



TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 16, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

Town Hall Conference Room

ROLL CALL for MAYOR/TOWN COUNCIL

PRESENT:

- 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
- Interim Town Manager Matthew A. Tederick
- Town Attorney Douglas W. Napier
- Deputy Clerk of Council Mary E. Lynn

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

Closed Meeting - Personnel and Bank Loan

Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Councilman Meza, that Town Council go into Closed Meeting for 1) the discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates specific to the Town Manager's Position for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, salaries, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 1. of the Code of Virginia and 2) regarding a potential loan from a bank regarding the Police Department Headquarters all the pursuant to the following Sections of the Code of Virginia, respectively in the following order of the Code: Sections 2.2-3711. A. 29; and 2.2-3711. A. 6; and Section 2.2-3711. A. 8.:

(1) The discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected; (2) The award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, and the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an Open Meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body: And (3) consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, pursuant to of the Code of Virginia.

There was unanimous consensus of Council to go into closed meeting.

Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Councilman Holloway, 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 – Mayor Tewalt, Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, Meza, and Thompson

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – N/A

ROLL CALL

Mayor adjourned the Special Meeting at 7:43 and Council began their Work Session.

Approved by Town Council

Date: January 11, 2021



TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, November 16, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

Town Hall Conference Room

Interim Town Manager Tederick suggested proceeding with agenda item #3. Humane Society Request, first. Council all agreed.

1. **Humane Society Request** – Meghan Bowers, Executive Director of the Humane Society of Warren County explained to Council her plan to open a low-cost spay and neuter clinic. She detailed the Human Society's recent accomplishments, which included reaching a "no-kill" status and increasing their food bank program. She expressed the many benefits of bringing a spay and neuter clinic to the community, noting her goal to raise \$125,000 for the initial start-up costs. She asked Council to consider contributing to her cause.
2. **Review of FY21 Revenues & Contingencies** – Director of Finance, BJ Wilson, presented council with a budget status update. Councilman Meza expressed his preference to move forward with the compensation study and merit increases for town employees.

Mr. Wilson noted a possible utility disconnection ban that was still in the works and had not yet been officially approved by the governor.

3. **Infrastructure Update** – Director of Public Works, Robbie Boyer, gave Council a detailed presentation regarding the many infrastructure improvement projects that were recently completed and currently taking place around Town.
4. **Continued Weekend Closure of Main Street** – Mr. Tederick explained that the weekend closure of Main Street had been previously advertised to continue through November 30th. He added that a citizen had requested the closure continue through the winter.

Councilman Gillispie requested Town Staff put together a proposal for closing Main Street to traffic permanently. Councilman Meza agreed and added that when it had been discussed before there were concerns from citizens, but he would be interested in doing another public opinion poll and seeing some conceptual designs. Councilman Thompson agreed.

Council decided to at least continue the weekend closure of Main Street through December 31st.

5. **Special Use Permit for Non-Conforming Lot on Grand Avenue** – Director of Planning and Community Development, Tim Wilson, explained that all applications to build on non-conforming lots must be approved by Town Council. He presented them with an application for a new construction on Grand Avenue and noted that town staff recommended approval. Council all agreed that, pending approval from the Planning Commission, they would move forward and take it to vote.

6. **Request to Receive Retired Ambulance from Warren County Fire and Rescue** – Captain Ryman presented a request for the Front Royal Police Department to receive a retired ambulance as a donation from the Warren County Fire Department. He explained that it would likely be outfitted by the Police Foundation and used as an all-purpose vehicle. Council saw no issues.

Mayor adjourned the work session at 8:58 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Tewalt, Vice Mayor Sealock, Councilman Cockrell, Councilman Gillispie, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Meza, Councilman Thompson, Interim Town Manager Tederick, Town Attorney Napier, Deputy Clerk of Council Lynn, Director of Finance Wilson, Director of Public Works Boyer, Director of Planning and Community Development Wilson and members of the public and press.

Approved by Town Council

Date: January 11, 2021