# DAMASCUS TOWN COUNCIL

# Minutes for June 5, 2023

# 7:00pm Regular Called Council Meeting

Council Members Present: Susan Coleman, Charles Fields, Tom Hayes, Jesse Kokotek, and

Jack McCrady

Absent: Beaty Jackson

Also Present: Katie Lamb, Mayor Gavin Blevins, Town Manager

Tuesday Pope, Town Clerk Trent Crewe, Legal Counsel Kermit Turner, Police Chief Shawna Cook, Town Treasurer

7:00pm: Mayor Lamb called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance; Ms. Coleman gave the invocation.

Mayor Lamb asked for approval of the May 1, 2023, Regular Called Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

- Mr. McCrady made a motion to approve the May 1<sup>st</sup> Minutes as presented. Mr. Kokotek 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, which passed (5-0).

Mayor Lamb asked for approval of the agenda, as presented.

- Mr. McCrady made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Coleman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, which passed (5-0).
- 1. Mayor Lamb opened a Public Hearing regarding the proposed 2023-24 Fiscal Year Budget Synopsis, as follows:

TOWN OF DAMASCUS BUDGET SUMMARY

| REVENUE   | BUDGET         | BUDGET         |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Sources   | 2022-2023      | 2023-2024      |
| Lodging Tax   | \$95,000.00    | \$95,000.00    |
| Meals Tax   | \$190,000.00   | \$190,000.00   |
| Real Property Tax                                   | \$232,000.00   | \$225,000.00   |
| Personal Property/License Fees/State Car Tax Refund | \$42,000.00    | \$46,255.00    |
| Other Taxes   | \$215,201.00   | 240,400.00     |
| Trail Days  | \$80,000.00    | \$70,000.00    |
| Downtown Revitalization/Trail Center Grants         | \$45,246.00    | \$0.00         |
| Reserves  | \$328,000.00   | \$374,426.88   |
| Miscellaneous Revenues                              | \$156,942.00   | \$198,466.00   |
| American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)                     | \$802,076.00   | \$662,911.61   |
| DHCD Housing Project Grant                          | \$764,350.00   | \$447,294.11   |
| TOTAL   | \$2,950,815.00 | \$2,549,733.60 |
| EXPENDITURES  | BUDGET         | BUDGET         |
| Activity  | 2022-2023      | 2023-2024      |
| Administration                                      | \$410,340.00   | \$418,435.02   |
| Downtown Revitalization/Trail Center Grants         | \$0.00         | \$0.00         |
| Police  | \$331,866.00   | \$345,333.93   |
| Fire & Rescue                                       | \$26,000.00    | \$26,000.00    |
| Public Works  | \$341,385.00   | \$377,732.30   |
| Parks & Recreation                                  | \$223,068.00   | \$223,176.63   |
| Pool  | \$51,730.00    | \$48,850.00    |
| American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)                     | \$802,076.00   | \$662,911.61   |
| DHCD Housing Project Grant                          | \$764,350.00   | \$447,294.11   |
| TOTAL   | \$2,950,815.00 | \$2,549,733.60 |

Mayor Lamb opened the floor for Public Comments.

There were no Public Comments to be heard.

Mayor Lamb closed the Public Hearing.

- 2. Set date for Special Called Council Meeting for 2023-24 Budget Adoption after discussion, the consensus of the Council was to schedule the Special Called Council Meeting for Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm.
- 3. 2021-22 Fiscal Year Audit Report, Owens CPA & Associates Todd Owens presented the findings of the Town's 2021-22 audit, stating that it was a clean, no findings audit, with no major changes, and the cash position was better than it had been before due to covid relief funds being received. He stated that the staff does a great job making sure the Town's finances are in order.

# **Committee Reports**

# Budget, Finance, and Administration:

Town Treasurer, Shawna Cook, submitted the following report for the previous month:

Real Estate & Personal Property Taxes: The collection rate for 2023 Real Estate taxes is at 39.01%, 2022 Real Estate collection rate is at 94.75% and the collection rate for 2022 Personal Property is at 82.54%.

Meals & Lodging Tax: \$10,740.64 in Meal Taxes and \$12,541.45 in Lodging Taxes were collected for May 2023.





| Town of Damascus    |                 |             |                |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Virginia Investment |                 |             |                |
| Pool (VIP)          | Account Balance | FYTD Income | Inception Date |
| RESERVE FUND        | \$55,923.81     | \$1,910.44  | 08/11/2017     |
| EARMARK POLICE      |                 |             |                |
| VEHICLE             | \$15,824.37     | \$540.62    | 04/04/2018     |
| SEWER FUND CD       | \$27,185.38     | \$928.76    | 11/26/2018     |
| ANTHEM RECOVERY     | \$45,435.06     | \$1,552.15  | 12/21/2018     |
| ADDITIONAL WORKING  |                 |             |                |
| CAPITAL             | \$1,778.21      | \$60.77     | 08/08/2019     |
| TRAIL DAYS RESERVE  | \$7,709.64      | \$263.41    | 05/14/2020     |
| TOD ARPA 2021       | \$664,421.50    | \$24,762.96 | 06/29/2021     |
| VIP Stable NAV      |                 |             |                |
| Liquidity Pool      | \$818,277.97    | \$30,019.11 |                |

### Announcements:

- 2023 first half real estate taxes are due June 20, 2023.

Mr. McCrady stated that the Treasurer and Clerk have had a nightmare dealing with the financial software conversion due to the data being corrupted, etc.

Mr. Blevins asked for prior authorization to pay, if needed and up to, another \$3,300 to the software company to do a 2<sup>nd</sup> conversion attempt.

 Mr. McCrady made a motion to authorize payment, up to \$3,300, if necessary, for a second attempt at a conversion of our data to the new system. Ms. Coleman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, which passed (5-0).

# Streets, Lights and Maintenance:

Mr. McCrady reported the department has been busy with Trail Days, installing signage, brush pick-up, etc. He is looking for a bucket truck because the one the department has is in bad shape and needs repair. Also, he received a quote from Halls Heating & Air to fix the bridge light and repair the receptacles on the gazebo in Town Park. The quote includes a \$250 charge to install a 50amp outlet, which has been requested by the church band that plays music for the 'Fire by Night' events in the park. Mr. McCrady said he has no problem moving forward with the repairs, as well as the addition of the 50amp outlet as requested, if the churches using it will pitch in to pay for the additional \$250 cost.

### Parks and Recreation:

Ms. Coleman reported on the following:

Town Park - The men's bathrooms are locked due to ongoing problems with fixtures breaking, leaking, and being vandalized; floor tiles coming up from the leaks; and people relieving themselves on the floors, walls, etc, causing them to be disgusting and unsanitary. This is now happening in the women's as well.

Pool - The water clarity is really good. Still trying to work out the chlorinator, but optimistic. Opening weekend was a bust because of the weather. We have good lifeguard coverage and awesome management. They did a night swim Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> and had 60 people, and they would like to do this every week. The (pool) bathrooms are in the best condition since at least 2019.

### Other:

I have stepped down from the Trail Days Chair - Beaty Jackson has agreed to assume this responsibility.

I have stepped down from The Beautification Committee; there are no volunteers and no one to replace me.

I have let go of The Dog Park Development Committee responsibility because it is now up and running, and Robbie Kemmerlin is overseeing it.

Mayor Lamb asked for a motion to reorganize the Parks & Recreation/Trail Days Committee, keeping Ms. Coleman as a member of the committee, but making Mr. Jackson the Chair.

• Mr. Kokotek made a motion to name Mr. Jackson as Chair of the Parks and Recreation/Trail Days Committee, as suggested. Mr. McCrady 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, which passed (5-0).

Christmas Tree Market Decision for 2023 – after discussion, it was the consensus of the Council not to have a Christmas tree sales lot this year.

Mayor Lamb stated that we had an amazing Trail Days festival this year, and thanked all the volunteers, the Police Dept., Chief Turner, Fire Dept., and Rescue Squad. Huge thank you to the staff, for all their hard work to make it happen. She commented that herself, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. McCrady stepped up to help out Ms. Pope and Ms. Kroll where needed, and that it should be a requirement for all Council members to participate in helping with the event, unless they are sick or physically unable to.

# **Planning Commission:**

Nothing at this time.

# Police and Fire Advisory:

Chief Turner added to the Mayor's comments, saying that Ms. Pope and Ms. Kroll worked very hard and very diligently, and pulled off Trail Days really well. He then presented the following report for the month of May:

#### **Operations:**

May 2023, Damascus Officers had 151 calls for service. We have taken 21 investigative reports and made 7 arrests. We had 3 reportable accidents.

Arrest are as follows: Simple Assault 2, Shoplift 2, DUI 2 and Intoxicated in Public 1.

-We had one Trail Days related arrest.

### **Traffic Enforcement Activities:**

We issued 14 citations along with 6 warnings.

### Speeding complaint areas include:

S Shady Ave & Rambo St

### Special Report:

Trail Days: we completed our annual event and I have the statistics below. We made 1 arrest during the event, we had multiple parking complaints (to many to count), we had 2 different animals left in vehicles, we had 3 EMS calls, we had 1 noise complaint (playground in park). The parade went very well, and I want to thank Robert Hagen for his help with lining up the hikers while I lined the others up. I believe this was the largest parade that I have seen in my time with the Police Department. I would like to say a big thank you to Washington County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, Damascus Auxiliary Officers and all the volunteers that helped with this event.

### **Special Notes:**

We held our (living with black bears) meeting with the Virginia DWR (Department of Wildlife Resources) on Tuesday May 23, 2023, at 5pm at the Rock School Auditorium. We had roughly 15-18 citizens that came to the meeting. I do believe that the meeting was very informational, and it answered several questions for just about everyone that attended.

<u>Police Vehicles:</u> With this budget year coming to an end, we have budgeted to purchase a new vehicle. I have a quote for the vehicle. I will also need a purchase order for the dealership to reserve the vehicle when it comes in. The dealership is Sheehy Ford in Richmond.

- This vehicle will cost \$39,488 and will be replacing the 2013 Ford Explorer that is currently in service. Chief Turner asked for Council authorization for the Town Manager to write a letter of intent to purchase this vehicle to Sheehy Ford.
  - Mr. Hayes made a motion to authorize the purchase of this vehicle from Sheehy Ford. Ms. Coleman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, which passed (5-0).

### Auxiliary: Nothing new currently.

- Mayor Lamb reported that she had been approached by very concerned citizens about traffic speeding on Rambo St. causing pets to get killed, making it dangerous for residents to get in/out of their vehicles parked street side, etc., and they have asked that speed bumps be installed to provide safety for all who live up there.
  - Chief Turner responded that Rambo is a 25mph VDOT street and they would have to approve speed bumps, lower the speed limit, etc., and that he would contact them with these concerns.

# Incident Case Status Totals by Offense

Damascus Police Department (05/01/2023 - 05/31/2023)

| Offense:  | Active: | Active<br>TOT O/A: | Inactive: | Inactive<br>WOF: | Closed<br>Service: | Closed<br>Except.: | Closed<br>Arrest: | Adult<br>Arrest: | Juvenile<br>Arrest: | Adu./Juv.<br>Arrest: | Unfnd.: | Rpted.: | Actual: |
|---|---------|--------------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 13B - Simple Assault                              | 0       | 0                  | 0         | 0                | 0                  | 0                  | 2                 | 2                | 0                   | 0                    | 0       | 2       | 2       |
| 18.2-479.1 - Resisting Arrest                     | 0       | 0                  | 0         | 0                | 0                  | 0                  | 1                 | 1                | 0                   | 0                    | 0       | 1       | 1       |
| 23C - Shoplifting                                 | 3       | 0                  | 0         | 0                | 0                  | 0                  | 3                 | 3                | 0                   | 0                    | 0       | 6       | 6       |
| 290 - Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of<br>Property | 2       | 0                  | 2         | 0                | 0                  | 0                  | 0                 | 0                | 0                   | 0                    | 0       | 4       | 4       |
| 35A - Drug/Narcotic Violations                    | 0       | 0                  | 0         | 0                | 0                  | 0                  | 1                 | 1                | 0                   | 0                    | 0       | 1       | 1       |
| 90C - Disorderly Conduct                          | 0       | 0                  | 0         | 0                | 0                  | 0                  | 1                 | 1                | 0                   | 0                    | 0       | 1       | 1       |
| 90D - Driving Under the Influence                 | 0       | 0                  | 0         | 0                | 0                  | 0                  | 2                 | 0                | 0                   | 0                    | 0       | 2       | 2       |
| 90E - Drunkenness                                 | 0       | 0                  | 0         | 0                | 0                  | 0                  | 1                 | 1                | 0                   | 0                    | 0       | 1       | 1       |
| 90I - Runaway                                     | 0       | 0                  | 0         | 0                | 0                  | 1                  | 0                 | 0                | 1                   | 0                    | 0       | 1       | 1       |
| 90Z - All Other Offenses                          | 0       | 0                  | 1         | 0                | 1                  | 0                  | 0                 | 1                | 0                   | 0                    | 0       | 2       | 2       |
| Totals:   | 5       | 0                  | 3         | 0                | 1                  | - 1                | 11                | 10               | 1                   | 0                    | 0       | 21      | 21      |

### Citation Totals by Charge

Damascus Police Department (05/01/2023 - 05/31/2023)

| Charge:   |        | Number of Charges: |
|---|--------|--------------------|
| 46.2-1158 - EXPIRED STATE STATE INSPECTION                |        | 1                  |
| 46.2-301 - REVOKED/SUSPENDED                              |        | 2                  |
| 46.2-613 - Expired thirty day tag / Improper Registration |        | 1                  |
| 46.2-646 - EXPIRED REGISTRATION                           |        | 2                  |
| 46.2-707 - DRIVING WITHOUT INSURANCE                      |        | 1                  |
| 46.2-711 - Improper registration                          |        | 1                  |
| 46.2-874 - SPEEDING 25 MPH ZONE                           |        | 4                  |
| 46.2-875 - SPEEDING 35 MPH ZONE                           |        | 2                  |
|   | Total: | 14                 |

# **Accidents Successfully Exported To TREDS**

Damascus Police Department (05/01/2023 - 05/31/2023)

| Submission Date:   | Accident Number: | TREDS Number: | Resubmission? |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 05/22/2023 - 17:10 | 23-00005         | 231425329     | No            |
| 05/20/2023 - 18:39 | 23-00004         | 231405214     | No            |
| 05/16/2023 - 13:44 | 23-00003         | 231365205     | No            |

Total Successful Exports: 3

Total Accidents Successfully Exported: 3

# Arrest Race/Sex Totals by Offense

Damascus Police Department (05/01/2023 - 05/31/2023)

| Primary Offense:                  |         | White Male: | Black<br>Male: | Indian<br>Male: | Asian/<br>Pac. Isl.<br>Male: | White Female: | Black<br>Female: | Indian<br>Female: | Asian/<br>Pac. Isl.<br>Female: | Juven.: | Adult: | Resd.: | NonRes.: | Arrests: |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|----------|----------|
| 13B - Simple Assault              |         | 2           | 0              | 0               | 0                            | 0             | 0                | 0                 | 0                              | 0       | 2      | 1      | 1        | 2        |
| 23C - Shoplifting                 |         | 1           | 0              | 0               | 0                            | 1             | 0                | 0                 | 0                              | 0       | 2      | 2      | 0        | 2        |
| 90D - Driving Under the Influence |         | 2           | 0              | 0               | 0                            | 0             | 0                | 0                 | 0                              | 0       | 2      | 0      | 2        | 2        |
| 90E - Drunkenness                 |         | 1           | 0              | 0               | 0                            | 0             | 0                | 0                 | 0                              | 0       | 1      | 0      | 1        | 1        |
|                                   | Totale: |             | 0              |                 | 0                            | -             | 0                | 0                 | 0                              | 0       | 7      | 3      |          |          |

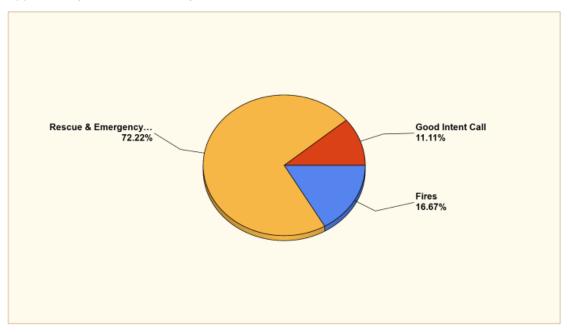
# **Damascus Volunteer Fire Department**

Chief Turner presented the following report for the previous month's activities:

# Damascus Fire Department Damascus, VA This report was generated on 6/1/2023 1:04:22 PM

Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): All Zones | Start Date: 05/01/2023 | End Date: 05/31/2023



| MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE                | # INCIDENTS | % of TOTAL |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Fires                              | 3           | 16.67%     |
| Rescue & Emergency Medical Service | 13          | 72.22%     |
| Good Intent Call                   | 2           | 11.11%     |
| TOTAL                              | 18          | 100%       |

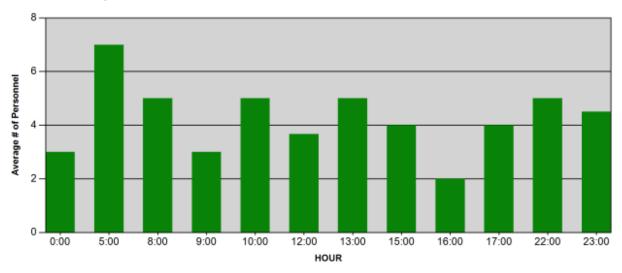
| Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type            |             |            |  |  |  |  |
|--|-------------|------------|--|--|--|--|
| INCIDENT TYPE                                  | # INCIDENTS | % of TOTAL |  |  |  |  |
| 131 - Passenger vehicle fire                   | 1           | 5.56%      |  |  |  |  |
| 141 - Forest, woods or wildland fire           | 1           | 5.56%      |  |  |  |  |
| 151 - Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire     | 1           | 5.56%      |  |  |  |  |
| 311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew          | 6           | 33.33%     |  |  |  |  |
| 322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries     | 1           | 5.56%      |  |  |  |  |
| 324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries. | 5           | 27.78%     |  |  |  |  |
| 360 - Water & ice-related rescue, other        | 1           | 5.56%      |  |  |  |  |
| 611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route          | 2           | 11.11%     |  |  |  |  |
| TOTAL INCIDENTS:                               | 18          | 100%       |  |  |  |  |

### Personnel Hours for Incidents for Date Range (Not Payroll Related)

Start Date: 05/01/2023 | End Date: 05/31/2023

| PERSONNEL         | TIME SPENT ON INCIDENTS (Hours:Minutes Dispatched to Cleared Scene) |
|-------------------|---|
| Campbell, Candace | 20:29   |
| Campbell, Dalton  | 4:24  |
| Campbell, Wendy   | 10:53   |
| Faust, Hunter     | 0:41  |
| Hand, Herman      | 1:20  |
| Johnson, Michael  | 15:35   |
| Jones, Andrew     | 5:08  |
| Jones, Dave       | 4:25  |
| Justice, Jason    | 0:43  |
| Minton, Jared     | 1:32  |
| Phipps, Michael   | 2:43  |
| Richey, Jordan    | 1:32  |
| Turner, Kermit    | 15:04   |
| Turner, Walter B  | 16:46   |
| Widener, Alex     | 18:14   |
| Total:            | 119:28  |

# Average Number of Responding Personnel per Hour for Date Range Start Date: 05/01/2023 | End Date: 05/31/2023



| HOUR          | AVG. # PERSONNEL |
|---------------|------------------|
| 00:00 - 00:59 | 3.00             |
| 05:00 - 05:59 | 7.00             |
| 08:00 - 08:59 | 5.00             |
| 09:00 - 09:59 | 3.00             |
| 10:00 - 10:59 | 5.00             |
| 12:00 - 12:59 | 3.67             |
| 13:00 - 13:59 | 5.00             |
| 15:00 - 15:59 | 4.00             |
| 16:00 - 16:59 | 2.00             |
| 17:00 - 17:59 | 4.00             |
| 22:00 - 22:59 | 5.00             |
| 23:00 - 23:59 | 4.50             |

Zone(s): All Zones | Start Date: 05/01/2023 | End Date: 05/31/2023

| INCIDENT COUNT |                              |                               |                                  |  |  |  |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| INCIDEN        | IT TYPE                      | # INCIDENTS                   |                                  |  |  |  |
| EN             | IS                           |                               | 13                               |  |  |  |
| FIF            | RE                           |                               | 5                                |  |  |  |
| тот            |                              |                               | 18                               |  |  |  |
|                | TOTAL TRANSPO                | ORTS (N2 and N3)              |                                  |  |  |  |
| APPARATUS      | # of APPARATUS<br>TRANSPORTS | # of PATIENT TRANSPORT        | S TOTAL # of PATIENT<br>CONTACTS |  |  |  |
| TOTAL          |                              |                               |                                  |  |  |  |
| PRE-INCIDE     | NT VALUE                     | LC                            | SSES                             |  |  |  |
| \$0.           | 00                           |                               | 0.00                             |  |  |  |
|                | CO CH                        | IECKS                         |                                  |  |  |  |
| тот            | AL                           |                               |                                  |  |  |  |
|                | MUTUAL AID                   |                               |                                  |  |  |  |
| Aid 1          | Гуре                         | Total                         |                                  |  |  |  |
|                | OVERLAPP                     | ING CALLS                     |                                  |  |  |  |
| # OVERL        | APPING                       | % OVERLAPPING                 |                                  |  |  |  |
| 3              |                              | 16.67                         |                                  |  |  |  |
| LIGH'          | TS AND SIREN - AVERAGE RE    | SPONSE TIME (Dispatch to      | Arrival)                         |  |  |  |
| Station        | EN                           | AS                            | FIRE                             |  |  |  |
| Station 1400   | 0:13                         | 3:49                          | 0:13:51                          |  |  |  |
|                | AVERA                        | GE FOR ALL CALLS              | 0:13:55                          |  |  |  |
| LIGH           | TS AND SIREN - AVERAGE TU    | RNOUT TIME (Dispatch to E     | nroute)                          |  |  |  |
| Station        | EN                           | MS                            | FIRE                             |  |  |  |
| Station 1400   | 0:05                         | 5:22                          | 0:05:21                          |  |  |  |
|                | AVERA                        | AGE FOR ALL CALLS 0:05:03     |                                  |  |  |  |
| AGE            | NCY                          | AVERAGE TIME ON SCENE (MM:SS) |                                  |  |  |  |
| Damascus Fire  | e Department                 | 83:57                         |                                  |  |  |  |

### Response Percentage per Station per Personnel for Incident Types for Personnel

Personnel: All Personnel | Incident Type(s): All Incident Types | Start Date: 05/01/2023 | End Date: 05/31/2023

| Personnel                                | Calls Attended | % of Calls for<br>Selected Incident Types |
|--|----------------|---|
| Station: Station 1400                    |                |   |
| Campbell, Candace                        | 17             | 94.4%                                     |
| Campbell, Dalton                         | 6              | 33.3%                                     |
| Campbell, Wendy                          | 8              | 44.4%                                     |
| Faust, Hunter                            | 1              | 5.6%                                      |
| Hand, Herman                             | 4              | 22.2%                                     |
| Hicks, Emilee                            | 2              | 11.1%                                     |
| Hicks, Noah                              | 2              | 11.1%                                     |
| Johnson, Michael                         | 16             | 88.9%                                     |
| Jones, Andrew                            | 1              | 5.6%                                      |
| Jones, Dave                              | 7              | 38.9%                                     |
| Justice, Jason                           | 3              | 16.7%                                     |
| Minton, Jared                            | 3              | 16.7%                                     |
| Phipps, Michael                          | 3              | 16.7%                                     |
| Richey, Jordan                           | 6              | 33.3%                                     |
| Turner, Kermit                           | 10             | 55.6%                                     |
| Turner, Walter B                         | 12             | 66.7%                                     |
| Widener, Alex                            | 16             | 88.9%                                     |
| Widener, Anthony                         | 2              | 11.1%                                     |
| Total Incidents for Station Station 1400 | 18             |   |

**Total Incidents for all Stations** 

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# **Special Committees**

# **Citizens Comments**

Dede Goodwin, Whitetop VA, expressed her interest in buying lots 7 and 9 (30ft wide x 100ft long) of Daniels Dr. from the Town for personal use and to clean it up and eliminate the foot traffic going through that area.

Tracy Belcher, Rambo St., commented on the speeding issue on Rambo St., previously mentioned by the Mayor.

Nora Reynolds, S. Shady Ave. and Tina Hand, Intermont St., spoke about the Michelle Trivette case and how it needs to be taken seriously and looked into further because the family wants answers.

# Manager's Report

Mr. Blevins submitted the following report for the previous month:

### TOWN OF DAMASCUS MANAGER'S REPORT

June 05, 2023

### Downtown + Laurel Creek Park & Trail

The restrooms are in operation now.

Next steps: picnic tables, murals for side walls, banners on lamp posts, storage room organization

### TRRC - Trail Center

I've requested the remaining funds for the project to finish the training center.

### Scattered Site Housing Rehab Project

Two substantial reconstructions are underway with the structure enclosed.

We should get under contract for another substantial reconstruction and another rehabilitation later this month.

#### Creeper Trail

Engineering documents are still being prepared for replacement of trestles 30 and 31 - we will bid out the project in the later summer/early fall with construction through winter 2023.

### Waterway Park

General updates:

- Richard Smith is organizing weekly volunteer work sessions beginning this week, and Public Works will keep the area bush hogged and remove small hazard trees.
- General preparation of site will continue through June brush clearing, raking, seeding grass.
- Funded by a grant from Make-A-Wish (\$10,000) and the Forest Sustainability Fund (portion of \$13,915)

### Approval needed:

- Estimate for clearing from Mountain View Land Management LLC \$2,500
- Quote for picnic tables (qty 3; \$3,313.77, half of total)

### Miscellaneous

I'm still working on a draft update to the Town's floodplain ordinance and related language for the zoning ordinance, including a few other updates.

I'm still working on updating our policies for park use related to events and rental and creating a remote meeting policy.

The Beaverdam Creek Trail phase 3 project is complete, as well as the replacement tread work for the Creeper Trail between trestles 16 and 17 (totaled \$52,700 from VTC ARPA) – this still has some landscaping components to be added in the fall.

We're continuing to upgrade our network infrastructure throughout town and systematically replacing older equipment.

We will be assisting the Washington County library to finish installing their Story Walk in the area between the library and the Beaverdam Creek Bridge – 18 of 20 pedestals have been set.

Thanks to Julie, we were awarded \$20,000 for VTC for a 2023 Destination Marketing Organization grant.

We received a 2023 VTC grant award of \$19,290.00 MLP for Fish Blue Ridge / Blue Ridge Highlands Fishing Trail collaboration with partners in Smyth County, Abingdon, Grayson County, and Wytheville.

- Damascus provided \$2,000 cash match to be included as a regional partner in print brochure, website, and advertising.
- It was the consensus of the Council to table approval of the new 'waterway' park expenses until the June 13<sup>th</sup> Special Called meeting, at which time a more detailed project explanation can be given.

# **Legal Matters**

Nothing at this time, but will include Recess into Closed Session for Discussion and Consideration of Public Works Personnel Matters, per VA Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) on the June 13<sup>th</sup> Special Called Council Meeting agenda.

# **Old Business**

Nothing at this time.

# **New Business**

United Healthcare Employee Life Insurance Renewal – Provided by the Town to full time employees. Rates for 2023-24 have not increased.

• Mr. McCrady made a motion to approve the renewal, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Coleman. The motion passed (5-0).

# Consent Agenda

- Ms. Coleman made a motion to pay the bills for invoices exceeding \$2,500, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. McCrady. The motion passed (5-0).
- Mr. McCrady made a motion to pay the bills presented as well as the standard and/or recurring bills that will come in before the next Council meeting. Ms. Coleman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, which passed (5-0).

# **Mayor & Council Members Reports**

Mayor Lamb reported on the following:

Need to find a way to address the drainage problem at the thrift store.
 Mr. McCrady stated that the Town can raise the sidewalk there to an appropriate height that will carry the water away, and the building owner can raise their doors accordingly. He also commented that the new sidewalk berms were put in as a part of a VDOT ADA grant, and not contracted out by the Town.

Mr. McCrady made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to put out a request for bids for a sidewalk raising project at the Thrift Shop location, along N. Shady Ave.

Mayor Lamb said that when the drainage issues were being discussed previously, she had contacted Delegate O'Quinn's office and they got in contact with VDOT to have those repaired, so perhaps they could help again with getting this location addressed. She will also mention to them the concerns that citizens have about overgrown trees blocking sightlines at the Government Rd. intersection of Hwy. 58.

2. A citizen has suggested the Town put in a splash pad, and others have suggested pickle ball courts.

- 3. Thank you to Chief Turner for getting the 'Bear Aware' informational session lined up and scheduled at the Rock School Auditorium, which provided valuable information to the public.
- 4. Someone has contacted her wanting the Town to purchase the traildays.gov website address, and he will work on it on the Town's behalf for free.
- 5. Thanks again to Tuesday and Julie and everybody involved in Trail Days for all your hard work.

Ms. Coleman stated that the Appalachian Trail part that comes through the Town Park has been re-graded and looks amazing.

Mr. Fields brought up the letter the Volunteer Life Saving Crew got from the Town, and asked if that was something the Council voted on.

Mayor Lamb stated that the request from the Rescue Squad for payment for their services during Trail Days was discussed and denied during the budget workshops. The Rescue Squad decided in a board meeting that they wanted to go ahead and accommodate the Town by providing their services during Trail Days at no charge to the Town just in case the need for their services would arise.

Mr. Hayes stated this year's Trail Days festival was the biggest he's ever seen.

Mr. Kokotek stated that we have a new cell phone tower going up on 58, so hopefully that will take care of the no cell service zone through there.

Warrior Expeditions is a group of Veterans hiking the Appalachian Trail to 'walk off the war' and using that experience in nature to heal, that came through town just before Trail Days and several local businesses, including Southern Threads, Junkin Shenanigans, and Mojo's, pitched in to help them out, so a big thank you to them.

Also, happy pride month!

Mr. McCrady stated that the issues that people are having at the Rock School should be taken to People Incorporated and brought to their attention for remedy.

Also, the Life Saving Crew has received two letters, one from Mr. Blevins and one from Ms. Coleman, both of which were very respectful. Their request for payment for services during Trail Days was denied because the Town has never had to pay for the Rescue Squad, the Fire Dept, or the outside Police agencies that are available during Trail Days, except for last year when the Town received a bill from the Rescue Squad after the event.

# **Announcements**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Damascus Farmers Market open every Saturday 9am-noon
- \* June 3<sup>rd</sup> Dam Yeti 50 Miler/55k

- June 4th One Way Ministries' 'Fire By Night' event in Town Park
- Town Hall will be CLOSED on June 19<sup>th</sup>, in recognition of Juneteenth
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> Trail Town Twirl Contra Dance at the Rock School Auditorium
- June 25<sup>th</sup> Gospel Singing in Town Park with Faith Baptist Church
- \* July 3<sup>rd</sup> Damascus Independence Day Celebration
- \* Town Hall will be CLOSED on July 4th, in Observance of Independence Day
- \* The July Council Meeting will be held on July 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

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|                           | go to damascus.org,                | mascus.org and check out th<br>and don't forget our social me |       |
| Mr. McCrady made a motion | to adjourn, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Mr. | Hayes. The motion passed (5                                   | 5-0). |
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| Katie Lamb, Mayor         |                                    | Tuesday Pope, Clerk   |       |