



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 25, 2022 @ 7:00PM

Warren County Government Center

The following minutes are a summary of items on the agenda. This meeting may be viewed in its entirety by accessing the video of the same date online via the Town's website at www.frontroyalva.com.

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman McFadden

ROLL CALL PRESENT: Mayor Chris W. Holloway
Vice Mayor Lori A. Cockrell
Councilman Gary L. Gillispie
Councilman Joseph E. McFadden
Councilwoman Amber F. Morris
Councilwoman Letasha T. Thompson

APPOINTED STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Steven W. Hicks (via remote)
Deputy Town Attorney George Sonnett
Clerk of Council Tina L. Presley

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Vice Mayor Cockrell moved, seconded by Councilwoman Thompson that Council approve the minutes of the following meetings of Town Council as presented: Regular Meeting of March 28th; Joint Meetings of April 11th and April 12th; Work Session of April 11th and Special Meetings of April 11th and April 18th, 2022.

Vote: Yes – Vice Mayor Cockrell, Councilmembers, Gillispie, McFadden, Morris, and Thompson

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

ADDITION/DELETION OF ITEMS FROM THE AGENDA – None

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS –

Mayor Holloway and Council recognized R. Wayne Sealock for his 17 years of service on the Board of Zoning Appeals by awarding him a framed resolution.

Mayor Holloway and Council recognized the retirement of Police Corporal Steve Mauck. Chief Magalis also recognized Corporal Mauck and other Police Officers who were awarded various recognitions at the Valor Awards Ceremony held on April 21st. Those officers were: Brandon Pennington, David Fogle, Steve Mauck, and Brian House.

Vice Mayor Cockrell recognized members of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) and members of staff who made the recent Earth Day in Front Royal a success. They include ESAC members: Jim Osborn, Jerome Ray, Justin Proctor and Herschel Finch; and Town Employees: Lizi Lewis, John McDonald, Bob Hintz and Chip Hodges.

PUBLIC HEARING – Annual Appropriation Ordinance for FY2022-2023 Budget

Mayor Holloway opened the public hearing, since no one spoke he closed the public hearing.

Councilwoman Thompson moved seconded by Councilman McFadden that Council approve the Town's Annual Appropriation Ordinance as presented for the FY2022-2023 Budget effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 that includes the FY23 budget revisions discussed during the April 11, 2022 Work Session.

Vote: Yes – Vice Mayor Cockrell, Councilmembers, Gillispie, McFadden, Morris, and Thompson

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC HEARING – An Ordinance to Change the Street Name for a Portion of Edgemont Avenue and All of Scranton Avenue to George Banks Boulevard

Mayor Holloway opened the public hearing. The following speakers spoke:

Mary Bailey, 1337 Edgemont Avenue, advised that she has lived at this address for 48 years and noted it would be an honor to change the street name to George Banks Boulevard.

Stephanie Banks, daughter of George Banks, reminded Council that her father was the first black Town Councilmember and first black Mayor to serve the Town of Front Royal. She noted his many attributes including: loving family man, U.S. Army Veteran serving in Vietnam, love of his country and Front Royal, highly respected, working the polls, active member of Macedonia Church, saxophone player, visitor of the sick and shut-ins during COVID, UPS driver for 25 years and school bus driver for 15 years. She encouraged the Town Council to consider the street name change and thanked everyone for their support.

Anthony “Tony” Fletcher, son of George Banks, reminded Council of Mr. Banks’ citizenship achievements that included: oversight of the Raymond Santmyer’s Youth Center and several ballparks near Bing Crosby Stadium, Downtown Front Royal Revitalization Project, Water Extension Project to the County, and expansion of Northwestern Community Services. He noted that his father used the common sense approach to address Town problems and opportunities. He advised Council that his father ran as an independent for Mayor, using a republican campaign manager and a democratic treasurer using the philosophy that “we can come together to be better, do better and live better together.” He explained that the street name change was not just about the name of the person it was about the citizens of the Town of Front Royal regardless of background to solve common sense problems. He encouraged Council to be a part of his father’s legacy of coming together on purpose.

John Cermak, 75 Patty Track Lane, Front Royal, advised Council that he didn’t know Mr. Banks was Mayor when he met him only that he was kind person who invited him to his home. He noted it would be great to see Mr. Banks’ name on the proposed streets.

Rea Howarth, 1 Lazy Livin' Lane Front Royal, voiced her amazement on what Mr. Banks brought to Front Royal and the love he shared especially with children. While attending his funeral, she was in awe of the young people he touched and helped guide to become good productive citizens. She encouraged Council to honor the great leader he was.

Eric Olson, 1571 Blue Mountain Road Front Royal, advised he has lived there 38 years and has been tuning pianos for 42 years. He noted that Mr. Banks was a leading citizen and felt it would be appropriate for Council to honor him.

Wayne & Joan Brooks, Sr., 1602 Scranton Avenue, noted that he and his family have lived at this address for 42 years being located across the street from Mr. Banks, and considered him an "outstanding neighbor and friend." He advised Council that he had no issues in changing the street name and changing addresses on their personal documents since he stated "street naming was a proud tradition within the country that is reserved for those who make a positive and outstanding contribution to their communities and or country" and he expressed belief that Mr. Banks had done both. He voiced his admiration of the great diversity of those who attended his funeral since Mr. Banks was a person who did not "limit his affiliations." Mr. Brooks noted that Mr. Banks was a "merit-based model of the type of citizen we can all inspire to be." He reiterated that Mr. Banks' legacy to Front Royal is about how "humanity can work together for everyone when we put our differences aside." He respectfully asked the Council to approve the street name change based on the content of Mr. Banks' "character, his model citizenship, his life-time commitment and his many accomplishments". He advised that he would be submitting his comments and a copy of the obituary to Council at a later time.

Rev. Al Woods, 1616 Edgemont Avenue, Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church, advised Council that he purchased his property in 1971 and became good neighbors and fellow Christians with Mr. Banks. He noted that Mr. Banks' leadership inspired people to get involved in community affairs. He concluded by stating that in the future people will see the George Banks Boulevard Street signs and ask the questions "who was this man?" and "why was it named after him?" Front Royal can proudly say the George Banks was a good citizen.

A.D. Carter III, advised Council that George Banks was the reason he ran for Town Council, noting he was a personal friend, easy to talk to and everything he did was from the heart. He urged Council to consider approving the street name change.

Mayor Holloway closed the public hearing.

Councilwoman Thompson moved seconded by Councilwoman Morris that Council approve an ORDINANCE APPROVING THE CHANGE OF STREET NAMES OF SCRANTON AVENUE AND A PORTION OF EDGEMONT AVENUE [1308-1404] TO GEORGE BANKS BOULEVARD as presented. Councilwoman Thompson moved seconded by Councilwoman Morris further that the Mayor, Clerk of Council and Deputy Town Attorney execute the ordinance, record it at the Warren County Courthouse and notify all affected property owners.

Councilman Gillispie explained that after speaking with legal counsel the suggestion of placing a note in the resolution stating that the street name could never be changed was not possible and therefore, he would be voting for the original motion.

Councilwoman Morris advised she grew up on Belmont Avenue and spent a lot of time on Scranton and Edgemont Avenue. She noted that Mr. Banks was a wonderful man with no judgment of people and only love in his heart. She blessed those in the audience for honoring him.

Vice Mayor Cockrell gave “kudos” to Mr. Banks’ children noting the emotional strength it took to say wonderful things about their father. She noted that she met Mr. Banks when he served on Council with her brother. She also reminisced corresponding with him as he transported students from the school she currently works and then becoming her own children’s’ bus driver. She concluded that he was truly a good man and deserved all the kind sentiments shared tonight. She noted she would be supporting the street name change.

Councilwoman Thompson thanked everyone for coming out tonight. She specifically thanked Gene Kilby who he started the petition to get the process of the name change going. She noted that Mr. Banks was very encouraging and genuine; and she was blessed to know him.

Vote: Yes – Vice Mayor Cockrell, Councilmembers, Gillispie, McFadden, Morris, and Thompson

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Mayor Holloway announced, “we now have a George Banks Boulevard.”

There was brief delay of the meeting to allow for the Banks’ family and friends to leave the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (COMMENTS NOT RELATED TO PUBLIC HEARINGS) - None

REPORTS

A. Town Manager Report – moved to later in the minutes due to technical difficulties

B. Town Council Reports –

Vice Mayor Cockrell expressed her excitement of a wonderful Earth Day Celebration and Valor Awards Ceremony that were recently held. Councilwoman Thompson clarified that the trees for Earth Day were already planted and her and Vice Mayor Cockrell threw mulch on top.

C. Mayor Report gave a “shout out” to the Public Works Department who recently saved three fox pups who were stuck in a storm drain.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. Pressure Reducing Valve Vault Purchase

Council approved the purchase of a pre-cast pressure reducing valve vault for Robinhood Lane in the amount of \$32,460.08 from Core & Main, Martinsburg, WV.

B. Pressure Reducing Valve Vault Installation

Council approved a bid for the installation of a new pre-cast pressure reducing valve vault for Robinhood Lane to replace an existing vault in the amount of \$28,556.00 to Bushong Contracting Corp, Woodstock, VA.

C. Dry Barrel Fire Hydrants

Council approved the purchase of dry barrel fire hydrants in the amount of \$31,152.89 from Core & Main, Martinsburg, WV.

D. FY22 Budget Amendment to Accept Local Law Enforcement Block Grant

Council approved a FY22 budget amendment in the amount of \$2,251 to increase FY22 budgeted revenues to receive funds from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program and allocate \$2,251 toward the purchase of less lethal tasers.

E. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Council approved the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as presented.

F. Resolution for Recognition of Service on the Board of Zoning Appeals

Council approved a resolution recognizing R. Wayne Sealock for his service on the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), as presented.

Councilwoman Morris moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Cockrell that Council approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

Vote: Yes – Vice Mayor Cockrell, Councilmembers, Gillispie, McFadden, Morris, and Thompson

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

BUSINESS ITEMSA. Nomination to the Board of Zoning Appeals

Vice Mayor Cockrell moved seconded by Councilman McFadden that Council nominate Andi A. Robinson to the Circuit Court Judge to the Board of Zoning Appeals to a five-year term beginning May 1, 2022.

Vote: Yes – Vice Mayor Cockrell, Councilmembers, Gillispie, McFadden, Morris, and Thompson

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

B. Resolution to Adopt “Shift Differential Policy” for Town Employee Handbook

Councilwoman Thompson moved seconded by Vice Mayor Cockrell that Council approve the “Shift Differential Policy” to the Town’s Employee Handbook, as presented and effective upon passage.

Councilwoman Thompson noted that the policy was making the Town more competitive since others are offering this benefit.

Vote: Yes – Vice Mayor Cockrell, Councilmembers, Gillispie, McFadden, Morris, and Thompson

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

C. Proclamation for National Public Works Week

Councilwoman Morris moved seconded Vice Mayor Cockrell that Council approve a Proclamation proclaiming May 15 – 21, 2022 as Public Works Week in the Town of Front Royal.

Councilwoman Thompson thanked the Public Works Department and expressed appreciation for their service.

Councilwoman Morris noted that the Council's job is to keep the lights on, the water running and the toilets flushing, but noted none of that would happen without the Public Works Department.

Mayor Holloway noted that the Public Works Department is one of the hardest working employees for the Town. He also read the proclamation.

Vote: Yes – Vice Mayor Cockrell, Councilmembers, Gillispie, McFadden, Morris, and Thompson

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

D. Memorandum of Understanding Between the Town of Front Royal, County of Warren, Valley Health Systems and Northern Shenandoah Valley Substance Abuse Coalition to Create a Drug Treatment Court Program

Vice Mayor Cockrell moved seconded by Councilwoman Thompson that Council approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Front Royal, County of Warren, Valley Health System and Northern Shenandoah Valley Substance Abuse Coalition to create a Drug Treatment Court Program as presented and contingent upon the approval of the Town's Annual Appropriation Ordinance for FY2022-2023 Budget and the approval and execution of the MOU by the County of Warren, Valley Health System and the Northern Shenandoah Valley Substance Abuse Coalition. Council is further requested to direct the Town Manager to execute the MOU on behalf of the Town.

Councilman Gillispie thanked his fellow councilmembers for considering the MOU. He noted that the process began two years ago and was another tool to assist with substance abuse.

Councilwoman Thompson thanked Councilman Gillispie for all his hard work. She noted that substance abuse is a community issue, and this project would help individuals and families be a better community.

Vice Mayor Cockrell echoed Councilwoman Thompson's comments, noting it has been a long process with lots of meetings and many stakeholders coming together for a community issue.

Councilwoman Morris expressed her excitement in being a part of the community coming together to address a community issue. She thanked Councilman Gillispie for all his hard work.

Councilman McFadden advised that he had spoken to Police Chief Magalis and was comfortable that the program has had a great success rate in other communities. He thanked Councilman Gillispie and everyone else who worked on the project.

Councilman Gillispie noted that the project was a team effort that involved a lot of people and thanked them for their hard work.

Vote: Yes – Vice Mayor Cockrell, Councilmembers, Gillispie, McFadden, Morris, and Thompson

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Town Manager Report – Mr. Hicks recognized Finance Director BJ Wilson and all Department Heads for working on and creating the FY2022-2023 Budget that started in October 2021 within Council's guidelines. He noted that the Town continues to be recognized for financial achievement that is beyond the basic accounting practices, demonstrating transparency.

Mr. Hicks recognized the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) for their hard work and dedication since their establishment.

CLOSED MEETING

Vice Mayor Cockrell moved seconded by Councilman McFadden that Town Council convene and go into Closed Meeting for

- 1) the discussion, consideration, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body, specific to the Town Council Vacancy and the Town Attorney Position, pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711. A.1 of the Code of Virginia; and,*
- 2) a. consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, specifically, the Warren County Economic Development Authority, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 7. of the Code of Virginia; and b. for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual litigation, specifically Town of Front Royal, Virginia v. Industrial Development Authority, etc., et al., Warren County Circuit Court Case No. CL 19-74, where such consultation or briefing in Open Meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, also pursuant to §2.2-3711.A.7."*

Vote: Yes – Vice Mayor Cockrell, Councilmembers, Gillispie, McFadden, Morris, and Thompson

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Vice Mayor Cockrell moved seconded by Councilwoman Morris that Council certify that to the best of each member's knowledge, as recognized by each 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 Council, and that the vote of each individual member of Council be taken by roll call and recorded and included in the

Vote: Yes – Vice Mayor Cockrell, Councilmembers, Gillispie, McFadden, Morris, and Thompson

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Approved by Town Council

Date: 5/23/22