffman ([11:49](#)):

Animated movies?

Amy Simmons ([11:50](#)):

Just that kind of movie. I don't know something about it I didn't wanna see.

Dan Hoffman ([11:53](#)):

What kind of movie is it? <Laugh>

Amy Simmons ([11:56](#)):

Maybe I just didn't like the topic. I didn't like basketball.

Dan Hoffman ([12:01](#)):

You don't like basketball and aliens and space?

Amy Simmons ([12:03](#)):

No, no, I guess that was just not my type of movie.

Dan Hoffman ([12:06](#)):

That's fine.

Amy Simmons ([12:07](#)):

Give me Belle and Beauty and the Beast. That was my type.

Dan Hoffman ([12:10](#)):

Okay. Got it.

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

Okay. So anyway. You're not helping me with my announcements.

Dan Hoffman ([12:15](#)):

<Laugh>

Amy Simmons ([12:16](#)):

Space Jam will be shown June 30th at 8:30 PM, at dusk. But if it rains, they'll move it into the gym. So rain or shine. Okay. Here's another good one for you. Are you ready?

Dan Hoffman ([12:29](#)):

All right.

Amy Simmons ([12:29](#)):

The seventh annual, so we've done this a lot, Splash Bash.

Dan Hoffman ([12:34](#)):

Okay.

Amy Simmons ([12:34](#)):

It's a summer party at the outdoor pool.

Dan Hoffman ([12:36](#)):

Nice.

Amy Simmons ([12:36](#)):

There'll be a DJ and door prizes.

Dan Hoffman ([12:39](#)):

Well, that sounds very much more straightforward. Gotcha.

Amy Simmons ([12:43](#)):

Open to everybody. It's gonna be during regular hours for the pool and that's on Saturday, June 25th.

Dan Hoffman ([12:47](#)):

Wonderful.

Amy Simmons ([12:48](#)):

Okay. Splash bass. Splash bash.

Dan Hoffman ([12:51](#)):

There you go.

Amy Simmons ([12:52](#)):

Rockin' Independence Eve. We haven't been able to do that during COVID. That is coming back. It's going to be held on July 3rd. The Eve of Independence day, apparently, in Old Town. There will be live bands, entertainment, family activities, and more. But the fireworks show that we normally have downtown, that is being moved to Jim Barnett Park this year. So come enjoy Rockin' Independence downtown.

New Speaker ([13:17](#)):

On July 3rd.

Amy Simmons ([13:18](#)):

Yep. Then that night on July 3rd, around 9:20 PM is when we'll start the firework show in the park. So you'll have two different locations this year. Both are free and open to the public. And they say that the best viewing area of the fireworks is gonna be near the ball fields, but I'm sure you'll be able to see it from all around.

New Speaker ([13:40](#)):

Yeah. Jim Barnett I think is gonna be a vastly superior location. First off we can fire off bigger shells from there. When we were doing it downtown, we were limited in the size of the fireworks.

Amy Simmons ([13:52](#)):

And viewing area was limited.

Dan Hoffman ([13:53](#)):

Viewing areas were a little awkward. So you're gonna get a bigger, better display with better viewing potential. So I think it's gonna be great. And so come check it out.

Amy Simmons ([14:05](#)):

Another cool thing for that night on July 3rd is the outdoor pool be open later. It'll be open till 8:30 PM that night. So come swimming if you don't wanna go down to the Rockin' Independence Eve, and then just stay for the fireworks afterwards.

Dan Hoffman ([14:17](#)):

Very cool.

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

Okay. Here's another big announcement. This was pretty cool.

Dan Hoffman ([14:22](#)):

You're packed full of stuff today.

Amy Simmons ([14:23](#)):

I am. <Laugh> Lots of events for summer. But this is well in advance. Just so you have plenty of advanced notice. Old Town has a new event coming this year in August. They have a new bluegrass festival.

Dan Hoffman ([14:35](#)):

Oh, right.

Amy Simmons ([14:36](#)):

Yes. So that's gonna be called Fiddles and Fifths.

Dan Hoffman ([14:39](#)):

Fiddles and Fifths.

Amy Simmons ([14:41](#)):

Bluegrass Festival.

Dan Hoffman ([14:41](#)):

Say that five times fast.

Amy Simmons ([14:42](#)):

No, thank you. <Laughs> The two-day event is going to feature bluegrass music and have something around bourbon, I guess.

Dan Hoffman ([14:51](#)):

Yes. I'm pretty excited for this. I was talking to one of the organizers just the other day and I'm not a bluegrass guy and it's fine. It's on the background it's cool.

Amy Simmons ([15:00](#)):

It sounds so cool. Yeah.

Dan Hoffman ([15:01](#)):

It does. It does. It's one of those things where like I enjoy it in a live setting or when I'm at an event or something, But it's not like I tune into blue bluegras radio.

Amy Simmons ([15:10](#)):

Seeing it live would be really cool.

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

Yeah. It's fun. And, oh man, if we get good weather, it's gonna be a spectacular event. And I think they're doing like vendors and stuff. Taste a lot of different bourbons, if you're into that thing. So I'm pretty excited. I will be attending this event.

Amy Simmons ([15:28](#)):

Yeah. It sounds like it's gonna be huge cuz it's two days, August 26th and 27th. There's gonna be lots of performances, live bands, but they have two bands that have a long rap sheet of awards and where they've been. And it is really shocking.

Dan Hoffman ([15:43](#)):

If you're into bluegrass, this is gonna be a...

Amy Simmons ([15:45](#)):

It's a big deal.

Dan Hoffman ([15:45](#)):

A thing to go to.

Amy Simmons ([15:46](#)):

The featured bands are Ebony hillbillies and Railroad Earth. Apparently, they are big time in bluegrass. And then there's a lot of lead up bands that are local or from the area. All the main stage performances are free.

Dan Hoffman ([16:01](#)):

Wow.

Amy Simmons ([16:01](#)):

Yeah. So you can just come listen to music and the other activities happening. Of course, we always have local street performers on the mall. We have a cocktail competition. I don't know what that's about yet.

Dan Hoffman ([16:11](#)):

Yes. So what I was told was that a lot of the different restaurants are gonna have like a signature cocktail. And there's some type of award for the best one or whatever. I might have to angle my way into being a judge.

Amy Simmons ([16:24](#)):

<Laugh> The cocktail competition and then there's a jam session. Don't know what that means. Maybe a couple bands or band members will get together and just jam. I don't know. Then, there'll be a lot of specials at restaurants downtown. So it's going to be a big day. Two days. The schedule will be on the Old Town Winchester website. I think they're still lining up where all the bands will be and what times they'll be, but it's probably there by now.

Dan Hoffman ([16:50](#)):

Good.

Amy Simmons ([16:52](#)):

And last but not least, happy early father's day.

Dan Hoffman ([16:54](#)):

Oh, thank you.

Amy Simmons ([16:55](#)):

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To you and to all the fathers out there.

Dan Hoffman ([16:57](#)):

Thank you. Yes. Happy Father's Day to me and all the other dads. All right. Well, that's a bunch of stuff. If you want more information on anything, make sure you check out the website early and often on that. Let's roll into the City Works edition of the program. Please stick around if you wanna learn about how a bill becomes a law.

Amy Simmons ([17:22](#)):

Local government wise.

Dan Hoffman ([17:22](#)):

Local government wise, not Federal government wise. But if not, thanks for spending what time you have with us, and we will see you City Hall.