

The regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal, Virginia was held on May 26, 2020, via WebEx. Public comments were received via email by Clerk of Council Tina L. Presley by 4:00pm on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. All comments received were forwarded to Town Council before the meeting.

ROLL CALL for MAYOR/TOWN COUNCIL

PRESENT (via WebEx): Mayor Eugene R. Tewalt
Vice Mayor William A. Sealock
Councilman Lori A. Cockrell
Councilman Gary L. Gillispie
Councilman Chris W. Holloway
Councilman Jacob L. Meza
Councilman Letasha T. Thompson
Town Attorney Douglas W. Napier
Interim Town Manager Matthew A. Tederick
Clerk of Council Tina L. Presley

(The above represent municipal officers of the Town of Front Royal as stated in Town Charter Section 4)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Holloway moved, seconded by Councilman Meza to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2020, as presented

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, Meza and Thompson

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – N/A

ROLL CALL

REPORTS

a. Report of special committees or Town Officials and Interim Town Manager

Interim Town Manager Tederick voiced appreciation to William Huck of Family Fun Day, Inc., for assisting the Town and Main Street businesses this past weekend. He noted that he did an extraordinary job. He advised that some of the restaurants ran out of food. Mr. Tederick asked those businesses that did not participate or who are outside the Main Street area to contact his office if they need assistance on creative ways to make their business available to the public during this time of crisis.

Mr. Tederick advised that he was preparing for the Governor's latest order that may require citizens to wear masks. He also gave the statistics of how the virus has affected Warren County.

The Mayor and Town Council all agreed that the weekend event was a great success with "shout outs" to Mr. Huck for a job well done. They questioned whether it would continue. Mr.

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Tederick advised that he would begin the process of planning to continue this upcoming weekend.

b. Requests and inquiries of Council members - None

c. Report of the Mayor – Mayor Tewalt announced that Councilmen Gillispie and Thompson would announce the 2020 Town Scholarship winners. Mr. Gillispie thanked the taxpayers and the anonymous donor for their generosity for allowing three seniors from the Town of Front Royal to receive \$500.00 each for their continuing education. He continued by reading the process of the scholarship application and how the winners were chosen. Councilman Thompson announced the winners 1) Kara Athey; 2) Callista Mayberry and 3) Andrew Thompson.

Mayor Tewalt thanked Malcolm Barr for organizing the Memorial Day Ceremony that included the Dogs of War. He gave credit to all veterans for our freedom.

d. Proposals for addition/deletion of items to the Agenda – None

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – NONE

PUBLIC HEARING – Ordinance Amendment to Town Code Section 158-6 Pertaining to Adoption by Reference of the State Motor Vehicular Laws (*1st Reading*)

Clerk of Council Presley read the summary: Council is requested to affirm on its first reading and ordinance to amend and re-enact Town code Section 158-6 pertaining by Reference of the State Motor Vehicular Laws, as presented. The Town must re-adopt Section 158-6 of the Town code, which legally allows the Town to incorporate all the changes to the State code traffic laws that have been made during the year.

Mayor Tewalt opened the public hearing. Clerk of Council Presley advised that there were no comments received for this public hearing. Mayor Tewalt closed the public hearing.

Councilman Thompson moved seconded by Councilman Holloway that Council affirm on its first reading and ordinance to amend and re-enact Town code Section 158-6 pertaining by Reference of the State Motor Vehicular Laws, as presented.

There were not comments from Council.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, Meza and Thompson

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – N/A

ROLL CALL

Mayor Initial 

PUBLIC HEARING – Ordinance Amendment to Town Code Chapter 12 and Chapter 175-137 Regarding Fees (*1st Reading*)

Clerk of Council Presley was not asked to read the summary. Mayor Tewalt opened the public hearing. Clerk of Council Presley advised that there were no comments received for this public hearing. Mayor Tewalt closed the public hearing.

Councilman Meza moved seconded by Councilman Thompson that Council affirm on its first reading an ordinance to amend the Town Code Chapter 12 (FEES) and Chapter 175-137 (FEES, CHARGES AND EXPENSES) as presented.

There were not comments from Council.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, Meza and Thompson

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – N/A

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC HEARING – Ordinance Amendment to Town Code Chapter 134 Pertaining to Water and Sewer Rates (*1st Reading*)

Clerk of Council Presley was not asked to read the summary. Mayor Tewalt turned the meeting over to Vice Mayor Sealock. Mr. Sealock opened the public hearing.

Mayor Tewalt, speaking as a citizen, questioned lowering the water and sewer taps and voiced concern that the citizens would be charged at a later time to make up the difference.

Clerk of Council Presley advised that there were no comments received for this public hearing. Vice Mayor Sealock closed the public hearing and returned the meeting back to Mayor Tewalt.

Councilman Meza moved seconded by Councilman Holloway that Council affirm on its first reading an ordinance amendment to Town Code Chapter 134 pertaining to the increase of sewer service rates and the decrease of system development charges for both sanitary sewer service and water service, as presented.

Councilman Meza suggested that Council follow through with the consultant's study (Stantec) and follow their recommendation. He questioned how Stantec arrived at the rates shown in the ordinance. Andrew Burnham of Stantec attended the WebEx meeting and explained how the rates were derived. Mr. Tederick clarified that under the new ordinance the Town will not pay labor and materials.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, Meza and Thompson

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – N/A

ROLL CALL

Mayor Initial 

PUBLIC HEARING – FY20-21 Annual Appropriation Ordinance (1st Reading)

Clerk of Council Presley read the summary: Council is requested to affirm on its first reading the Town's Annual Appropriation Ordinance for the FY2020-2021 Budget effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, as proposed.

Mayor Tewalt opened the public hearing. Mrs. Presley read the following two comments into the minutes.

GOOD EVENING MAYOR TEWALT , MEMBERS OF COUNCIL AND STAFF
MY NAME IS BETTY SHOWERS AND I LIVE AT 11 EAST 18TH ST FRONT ROYAL, VA
THE PROPOSED BUDGET RAISES QUESTIONS THAT I FEEL AS A CITIZEN DESERVES
ANSWERS. SOME QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED IN THE PAST. COUNCIL HAS YET TO
RESPOND TO THE CITIZENS. WE PROVIDE THE MONEY FOR YOU TO SPEND,
THEREFORE, EXPECT FULL TRANSPARENCY. I AM RAISING THE QUESTIONS AGAIN:
1. THE REVENUE PAGE HAS MANY INCREASES YET IN AN EARLIER WORK SESSION
YOUR DISCUSSION INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE A DOWNTURN IN MANY
REVENUE ITEMS. WHY IS THERE AN UPTICK IN EXPECTED FUNDING?
2. WHY IS THERE A \$10,000 INCREASE FOR TOWN COUNCIL PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES?
3. UNDER THE TOWN MANAGER, WHO HAS USE OF A TOWN CAR. THERE IS NO
MONEY LISTED FOR MAINTANCE. WHY?
4. UNDER REVENUE, THE RENT FOR THE ADELPHIA BLDG IS \$12,045 FOR 2021. IT
SHOULD BE COMCAST WHO WILL NO LONGER HAVE A SPACE IN FRONT ROYAL
AFTER JUNE. WHY IS THAT MONEY SHOWN FOR SOMETHING THAT WON'T EXIST?
5. WITHOUT A TOWN ENGINEER, THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BUDGET SAYS
\$50,000. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE SPENDING A LOT MORE.
6. UNDER TOURISM, YOU HAVE LISTED BLIGHTED BLDGS AND TROLLEY SERVICE OF
\$93,860. THESE ARE NOT TOURISM BUDGET ITEMS. THEY NEED TO BE PLACED MORE
ACCURATELY.
7. FOR POLICING EXPENSES, WHY WAS THE REQUEST FOR 4 PATROLMEN AND 4
VEHICLES TURNED DOWN ????
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. I AS A CITIZEN LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR RESPONSES.

I am Linda Allen, 15 Massie St., Front Royal, VA.

Good Evening Mayor Tewalt, members of Town Council, and staff.

I have asked questions about the proposed 2021 budget before without hearing any answers. Some of the questions will be repeated below with hopes that the next meeting, a work session, you will provide those answers.

1. UNDER PLANNING, WHAT IS THE \$40,000 LISTED FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO BE SPENT ON?
2. WHY UNDER PLANNING IS THERE NO FUNDING FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN? IT IS REQUIRED BY VA LAW EVERY 5 YEARS.
3. WITH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, THE EXPENSE IS DOWN BY \$5,000. WHAT CHANGES CAUSED A REDUCTION OF THESE CITIZEN BOARDS?
4. UNDER HORTICULTURE, WAS A HORTICULTURIST HIRED? ALSO, YOU HAVE INCREASED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY \$20,000. FOR WHAT REASON?

Mayor Initial



5. UNDER COMMUNITY DEVELOPEMENT, THERE IS A LINE OF POLICE - FACILITY WITH THE EXPENSE BEING LISTED AS \$515,000. WITH A LAWSUIT AGAINST EDA AND THE TOWN'S REFUSAL TO PAY THE INTEREST OR PRINCIPAL FOR THE POLICE STATION, IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT THIS MONEY WILL BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE. WHAT EXACTLY ARE THESE FUNDS BEING USED FOR?

Thank you for your consideration. I hope to hear your responses at the next meeting.

Mayor Tewalt closed the public hearing.

Councilman Meza moved seconded by Councilman Gillispie that Council affirm on its first reading the Town's Annual Appropriation Ordinance for the FY2020-2021 Budget effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, as proposed.

Councilman Meza asked that staff respond to the questions raised by the two previous citizens. He voiced concern over the revenue shortfalls and was assured that staff was monitoring it closely. He voiced appreciation to the Interim Town Manager and staff for a job well done on the budget.

Vice Mayor echoed Mr. Meza's appreciation for staff's hard work. He reminded Council that staff not only worked on revising the current budget during the pandemic crisis but made sure there was a FY2020-2021 budget in place for approval. He also reminded Council of the Contingency Plan.

Councilman Cockrell reiterated that the questions from the citizens be answered.

Councilman Gillispie thanked staff for their hard work. He suggested a "close eye" on the shortfalls and to make adjustments when needed.

Mayor Tewalt thanked Mr. Tederick and staff for their hard work.

Interim Town Manager advised Council that the questions the citizens raised tonight would be answered within the next few days. He also thanked staff for all their hard work on the budget. He thanked Vice Mayor Sealock for the Contingency Plan since it was his idea.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, and Meza

No – Councilman Thompson

Abstain – N/A

Absent – N/A

ROLL CALL

Councilmen Meza and Cockrell moved to adjourn.
The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:54pm

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APPROVED:


Eugene R. Tewalt, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tina L. Presley Clerk of Council

Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by ^{Councilman} Meza approved the Regular Council Meeting minutes of May 26, 2020 on June 8, 2020.

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