

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 Amy Simmons, Communications Director.

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

Hello, Dan. How are you today?

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

<Laughs> Hi. That's your official phone voice.

Amy Simmons ([00:18](#)):

It is.

Dan Hoffman ([00:18](#)):

It is. And we're gonna talk about phones today. We're gonna talk about answering the phones. Answering the phones in emergency situations. Specifically the people that answer them, our emergency dispatchers.

Amy Simmons ([00:30](#)):

They are awesome.

Dan Hoffman ([00:31](#)):

Yep. So we're gonna talk to Terri Mellott here in a minute from our Emergency Communication Center, which is the formal name...

Amy Simmons ([00:38](#)):

ECC.

Dan Hoffman ([00:40](#)):

For 911. We're gonna talk to her in just a moment. You're gonna hear an interesting call. We're gonna chat about how it works and give them a little recognition. But before we get into the second part of City Works, let's talk about tomorrow night's Council meeting. All right. So, no public hearings, but you still of course have opportunity for public comment. If you've got something on your mind or you wanna talk about something else that's on the agenda, there is an opportunity. Come use your three minutes. We have a few things on the consent agenda. There is a pretty large development application that we're gonna have first reading for.

Amy Simmons ([01:23](#)):

Where is that?

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

It is on Valley Avenue. If you are just south of Jubal Early, you're heading down Valley past Jubal Early, and then...

Amy Simmons ([01:34](#)):

You mean, coming from downtown, then you go past Jubal Early?

Dan Hoffman ([01:36](#)):

Yeah. So let's say you're heading away from downtown, down Valley Avenue, it's on the right. It's the big Virginia Apple Storage property,. Oh, well, you guys also might know it as the Elms, the old motel there that's been right vacant for quite some time. It's actually pretty big property. There's a pretty large, pretty exciting development that's been proposed for there. They're gonna restore and reuse the apple storage building and replace some of the old blight that is there. So that's gonna come for first reading tomorrow night. We are making a small change to the rules for our Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. One thing that I think everyone should be excited about, but if you don't live in the city, you should also be pretty excited about. We are passing an ordinance so that residents who receive Winchester water from the City of Winchester outside the city limits will pay the same as people inside the city limits. We have pretty significant number of folks get water from us.

Amy Simmons ([02:48](#)):

Right. That don't live in the city.

Dan Hoffman ([02:50](#)):

Yeah. That don't live in the city, and historically they've paid a bit of a surcharge because of that. We're changing that because of an agreement with the county. Well, I should say Frederick Water. There's an agreement that'll make sure they pay the same rates as City residents. So that's a nice change. And then that's about it for the regular meeting. I think the main event tomorrow night is really on the Work Session. The City Council will get its first presentation of the Winchester Public Schools budget. For those of you who aren't aware, Winchester Public Schools is overseen by the school board and the superintendent. They have finished their budget process. They have approved a budget. They did that on March 28th, but that budget has to be funded by City Council. Now, schools also receive a significant amount of money from the State and some Federal money too, but they can't operate without City residents also contributing, of course. Tomorrow you'll hear a presentation from the superintendent and the school board chair walking through their request for this year. Encourage you to...

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

Tune in.

Dan Hoffman ([04:05](#)):

Tune in attend, say your peace. No budget actions are taken. It's more a discussion/presentation. Although, City Council might give direction to myself to make changes to our current draft budget based on what they hear. It's a big part of your tax dollars, so make sure you attend and participate.

Amy Simmons ([04:26](#)):

If you wanna tune in, because it's in Council Chambers, it will be on the TV channel live, Comcast channel six, and then, it also, of course, be running live on our agenda portal.

Dan Hoffman ([04:37](#)):

Correct. All righty. So that's tomorrow night. What do you got, Amy?

Amy Simmons (04:42):

I got a few things. All four of our City-owned museums have reopened for the season. They open April through October every year.

Dan Hoffman (04:50):

Name them, Amy.

Amy Simmons (04:51):

I can name them. Can you name them?

Dan Hoffman (04:52):

I can now.

Amy Simmons (04:54):

Cause we've done this how many times now? <Laughs>

Dan Hoffman (04:56):

Now, I'm testing you. What are they?

Amy Simmons (04:57):

They are Abram's Delight and the little log cabin next to it. That is Winchester's oldest home. Hollingsworth Mill, which is right next to Abram's Delight, next to Wilkins Lake. George Washington's Office museum on Cork Street. And also Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters, which is on Braddock.

Dan Hoffman (05:13):

Ah, very good. I could have done that, too. You're just gonna have to take my word for it.

Amy Simmons (05:17):

<Laughs> I have tested you three times now.

Dan Hoffman (05:18):

And Abram's Delight, everybody, is a place. It is not some type of candy.

Amy Simmons (05:24):

It's a beautiful home.

Dan Hoffman (05:25):

It's a beautiful home. Evidently it delighted somebody named Abrams back in the day. Tim Youmans, don't get mad. I don't know who Abrams is, but I'll look it up.

Amy Simmons (05:33):

Yes. It is all a beautiful area. You can do the visitors center, Abrams Delight, the log cabin, and Hollingsworth Mill, which also has some kind of historic exhibit inside. All right there. And then you can

go downtown, walk the Mall, go to Stonewall Jackson's and George Washington's and just make a day of it. So, Winchester Police Department's Kids and Cops Camp is accepting applications for high school and college interns. That's just to be like a camp counselor, get some good experience there. We're no longer accepting applications for the kids to participate in Kids and Cops because they fill up ASAP and that deadline has passed. But go to the Winchester Police Department's website under "Get Involved", and you can find details about the camp there, along with the intern form. The Treasurer is currently selling 2022 dog tags. And we use those for, of course...

Dan Hoffman ([06:28](#)):

Now, these are tags for your dog. Not like dog tags that you wear. These are tags for your dog.

Amy Simmons ([06:35](#)):

True. In case your dog get lost. Thank you for that clarification. And it gets picked up, then we'll know where to return it. Or whoever else finds it.

Dan Hoffman ([06:44](#)):

Yep. And the money from that, I know some people...

Amy Simmons ([06:48](#)):

Not real happy.

Dan Hoffman ([06:48](#)):

Not real happy, and we hear it every year. We've been doing this for...

Amy Simmons ([06:56](#)):

Ever.

Dan Hoffman ([06:56](#)):

Forever. The money from it goes to help fund animal control. It goes to help fund the dog park. We use that money to create amenities for the pups in our city. I know you might see it as a tax or a fee that's unnecessary, but hey, if you care about animals, get your dog tag. And some people complain that there aren't cat tags.

Amy Simmons ([07:24](#)):

<Laughs> Cats can come back. They usually do.

Dan Hoffman ([07:26](#)):

Yeah. Cats normally come back and you know, if you're a cat person, no offense.

Amy Simmons ([07:33](#)):

<Whispers> I'm a cap person.

Dan Hoffman ([07:33](#)):

You're a cat person. Amy's a cat person. I'm a dog person. You know, if you want to give us 10 bucks because you got a cat have at it.

Amy Simmons ([07:45](#)):

A nice donation. Thank you.

Dan Hoffman ([07:46](#)):

Yeah, we'll take the \$10. Go give \$10. The SPCA, if you really want a cat tag.

Amy Simmons ([07:50](#)):

It could be to the dog park.

Dan Hoffman ([07:53](#)):

Yeah, that's true. And if you're a dog person and you don't like that cats don't have tags or you think that's unfair, well, you have the benefit of knowing you're a dog person. And the dogs are better.

Amy Simmons ([08:06](#)):

Your dog would most likely come back to you with that dog tag. Okay. So, it's only for dogs four months and up. So if you have a baby, you won't need to do it until the four months, but the Treasurer only sells them between April 1st, or actually the month April because they have to be on your dog by May 1st. Yeah. I don't know how it works if you get a puppy after that. I'm not sure.

Dan Hoffman ([08:29](#)):

When we moved here, I think there's basically a grace period.

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

You just have to get it by the next April.

Dan Hoffman ([08:36](#)):

Yeah. You have to get it by next April. But if you have any questions, contact the Treasurer's office.

Amy Simmons ([08:41](#)):

Absolutely. They're in the Creamery Building. The Jim Barnett Park Rec Center will be closed on April 17th for Easter. It's a Sunday, so everybody else is already closed. The Departments of Social Services in Winchester, Clarke, Frederick, and Shenandoah Counties, they want to reconnect with the local child care centers. It's not just the child centers that are already established. It's the ones that also have child care services in their homes or somebody who is looking to do that. Cause we need more of those. They want to reconnect with those people and provide information about becoming a subsidy provider. They're doing three sessions on April 26th and 27th either in person or virtual. We're asking people to sign up. There's a coalition that's putting this together and there's a form. You can find that on our website under "Latest News" if you want more information. That is coming up soon. And then last but not least, the Winchester Regional Airport will be hosting a Valor 5K and Kids mile on Saturday, April 23rd at 8:00 AM. They are raising money for the Frederick County Sheriff's Office. That should be a fun event out there and they have an online registration form if you're interested. That is it.

This transcript was exported on Apr 11, 2022 - view latest version [here](#).

Dan Hoffman ([09:49](#)):

All righty. Well, let's jump into Part II today. We're talking about emergency communications and our 911 dispatchers. So let's bring in Ms. Terri Mellott.

Amy Simmons ([10:00](#)):

Awesome.