The regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal, Virginia was held on June 22, 2020, in the Warren County Government Center with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Thompson and a Moment of Silence led by the Vice Mayor

ROLL CALL for MAYOR/TOWN COUNCIL

PRESENT:	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
ABSENT:	Mayor Eugene R. Tewalt

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Meza moved, seconded by Councilman Thompson to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2020 and Work Session Minutes of June 1, 8, 15 and 16, 2020, as presented

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, Meza and Thompson
No – N/A
Abstain – N/A
Absent – N/A

ROLL CALL

RECEIPT OF PETITIONS AND/OR CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC

Paul Aldrich, 256 Orchard Street, presented to the Chief of Police on behalf of the Town of Front Royal and the Warren County Second Amendment Commission, a Certificate of Appreciation for him and his officers for keeping the Town safe and working with the Commission.

Ed Irre, 705 Woodlawn Avenue, expressed appreciation to several Town employees on various incidents that occurred within the past year. They included: 1) the water and sewer maintenance crews who were called out to his neighborhood on two separate occasions to fix a water break in the middle of the night and stayed with the repair until it was completed and that everyone in the neighborhood had water pressure again; 2) the electric crew who replaced a telephone pole in the middle of the night due to a vehicle accident and his electricity was restored by morning; 3) the yard waste collection crew who took the time to place the lids to his cans under the cans so they wouldn't blow away on a very windy day; and 4) the police officer that was courteous when he pulled him over for a traffic violation. He concluded that the Town of Front Royal is impressive and the people who work for the Town are impressive.

Linda Allen, 15 Massie Street, agreed with Mr. Irre. She also opined that false statements were made to the public by Council and/or Interim Town Manager regarding the EDA not helping the Town in the last 15 years. She gave a brief overview of all the projects the EDA has participated in within the Town.

Bruce Rappaport, 300 W Main Street, voiced concern over the need of two EDAs, especially since the former "players" were gone and the current director's capability of handling the EDA moving forward. Mr. Rappaport noted that Front Royal was recently being compared to Sedona, Arizona and Asheville, North Carolina and cautioned against the comparison as it was not realistic.

Samuel Porter and Stevi Hubbard, 216 Fletcher Street, members of Front Royal Unites, recognized the Chief of Police an "awesome person" for helping him and others organize another peaceful march last weekend. He reminded Council of his group's mission to "build bridges and not burn them" and voiced appreciation to Town Staff for going "above and beyond". Ms. Hubbard voiced her positive experience working with Mr. Tederick and the Chief of Police and look forward to working with them in the future.

REPORTS

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

Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission's (NSVRC) Executive Director Brandon Davis gave a brief explanation of the function of the NSVRC and one of their current focuses – Recycling. He advised that a Regional Commission Feasibility Study was conducted that included various localities who were facing challenges with recycling efforts. He noted that the private sector has shifted somewhat recognizing the need for a Solid Waste Regional Technical Committee that will focus on the private sector and role of government in areas of recycling.

Mr. Tederick thanked Mr. Irre for his kind words and true recognition of Town employees, noting that the Water and Sewer Maintenance Crew had been short staffed during COVID-19 but have stepped up to the plate. He voiced appreciation to Supervisor Tony Rogers and Director Robbie Boyer on how they run their departments.

Mr. Tederick thanked Mr. Porter and Ms. Hubbard of Front Royal Unites for their comments and noted they have great ideas for improvements in our community. He also noted that Front Royal Unites has done everything they said they would do and look forward to working with them in the future.

Mr. Tederick advised that utility disconnects and credit card fees would be reinstated on July 1, 2020. He briefed Council on a timeline of when the disconnects began and how Staff is placing notice of reinstatement through various forms of media. He suggested that any customer needing help paying a bill to contact the Finance Department. Vice Mayor Sealock reiterated that staff is working closely with customers.

b. Requests and inquiries of Council members

Councilman Meza addressed Ms. Allen's comments about false statements made by Council. He reflected on the Town's relationship with the EDA and why there is a lack of trust. He agreed with Mr. Rappaport that the current EDA Executive Director Doug Parsons is an asset and one that he was looking forward to working with. He voiced disappointment that Council "continues

to be villainized for being guarded about their next steps when the past was not caused by Council but caused by lack of oversight of the EDA and the embezzlement of funds unchecked by many different departments – not Town Council."

Councilman Cockrell thanked Mr. Irre for his comments regarding the Town employees and taking the time to attend the meeting tonight to advise Council of his appreciation.

c. Report of the Mayor – Absent

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

Matt advised Council that 7A had the wrong name listed on the vendor spread sheet but was correct in the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS –

COUNCIL APPROVAL – Bid for Cable for Leach Run Parkway
Council approved the award of a bid to WESCO for brand name Okonite cable for the Leach Run Parkway in the amount of $58,176.00 to continue installation for the New Warren Memorial Hospital to John Marshall Highway and to provide a redundant loop in the event of an emergency.

COUNCIL REFER TO PLANNING COMMISSION – Blighted Buildings on Non-Conforming Lots
Council approved to refer to the Planning Commission a review of Town Code Chapter 175 that would allow blighted buildings on non-conforming lots to rebuild in all zoning districts of Town.

COUNCIL APPROVAL – Contract for On-Call Civil Engineering
Council approved the award of a contract for on-call civil engineering services to be awarded to RK&K, as presented.

COUNCIL APPROINTMENT – Award for Asphalt Repairs
Council approved the award to General Excavations in the amount of $29,157.50 for the completion of asphalt repairs at the intersection of Rt 522 North and Fairgrounds Road after a major water break.

Councilman Meza moved seconded by Councilman Thompson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, Meza and Thompson
No – N/A
Abstain – N/A
Absent – N/A
ROLL CALL

COUNCIL APPROVAL – An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 16 – Industrial Development Authority *(1st Reading)*

Clerk of Council Presley read the summary: Council is requested to affirm on its first reading an ordinance to amend and re-enact Town Code Chapter 16 – Industrial Development Authority. If approved during the second reading a Front Royal Economic Development Authority will be established.

Vice Mayor Sealock opened the public hearing

Linda Allen suggested that the Town and County work together and save money, noting that cooperation is needed to succeed. She reminded Council that Town citizens are County citizens.

Bruce Rappaport opined that he did not see the Town having its own EDA. He suggested that Council work collaboratively with the County and EDA rather than "reconstruct the wheel".

Vice Mayor Sealock closed the Public Hearing,

Councilman Gillispie moved seconded by Councilman Meza that Council affirm on its first reading an ordinance to amend and re-enact Town Code Chapter 16 – Industrial Development Authority, as presented.

Councilman Meza thanked Ms. Allen and Mr. Rappaport for expressing their views. He gave a brief "history" of the Town and former EDA's relationship. He reminded the public that the Town is currently in a lawsuit with the EDA which makes it difficult to have a relationship; and forming its own EDA can be an avenue until everything is settled. He also mentioned that with the overseeing of the CARES Act funding, businesses would benefit with a Front Royal EDA assisting with distribution.

Councilman Cockrell expressed hope for a positive relationship with the County. She noted that the item tonight is an opportunity for the Town to establish its own EDA and that is doesn't mean that it would exist forever. She shared some of the same concerns spoken tonight and remained hopeful and optimistic that the Town and County could work together in the future

Councilman Thompson voice concern of writing a "blank check" since a director would require a 6-figure salary with administrative support. She advised that she had not heard from any citizens that support a Town EDA and that the Chamber of Commerce will be assisting with the CARES Act funding.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway and Meza
No – Councilman Thompson
Abstain – N/A
Absent – N/A
ROLL CALL

COUNCIIL APPROVAL – Re-solicit Purchase of Chemicals for Water/Wastewater Plants

Clerk of Council Presley read the summary: On June 8, 2020 Council approved the award of a bid to purchase various water and wastewater treatment chemicals. Since that time the Purchasing Department has determined an error in the bidding process. Council is requested to approve re-soliciting the purchase of these chemicals saving the Town over $60,000.

Councilman Meza moved seconded by Councilman Holloway that Council approve re-soliciting the purchase of chemicals for the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Councilman Cockrell thanked Alisa Scott Purchasing Officer and BJ Wilson Finance Director for saving the Town money.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, Meza and Thompson
No – N/A
Abstain – N/A
Absent – N/A
ROLL CALL

COUNCIIL APPROVAL – Resolution of Appreciation for William "Willie" Huck

Clerk of Council Presley read the summary: Council is requested to consider approval of a Resolution of Appreciation to William "Willie" Huck for his dedication, hard work and volunteerism during "Downtown Rebound", as presented.

Councilman Thompson moved seconded by Councilman Meza that Council approve a Resolution of Appreciation to William "Willie" Huck for his dedication, hard work and volunteerism during "Downtown Rebound", as presented.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, Meza and Thompson
No – N/A
Abstain – N/A
Absent – N/A
ROLL CALL

Clerk of Council Presley read the following resolution before Vice Mayor Sealock presented Mr. Huck with the framed Resolution.

WHEREAS, *the Front Royal Town Council and Town Staff has seen a significant need to assist businesses in the Town of Front Royal since March 23, 2020 when Governor Northam's Executive Order 53 was executed affecting upon all businesses in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and,*
WHEREAS*, on May 8, the Governor's Order 61 eased the restrictions on certain businesses to reopen with restrictions; and,*
WHEREAS*, identifying the need to serve the community, Town Staff and Council agreed to allow businessman Mr. William "Willie" Huck owner of Family Fun Day, Inc. and C & C Frozen Treats volunteer to help the*

Town organize an event (Downtown Rebound) that would allow restaurants and other businesses to move their business onto the street to improve customer attendance and stay within the Governor's Orders, and,
***WHEREAS**, Mr. Huck took on the responsibility of setting up chairs, tables, tents and numerous other services for his fellow businessmen in the Downtown Area of Front Royal without hesitation for three weekends in a row; and,*
***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Mayor on behalf of the Front Royal Town Council recognize and appreciate William "Willie" Huck for all his dedication, hard work and volunteerism to make sure "Downtown Rebound" was a complete success for our community and businesses.*

COUNCIL APPROVAL – Joint Tourism Option Between County and Town

Clerk of Council Presley read the summary: In 2017, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was adopted between the Town of Front Royal and the County of Warren for a Front Royal/Warren County Joint Tourism Advisory Committee to advise, assist, support and advocate for tourism policies, programs, and activities to market and promote Front Royal and Warren County. This Committee was to serve as the "local tourism industry organization" referred to in State Code Section 58.1-3819, as amended. On May 19, 2020, the Joint Tourism Advisory Committee met and presented "Tourism Research & Steps to Move Forward" that included four options for the entities to choose from. The County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, June 16, 2020 and voted to move forward with Option #3A, a fully contracted out joint Tourism Program with the Town of Front Royal. Council is requested to consider approval of Option #3A of the Front Royal/Warren County Joint Tourism Advisory Committee's Proposal, as presented.

Councilman Gillispie moved seconded by Councilman Thompson that Council approve moving forward with Option#3A, a fully contracted out Joint Tourism Program with the County of Warren, as presented in the Proposal of May 19, 2020.

Councilman Thompson explained that her and Councilman Gillispie served on the Committee and that her understanding was to approve Option #3A with the intent to move to Option #3B once it was possible.

Councilman Meza thanked Councilmen Thompson and Gillispie for working with the County on this Committee, pointing out this was an excellent example of the two entities collaborating together on initiatives that impact both the Town and the County.

Councilman Gillispie thanked Board of Supervisors Oates and Cullers for working with the him and Councilman Thompson on the Committee. He reiterated that they were starting with Option #3A and then moving to Option #3B.

Vice Mayor Sealock confirmed that there was $50,000 budgeted for tourism advertising.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, Meza and Thompson
No – N/A
Abstain – N/A
Absent – N/A
ROLL CALL

CLOSED MEETING – Personnel and EDA Lawsuit

Councilman Cockrell moved seconded by Councilman Meza that Town Council go into Closed Meeting for the following reasons:

(1) To discuss and consider the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance and salaries of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the Town, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 1. of the Code of Virginia.

(2) To consultation with legal counsel and staff members regarding actual litigation concerning the Town's ongoing lawsuit against the EDA, where such consultation or briefing in Open Meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of Town Council; ; pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 7. of the Code of Virginia.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, Meza and Thompson
No – N/A
Abstain – N/A
Absent – N/A
ROLL CALL

The Mayor adjourned this portion of the meeting at 8:01pm.

Motion to Certify Closed Meeting at its Conclusion *[At the conclusion of the Closed Meeting, immediately re-convene in open meeting and take a roll call vote on the following:]*

Councilman Meza moved seconded by Councilman Thompson that the Mayor and Council certify that to the best of each member's knowledge, as recognized by each Mayor and Council member's affirmative vote, that only such public business matters lawfully exempted from Open Meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the Closed Meeting by the Mayor and Council, and that the vote of each individual member of the Mayor and Council be taken by roll call and recorded and included in the minutes of the meeting of Town Council.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, Meza and Thompson
No – N/A
Abstain – N/A
Absent – Mayor Tewalt
ROLL CALL

Signatures following page

APPROVED:

Eugene R. Tewalt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tina L. Presley Clerk of Council

Councilman Gillispie *moved, seconded by* Vice Mayor Seabock *approved the Regular Council Meeting minutes of June 22, 2020 on* July 13, 2020.