

Dan Hoffman:

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:

Hello, Dan.

Dan Hoffman:

Fall is in full effect.

Amy Simmons:

It's so pretty.

Dan Hoffman:

It is very pretty.

Amy Simmons:

Everywhere you go, even all the leaves on the ground, they're so pretty.

Dan Hoffman:

Fall in the valley. Leaves on the ground. I like them on the trees, on the ground is a bit problematic. We're doing leaf pickup now, so moving the, I think almost ton of leaves, because I've got a bunch of trees.

Amy Simmons:

You do.

Dan Hoffman:

They're pretty, I just got to remember that while I'm raking them up for hours on end.

Amy Simmons:

And they haven't turned brown and brittle yet on the ground, so they're still decorating everything in color.

Dan Hoffman:

Yeah, sure, whatever. You're clearly not the one that goes out and rakes.

Amy Simmons:

Well, I don't have a lot of big trees either. I have little baby ones, so a little mower can...

Dan Hoffman:

Easy peasy. Just grind them up.

Amy Simmons:

Exactly.

Dan Hoffman:

All right, let's talk about our meeting, which is on Wednesday.

Amy Simmons:

Right, because Election Day.

Dan Hoffman:

So don't show up on Tuesday at 6:00 PM, show up Wednesday at 6:00 PM. Yes. We'll finally have the election behind us, thank God. And we can get back to focusing completely on the business of the city. And on Wednesday, that looks like a pretty full agenda actually.

Amy Simmons:

Okay. What's going on?

Dan Hoffman:

A lot of little things. There is a public hearing related to correcting an error in our code related to polling locations.

Amy Simmons:

Simple.

Dan Hoffman:

It's a simple thing. If you're going to show up and talk about that, then I hope you stick around for something more substantive. We are setting the meeting schedule for next year.

Amy Simmons:

Exciting.

Dan Hoffman:

Yeah, Very exciting. We're doing a mid-year budget adjustment, which we kind of always do, it's a constant thing. Then we've got a couple of land use issues. One of them is the site plan for the townhome development in South Pleasant Valley, the one kind of right across from Jones Funeral Home.

Amy Simmons:

That's been to Council before, right?

Dan Hoffman:

Yeah. So this is just a site plan, folks. And this is not something that if you're going in to speak on this topic and you think you're going to sway it, this has been approved, we're now approving the details of it. Still important to stay involved, but just bear that in mind when you come to Council, if you come to

council to speak on this topic. That's an important lesson too, is if you want to engage, if you want to help shape some of these development projects in your neighborhood, get involved early.

Amy Simmons:

At the committee level.

Dan Hoffman:

Yeah. Get involved at the committee levels. Keep tabs on the planning commission. If you want to try to dramatically change something at second reading in front of Council...

Amy Simmons:

Never going to happen. Well, rarely I guess.

Dan Hoffman:

You are at the 11th hour. So just keep that in mind. Not saying it can't happen, but the best way to influence is early in the process. Let's see, what else we got going on? We also have the Smalt property, for those of you who don't know where the Smalt's property is, because most people would not know, it's right over on National Avenue, kind of by the post office, but a little further to the center of town. There's a Smaltz Flower Shop there that's been closed for years. You got a few derelict houses that are sitting on the property. Very excited to see something happen with the property. And this particular proposal from the developer has already gone through many of the processes. This is a good time for folks to... We're at first reading for it. It's gone through the planning commission. It's gone through PED committee. There's still time to help influence the way this project gets designed, but the clock's ticking, folks.

Amy Simmons:

And there's no votes on first reading. Just a reminder.

Dan Hoffman:

No votes on first reading. Also, and this is a bit of an anomaly, we have three second readings that are not public hearings. We do not need a public hearing if we're amending an ordinance, so keep that in mind. It costs us money to do a public hearing. You can still show up. There's public comment at every meeting. You can still show up, speak about those items during public comment. You're not losing any ability to provide input. It's just there's not the formal step of having a quote unquote public hearing, which-

Amy Simmons:

We have to advertise.

Dan Hoffman:

Yeah, we got to advertise and it costs money. So when we're just amending an ordinance, we still go through the same process, just not with a public hearing. And that's our meeting for Wednesday. Don't forget. We also will have a work session this time. We don't have many work sessions these days because of the committee structure. So we're not staying there until nine, 10 o'clock at night trying to make big decisions. The work session this time, we're going to talk about our legislative priorities. So if

you're interested in finding out what we're going to be advocating for in Richmond this year, tune in or stop by. And we're also going to start the conversation at the full council level about our new PUD bonus structure. Again, that's one where if you're into the topic, this particular work session Wednesday will be creating a minimum for affordable housing with some of these developments that come through. So if affordable housing's something you're interested in, again, tune in or stop by.

Amy Simmons:

And PUD is a planned unit-

Dan Hoffman:

Planned Unit Development. Thank you very much, Amy.

Amy Simmons:

There you go. That acronym, people are like, "What does that mean?"

Dan Hoffman:

What is a PUD? So that's our meeting for Tuesday. What else we got going on? No, our meeting for Wednesday. I almost screwed it up. Wednesday. What do you have going on, Amy?

Amy Simmons:

Okay, so Veteran's Day is later this week on Friday. So our City offices, WinTran routes, Jim Barnett Park Rec Center and courts will be closed on Friday, November 11th. But speaking of courts, they're also closed on Election day, so don't forget that. Trash collection on Friday, November 11th is moved to Wednesday, so it's going to be moved up, which means we have to cancel yard waste collection because we can't do both. So anytime a holiday happens, we usually move it to Wednesday and then we cancel yard waste. All right, so speaking of yard waste, did you know that there was a five bag container or bundle limit during the yard waste collection season?

Dan Hoffman:

Yes. So people, don't put out 30 or 40 bags at once. We can't take them all. We're not trying to take away your freedoms. We're not trying to penalize you for having a lot of trees in your yard. Logistically, it's very difficult for us to get mass amounts from one particular property at once.

Amy Simmons:

And still get to the rest of the city.

Dan Hoffman:

Exactly. And still get to the rest of the city. If you want to space it out a little bit, that's awesome.

Amy Simmons:

It's every Wednesday.

Dan Hoffman:

Every Wednesday, you have the ability to put out five bags every Wednesday. But if you really do have a massive amount of yard clippings and leaves and whatnot that you've collected, consider running out to the dump.

Amy Simmons:

But I have a little caveat to that. During Leaf Collection Season, there is no limit. That I found out yesterday, or the other day.

Dan Hoffman:

But you should really pay attention to when the big vacuum truck is coming by. Because if you don't like packing leaves into bags...

Amy Simmons:

And they have to be biodegradable bags for leaf collection.

Dan Hoffman:

Yeah. Get those paper ones from Lowe's or wherever.

Amy Simmons:

Yes, that is a requirement.

Dan Hoffman:

But if you hate packing them full of leaves, because it's not easy. I know, I hate it, my kids hate it. Rake them all over to the edge of the street and let them suck them up in the big vacuum truck. It's a lot easier.

Amy Simmons:

It's a lot of fun to watch too.

Dan Hoffman:

Save yourself some money.

Amy Simmons:

Yes. So you have two options for leaf collection. You can either push them to the curb and just have the vacuum come by or you have to put them in biodegradable bags. But there is no limit to that. So during Leaf Collection Season, you can put all your yard waste out and there's no limit.

Dan Hoffman:

There you go. See, more freedoms.

Amy Simmons:

More freedoms. And leaf collection, but that's only for a few months because the weather and the leaves stop falling.

Dan Hoffman:

Yeah. At some point, folks, don't just make a massive pile of damp, wet leaves on the side of the road. Look for when we're actually using the vacuum truck. We go through twice a year, right?

Amy Simmons:

All during the same season, but we go twice.

Dan Hoffman:

Yeah, we go twice.

Amy Simmons:

So end of October through usually January is all our season.

Dan Hoffman:

So just remember, we don't do the big vacuum truck every Wednesday. Look for when they're coming through your neighborhood.

Amy Simmons:

And they follow certain areas. So they'll be an area one and two to begin, and then they'll go to three and four most likely, depending on how the leaves fall. So they'll go from area one through seven.

Dan Hoffman:

And weather.

Amy Simmons:

Yeah, and weather. But the Yard Waste Collection Season does end in January. So mid-January, we'll stop that for a couple months because of all the snow, and then we'll pick back up in March. So just be aware of all those dates. They're in the calendar, of course, and on our website.

Dan Hoffman:

Yes. Go to the website.

Amy Simmons:

All right. So public input is needed for the Winchester-Frederick County Metropolitan Planning Organization's draft 2045 Transportation Plan. Did you catch that?

Dan Hoffman:

That was a mouthful.

Amy Simmons:

So the MPO has a draft transportation plan, and they are wanting you to take a look at that and give them feedback. It's available on their website in several locations. We have one here at City Hall and there's another one at the library here in the city, a couple places in the county.

Dan Hoffman:

And it's a regional transportation plan, folks. So if you are living in the county, this also applies to you.

Amy Simmons:

Yep. Winchester-Frederick County.

Dan Hoffman:

Feel free to provide your input about what you think the county should be doing or what the MPO should be focusing on as well. I know there's been a little chatter about maybe extending WinTran out into some areas outside of the city. So if that's something you're interested in, people, make sure you go mention it.

Amy Simmons:

And if you don't want to fill out their online comment forms, I think it's just a box where you just put in your comments on their website, there are two scheduled public input sessions. So that's November 9th and 10th and one in the city, one in the county. Actually, they're both in the city, but they're kind of separated Winchester and County. Go to their website, winfredmpo.org for details.

So Color with a Cop is tomorrow, Election Day, November 8th. Officers will be at Chick-fil-A on Pleasant Valley Road from 8:00 to 9:30 AM, and the Apple Blossom Mall food court from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. Since this Election Day, the kids are out of school, perfect time to bring them, meet some cops, do a little coloring.

Dan Hoffman:

Get some teriyaki chicken. Or a smoothie, isn't there a new smoothie place in the mall?

Amy Simmons:

Yeah. There's new smoothies.

Dan Hoffman:

Of course, there's always Chick-Fil-A. I will give our mall's food court a little credit.

Amy Simmons:

It's not bad.

Dan Hoffman:

It's not bad for a little mall. You're not going to get the kind of stuff a big mall's going to have, but it's not so bad.

Amy Simmons:

Yeah, it's a nice mall. Okay, so come out in color on November 8th. And there are a lot of road closures happening around the city right now. So we have a road closure webpage. I encourage everybody to go to that, check it often. But I also send out a notification whenever we have scheduled road closures. And I've been doing that a lot lately.

Dan Hoffman:

Yeah, because we've got a lot of closures, people.

Amy Simmons:

Yeah, and it's crazy. So check it out. And if you want to sign up for our alerts and have those sent to you via text, email, or phone call, you would have to opt-in to receive those under subscriptions when you're creating an account on our WincVAlerts webpage. But if you go to [winchesterva.gov/roadclosures](http://winchesterva.gov/roadclosures), both links will be there. So the community conversation, our next one is hosted by councilors Mady Rodriguez and Phil Milstead. That will be on Saturday, November 12th at 10:00 AM. They're going to be meeting at the Rec Center in Jim Barnett Park. And the topics they're going to cover is local parks, traffic control and current or future Ward Four projects.

Dan Hoffman:

Cool.

Amy Simmons:

Come on out and have that conversation. Registration is ongoing of course for INSIGHT [Citizen's Academy], that starts in January. [Winchesterva.gov/insight](http://Winchesterva.gov/insight). And our target mailing date for the 2023 calendar, which we start to get a lot of phone calls around this time, is mid-December, if not earlier, because believe it or not, I am ahead of schedule.

Dan Hoffman:

Whoa. What? Be still my heart.

Amy Simmons:

Last year it did not go as planned and we barely got it out before the first of the year. But I am almost done.

Dan Hoffman:

And on time.

Amy Simmons:

Ahead of schedule.

Dan Hoffman:

Well, let's not go crazy.

Amy Simmons:

Things could come up.

Dan Hoffman:

Things can still happen. Yeah, wow. Well, that's just great.

Amy Simmons:



I'm ending my announcements on a high note.

Dan Hoffman:

Exactly. Caitlin, put in some sound effects there. Yeah, put in some cheering sounds.

Amy Simmons:

Celebration cheering sounds. Patting myself on the back.

Dan Hoffman:

Amy's on time.

Amy Simmons:

I am on time and ahead of schedule, hopefully staying there. And we are going to get the calendar out ahead of schedule this year.

Dan Hoffman:

Wonderful.

Amy Simmons:

That's all I got.

Dan Hoffman:

Excellent. Stick around. We're going to talk about kids in jail in a minute.

Amy Simmons:

Don't say it that way.

Dan Hoffman:

Hey, it's sad. You know what? It's the detention center, the Juvenile Detention Center. A lot of misconceptions. It's actually a great place, people.

Amy Simmons:

Yes, they do a wonderful job.

Dan Hoffman:

Great's also not the right word. What word am I looking for? It's a necessary thing that we make the best out of.

Amy Simmons:

Right. We're there to change lives. How about that?

Dan Hoffman:

Yes. Thanks, Amy. Yes. Changing lives 16 days at a time. So yeah, Erin Maloney's coming in to talk about the Juvenile Detention Center. It is an amazing place. I don't mean to joke about the facility or the experience of these minors when they're coming in, but I think for those of you who have a preconceived notion about what happens at the Juvenile Detention Center, I encourage you to take a listen.

Amy Simmons:

It's about to change.

Dan Hoffman:

Yes, it's about to change if it's bad. If you have a good perception, then maybe it's just going to reinforce your existing worldview about the Juvenile Detention Center. You be the judge here, coming up in part two, the City Works portion. And with that, if you're not going to stick around, that's your loss. But otherwise, thanks for listening to this portion, and we'll see you around City Hall.