

2023 State of the Town Address

2022 turned into a year of incredible activity. After a time of pandemic, 2022 became the year that people were ready to get back to their normal activities and start new projects. Whether it was new home builds, such as the three homes by Habitat on North Main, or new businesses, such as Hickey on South Main, this was a year of plentiful activity. In the downtown, people were excited to see new businesses start, such as Bonfire, and some of our long term favorites, like Hill House, reinvest in their businesses.

In the Police Department, the Town purchased a new Police car for our Police Chief and saw the addition of a special new Officer- Canine Officer Skye. Officer Rose and Skye were stars during their training, and have already been effective in finding illegal drugs, which would have otherwise been unfound. The Police Department has worked as a team to bring together the community in a variety of events, including the First Responders Parade, the Trunk or Treat, and the biggest Toy Drive ever. Finally, when faced with issues of community concern such as parking, loud vehicles, or loitering in parking lots, they always sought first to work with and inform citizens, increasing the positive community spirit and proactive policing.

On the Utilities side, the Town was able to acquire a backhoe for Maintenance through grant funds at no additional cost to the Town. This is an equipment purchase that has been on the Town's list for several years, and acquiring it without expense was a real benefit to the Town. The Town's project list continued, with the award of the bid for the mostly grant funded generator at the Waugh's Ferry pump station and the near completion of that project. The Water Treatment Plant renovation is proceeding well and staff has worked well with the contractors to address issues and ensure that the construction does not interfere with the provision of safe, clean drinking water. On the wastewater side, the centrifuge is on order for the sludge dewaterer and that project, including the awarded construction bid and the equipment has been awarded under the Town's budget from the federally granted ARPA funds.

The Council also took action on several items to improve the Town. The Industrial Development Authority became an Economic Development Authority. The Zoning Ordinance has been recodified, allowing our complete Code to be available on-line for citizens and customers. A new water and sewer agreement has been made with Sweet Briar College, allowing for predictability and stability for both entities. And, the Council accepted the right of way for Lynchburg Road from the County, allowing VDOT to plan for the completion of that road.

2022 has been a productive and positive year, and we are looking forward to 2023 being even better in our wonderful town.