



TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 9, 2022

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety at <https://www.frontroyalva.com/655/Meetings>

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

ABSENT: Mayor Chris W. Holloway

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

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA (unanimous vote is required)

Vice Mayor Cockrell moved seconded by Councilman Gillispie to add "Resolution to Delay Assessing Penalty/Interest for Personal Property Tax" to the agenda as # 4 of the Special Meeting.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

CLOSED MEETING

Councilman Gillispie moved seconded by Councilwoman Thompson that Council that Town Council convene and go into Closed Meeting for 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, pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711. A.1 of the Code of Virginia.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Councilman Gillispie 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 minutes of the meeting of Town Council.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Appointment of Councilmember

Councilman Gillispie moved seconded by Councilwoman Morris that Council appoint Zachary Jackson to fill the vacancy on Town Council left by former Councilman Scott Lloyd who resigned March 28, 2022. Said term to expire upon the oath of office being administered to the candidate elected at the Special Election in November 2022.

Vice Mayor Cockrell noted there were many applicants who were willing to serve and encouraged the public to run in the next election. Councilwoman Morris noted that the decision was not made lightly.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Resolution to Delay Assessing Penalty/Interest for Personal Property Taxes (Addition to Agenda)

Vice Mayor Cockrell moved seconded by Councilwoman Thompson that Council approve a Resolution to delay assessing the penalty and interest for Town Personal Property Taxes 19 days on June 24, 2022, as presented.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:01pm

Approved by Town Council

Date: 5/23/22



TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

Monday, May 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM - Town Hall Conference Room

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety at <https://www.frontroyalva.com/655/Meetings>

Presentation by American Municipal Power (AMP)

Resolution for Solar Generated Energy Purchases/Execution of 2022 Solar Energy Schedule – Interim Energy Services Director Mary Ellen Lynn introduced Paul Beckhusen of AMP who gave Council a presentation “AMP Solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) Subscription”. The presentation analyzed power supply needs to incorporate a solar resource into the portfolio and replace landfill and Blue Creek Wind Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). He explained the daily position and recommendation along with the solar industry’s challenges. Mr. Beckhusen asked that Council pass a Resolution to approve the form and authorize the execution of the 2022 Energy Schedule with AMP and taking other actions in connection with solar generated energy purchases.

Resolution for Purchase of Power Blocks 2025-2029 – Mrs. Lynn advised Council of another resolution proposed for approval that would replace power blocks for 2025-2029. Town Manager Hicks showed the graph for power blocks that better clarified the energy sources. Mrs. Lynn advised there was no reason to go out on the market since costs are currently locked in and if prices were lowered decisions would be made fairly quickly to purchase. Finance Director Wilson noted that the proposed resolution would prevent Power Costs Adjustment (PCA) increases. There was clarification between purchasing MWh verses rates the Town charges the customer noting there is no increase in customer rates. Mrs. Lynn advised that the resolution for the power blocks purchase would be available by the end of the week.

Council agreed to place both resolutions on the Consent Agenda for May 23rd.

Ordinance Amendment to Section 158-6 of Front Royal Town Code Pertaining to Adoption by Reference of State Laws Governing the Operation of Vehicles – Deputy Town Attorney Sonnett gave a brief overview of the proposed ordinance and why it needed to be updated every year. Council agreed to advertise for a public hearing to be held June 27th.

Items Slated for the Consent Agenda for May 23rd – Mr. Wilson gave a brief overview of the items slated for the consent agenda for the May 23rd council meeting as stated below. Comments are noted.

- Purchase of Bucket Truck for Department of Energy Services
- Engineering for Design of Shenandoah Avenue Streetlights
- Maintenance Agreement for Nutrient Analyzers
 - o Agreement was to keep things up and running
- Septage Receiving Station Mixing System
 - o Had to find money in the budget to purchase
- FY22-23 Budget Amendment Engineering Consultant-Water Tower Antenna for T-Mobile
- Revise Resolution “To Provide Water and Sewer Services to Certain Out of Town Lots”

- Mr. Hicks explained the revision and why it was important. It was noted the word “consider” was also written at the bottom of the resolution and should be revised as well.

~~Resolution to Delay Assessing Penalty/Interest for Personal Property Taxes~~

Was voted on in Special Meeting above so this item was removed from the agenda

Mr. Wilson confirmed that nothing was coming from reserves

Virginia Municipal League (VML) Policy Committee Nominations – After discussion, Council agreed to the following:

- Community & Economic Development – Councilwoman Thompson/Town Manager Steven Hicks
- Finance – Councilman McFadden and Finance Director BJ Wilson
- General Laws – Councilwoman Morris and Deputy Town Attorney George Sonnett
- Human Development & Education – Vice Mayor Cockrell
- Infrastructure (Transportation & Environment/Natural Resources) – Councilman Gillispie & Public Works Director Robbie Boyer

All nominations will be placed on the Consent Agenda for the May 23rd meeting.

Open Discussion – Councilwoman Morris questioned the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and how she believed that the grants benefited downtown not property owners. Robert MacDougal who participated in the CDBG Grant Program and has property on Main Street that he is currently trying to sell, spoke before Council and explained the issue he was having. Mrs. Morris noted that there was a discrepancy in the wording between the Letter of Intent and the Deed of Trust. Council suggested that Council revisit and revise the policy to correct the issues property owners are having when they sell their property. It was also suggested to place this item under Business Items on the May 23rd Agenda.

Mr. Hicks advised that Taylor Clatterbuck has been appointed as the student representative on the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC). He also noted that the Prospect Bridge bid came in extremely high and therefore will be put back out to bid.

CLOSED MEETING

Councilwoman Thompson moved seconded by Councilwoman Morris that Council convene and go into Closed Meeting for the following: 1) discussion, consideration, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body specific to Town Manager’s Evaluation, pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711. A.1 of the Code of Virginia and 2) consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual litigation, specifically Jennifer Berry Brown v. Town of Front Royal where such consultation or briefing in Open Meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, also pursuant to Virginia Code §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

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 Gillispie moved seconded by Councilman McFadden 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 minutes of the meeting of Town Council.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Adjourn

PRESENT: Vice Mayor Cockrell, Councilmembers Gillispie, Lloyd, McFadden, Morris and Thompson, Town Manager Steven Hicks, Deputy Town Attorney George Sonnett, Clerk of Council Tina Presley, Finance Director BJ Wilson, Assistant Town Manager Kathy Leidich, Director of Fleet Maintenance Don McPaters, Manager of IT Grant Autry, Interim Energy Services Director and members of the public and press.

Approved by Town Council

Date: 5/23/22