



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 27, 2023 @ 7:00PM in the 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 for a limited time.

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance led by Conor Bass and Evelyn Bass

ROLL CALL BY CLERK OF COUNCIL

PRESENT: Mayor Lori A. Cockrell
Vice Mayor R. Wayne Sealock
Councilman Joshua L. Ingram
Councilwoman Amber F. Morris
Councilman H. Bruce Rappaport
Councilwoman Melissa DeDomenico-Payne
Councilman Glenn E. Wood

OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk of Council Tina L. Presley
Town Manager Joseph E. Waltz
Town Attorney George M. Sonnett, Jr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Councilwoman Morris moved seconded by Councilman Rappaport that Council approve the Special and Regular Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2023, and Work Session Minutes of November 6 and 13, 2023, as presented.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Sealock, Ingram, Morris, Rappaport, DeDomenico-Payne

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – Councilman Wood

ROLL CALL

ADDITION/DELETION OF ITEMS FROM THE AGENDA OR REVISION TO ORDER OF BUSINESS - None

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS

Angela Toler was recognized for her 12 years of service on the Board of Architectural Review (BAR). She was presented with a certificate and congratulated by the Mayor and Council.

Director of Energy Service Carey Saffelle recognized several employees who received their Apprenticeship Journeyman Lineman License through the Department of Labor for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Those recognized and congratulated by the Mayor and Council were: Ryan Lyerly, Christopher Cubbage, Alan Bell, and Travis Petty. He also gave Christopher Roland and honorable mention who could not attend.

The Advisory Committee for Environmental Sustainability (ACES) was recognized and congratulated by the Mayor and Council for receiving the 2023 Community Conservation Award.

The Resolution to Dedicate and Name the South Street Bridge in Memory of Lieutenant William P. Farrell was postponed earlier in the day due to the family not being able to attend tonight's meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT RELATED TO PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

REPORTS

A. Town Manager Report – Mr. Waltz advised that due to the most recent rainfall the Shenandoah River has risen enough to carry the Town out of water conservation, but cautioned that without more significant rainfall the Town could easily go back into conservation. He noted that *Christmas on Main* would be celebrated downtown on Saturday, December 2nd beginning at 12:00pm with the parade beginning at 4:00pm along with the lighting of the Christmas Tree.

B. Town Council Reports

Councilman Rappaport attended the Town's 235th birthday celebration. He thanked Town Staff for working through the night to complete repairing a water main break on Massie Street. He remembered Arthur Maddox and his most recent passing noting prayers for the family. He also noted that the Town received additional funds from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in the amount of \$288,442.84 to be used for the Town's streets.

Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne attended ribbon cuttings for "Fitness Fuel" and "Fleetwood Vintage". She thanked all those who voted for her in the most recent special election and encouraged everyone to reach out to her with their concerns.

Councilman Wood thanked the community for their vote at the most recent special election and looked forward to serving them.

Councilwoman Morris congratulated and welcomed Councilmembers DeDomenico-Payne and Wood on their most recent election to Council. She gave a shout out to the Town Staff for getting through the Town's busiest time of year. She expressed excitement about the river's water levels. She advised that the sign outside of the former Afton Inn stated that the completion would be 2023 and voiced disappointment that an update was not given to Council at the last work session.

C. Report of the Mayor – Mayor Cockrell advised that she was currently working on getting an update to Council on the former Afton Inn. She attended several events: *Spooky Saturday*, the election polls, *Veterans Day Ceremony* that included a tree giveaway by ACES and other organizations, the Town's 235th birthday celebration, and a Christmas event at "The Trellis." She reminded everyone that there was one Council work session and one regular Council meeting in December.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. Sole Source Purchase of a Traffic Signal Cabinet and Equipment

Council approved the Sole Source procurement from Econolite for the replacement of the Traffic Signal Cabinet and Equipment located at the intersection of South Royal Avenue and Criser Road, in the amount of \$57,233.88.

B. Purchase of Pickup Truck for Solid Waste Department

Council approved the purchase of a 2024 Ford F-250 4x4 pickup to replace a 1998 Chevrolet three-quarter ton refuse truck for the Solid Waste Department from Hall Automotive in the amount of \$47,929.20.

C. Purchase of Cab Chassis for Water and Sewer Maintenance Department

Council approved the purchase of a 2024 Ford F-450 4x4 regular cab chassis with a 14' utility box to replace truck #619, a F-350 regular cab chassis 2wd with a utility body box, for the Water Sewer Maintenance Department from Hall Automotive in the amount of \$54,706.20.

D. FY24 Budget Amendment to Accept Additional Funds from VDOT to be Used for Street Maintenance, Construction and Reconstruction Projects

Council approved a FY24 Budget Amendment in the amount of \$288,442.84 to accept additional funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia Transportation Board to be used for street maintenance, construction and reconstruction purposes.

E. Resolution Supporting the Application for Highway Safety Improvement Program Funds for Safety Initiative Projects – Energy Resources

Council approved a Resolution supporting the application for Highway Safety Improvement Program Funds for Safety Initiative Projects as presented.

F. Agreement for the Lease and Maintenance of a New IBM Power10 System

Council approved an agreement, through cooperative contracting, to CAS Severn / IBM Credit, LLC, for the Lease and Maintenance of a New IBM Power 10 System to replace the Town's existing Power8 Legacy server. Payment terms are for a 3-Year Lease Agreement for a total of \$53,000.28.

G. Appointment and Reappointment to FRED A

Council reappointed Richard Novak to the Front Royal Economic Development Authority to a 4-year term ending December 13, 2027, and appointed Robert A. Elliot to a 4-year term beginning December 13, 2023 and ending December 13, 2027.

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

Councilwoman Morris mentioned the two Front Royal Economic Development Authority (FRED A) appointments listed on the Consent Agenda [reappointment of Richard Novak and appointment of Robert Elliott] and voiced appreciation for their service. Mayor Cockrell mentioned the Budget Amendment for the acceptance of the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) additional funds to the Town.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Sealock, Ingram, Morris, Rappaport, DeDomenico-Payne, Wood

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

BUSINESS ITEMS – None

CLOSED MEETING

Councilwoman Morris moved seconded by Vice Mayor Sealock that Town Council convene a closed meeting, pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711 and 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, for the following purpose:

- 1) pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia, for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, more specifically, HEPTAD v. Town Council; and,
- 2) pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, for the discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body, more specifically, a promotion to a position to be created.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Sealock, Ingram, Morris, Rappaport, DeDomenico-Payne, Wood

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Vice Mayor Sealock did not go into the closed meeting due to not feeling well.

Councilwoman Morris left the closed meeting at 9:00pm due to family matter.

Councilman Rappaport moved seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne 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 – Councilmembers Ingram, Rappaport, DeDomenico-Payne, Wood

No – N/A

Absent – Vice Mayor Sealock and Councilwoman Morris

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Meeting adjourned approximately 9:20pm.

Approved by Town Council

Date: 12/11/23