



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 Jaden Matthiae

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 Vice Mayor Sealock that Council approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2024, and Work Session Minutes of April 1 and 8, 2024 as presented.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

ADDITION/DELETION OF ITEMS FROM THE AGENDA OR REVISION TO ORDER OF BUSINESS – N/A

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS

A. Proclamation for Arbor Day

~~B. Proclamation for Reaching Out Now – SAFE AT HOME – The Un4gettable Series Mental Health Awareness Day – REMOVED PER REQUESTER~~

C. Proclamation for Public Works Week

D. Proclamation for Administrative Professionals Day

E. Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

F. Proclamation for Municipal Clerk's Week

Mayor Cockrell read all the proclamations.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Adoption of the 2024 Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Rates

Mayor Cockrell opened the public hearing. Since there were no speakers, the Mayor closed the hearing.

Councilman Rappaport moved seconded by Vice Mayor Sealock that Council adopt the 2024 real estate and personal property tax rates as presented: the real estate tax rate at \$0.10 per \$100 assessed value, which represents no increase from the 2023 tax rate; the personal property tax rate at \$0.64 per \$100 assessed value, which represents no increase over the 2023 tax rate; the personal property tax relief rate (PPTR) of 42% of value on the first \$20,000 of assessed value for qualifying vehicles with an assessed value greater



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than \$1,000; and a personal property tax relief rate of 100% for qualifying vehicles with an assessed value of \$1,000 or less, pursuant to Virginia Code §58.1-3524.

Councilwoman Morris noted that a lot was taken into consideration on what needed to be completed this fiscal year with no increase in taxes and thanked staff for their efforts. Councilman Ingram and Mayor Cockrell agreed.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

B. Ordinance Amendments to Town Code Chapter 134 to Increase Sanitary Sewer Service Rates

Mayor Cockrell opened the public hearing. Since there were no speakers, the Mayor closed the hearing.

Councilwoman Morris moved seconded by Councilman Ingram that Council approve an ordinance amendment to Town Code Chapter 134-22.1 and 134-22.4 to increase sanitary sewer rates as presented, and effective July 1, 2024.

Councilwoman Morris noted that the increase was ongoing for several years.

Councilman Rappaport stated that infrastructure ages at some point explaining that to recover costs in materials and labor for repairs, rate increases are needed.

Councilman Wood mentioned the compliances required from the federal and state governments to update equipment. He congratulated staff for doing a lot with very little.

Councilman Ingram noted that the increase was a gradual over the years to lessen the burden.

Mayor Cockrell confirmed that this was the 5th year of a 5-year increase.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

C. Annual Appropriation Ordinance for Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Mayor Cockrell opened the public hearing. Since there were no speakers, the Mayor closed the hearing.

Councilman Rappaport moved seconded by Councilwoman Morris that Council adopt the Annual Appropriation Ordinance for year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, as presented.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL



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D. Ordinance Amend. to Town Code Chapter 134 Extension Moratorium Areas to Add W. Criser Road Parcel
Mayor Cockrell opened the public hearing. Since there were no speakers, the Mayor closed the hearing.

Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne moved seconded by Councilman Wood that Council approve an amendment to Chapter 134-1.D. Extension Moratorium Areas to add a W. Criser Road parcel consisting of 8.4769 acres (Tax Map ID# 28 128), on November 9, 2023, as presented.

Mayor Cockrell questioned if there was no water capacity. Town Attorney George Sonnett stated that outside Town limits water and sewer was based on excess capacity; therefore, preference would be given to those inside the Town limits. He noted that there would be a provision for this in the contract with the property owners, which was 11B on the agenda tonight.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT RELATED TO PUBLIC HEARINGS

Tom Sayre, 835 Shenandoah Shores Road, stated allegations on past litigation. Councilwoman Morris stated a point of order. Mr. Sonnett advised the Mayor and Council to not respond since the settlement was confidential.

REPORTS

A. Town Manager Report – Mr. Waltz gave the following report:

Thank you, Mayor, First, I wanted to remind citizens that we are picking up yard waste now on Wednesdays through the end of the year. Second, we will be conducting water hydrant flushing over the next several weeks around Town. The hydrant flushing is an important preventative maintenance activity that helps to ensure the integrity of the water system and to provide the highest quality water to our citizens. More specifically, hydrant flushing serves the following purposes:

-Flushes sediments from water main pipes, thus enhancing water quality.

-Verifies that fire hydrants are working properly, and that ample water flow is available for firefighting needs.

-Aids in determining weaknesses in water pipes and related fittings and valves. We normally flush hydrants twice a year but last year we did not conduct flushing because of water conservation.

Pine Knoll Construction will have a lane closure in place on N. Royal Ave between Commerce Ave and W. 14th St to remove/replace curb and sidewalk. Northbound traffic will have to merge left on Royal Avenue on April 22-26, 2024, between 9am and 3pm. Signs and arrow boards will be in place to direct traffic. Motorists are asked to use caution while driving in this area and be aware of crews working. Lastly, I would like to thank all the town employees who supported the Lone Pine Day event yesterday, your preparation and work behind the scenes made for a great festival as always. ---That concludes my report tonight, Mayor

B. Town Council Reports

Councilman Ingram reminded citizens that May was festival month including Family Fun Day and Wine/Craft Festival.

Vice Mayor Sealock attended the Advisory Committee of Environmental Sustainability (ACES) meeting.



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Councilman Wood attended the ACES stakeholders meeting noting that the Front Royal trolley would begin their season of transporting hikers. He also attended Lone Pine Day. He stated that the Warren County Rotary's project to plant trees at Commerce Avenue/John Marshall Highway was complete. Mr. Wood concluded with recognizing Planning Commission Chairman Connie Marshner's new published book "The Monastery and High Cross: The Forgotten Eastern Roots of Irish Christianity".

Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne offered peace and blessings to those honoring Passover this week. She attended the Liaison Committee meeting. She thanked Rotary and other organizations for beautifying the community. Mrs. DeDomenico-Payne reflected on the proclamations read tonight and how important it was to identify those individuals who worked behind the scenes.

Councilman Rappaport attended the Arbor Day Celebration, the Liaison Committee Meeting and the Warren County Educational Endowment 1st Annual Grant Showcase celebrating former Mayor John Marlow's legacy.

C. Report of the Mayor – Mayor Cockrell attended the following: 1) Warren County Educational Endowment 1st Annual Grant Showcase celebrating former Mayor John Marlow's legacy; 2) Warren County Drug Court Advisory Committee (renamed Warren County Recovery Court Advisory Committee); 3) Liaison Committee Meeting; 4) Lone Pine Day (Earth Day); and 5) Special Called Meeting that approved the giving away of trees on Lone Pine Day. She gave an invitation to a Rotary event happening on Friday night where inflatable horses would be racing up and down Main Street.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. ACES Appalachian Trail Head Project Funding Request

Council approved \$8,200 for a Trail Corridor Analysis and Feasibility Study for a new trail joining the Town to the Appalachian Junction at Chester Gap, as requested from the Town's Advisory Committee for Environmental Sustainability (ACES), conditioned upon ACES obtaining the necessary quotes for procurement.

B. 2024 VML Policy Committee Nominations

Council approved the following VML Policy Committee Nominations

Community and Economic Development – Councilwoman Morris and Director of Community Development/Tourism Lizi Lewis; Finance – Councilman Wood and Finance Director BJ Wilson; General Laws – Vice Mayor Sealock and Town Attorney George Sonnett; Human Development & Education – Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne and Town Manager Joe Waltz; Infrastructure (Transportation & Environmental/Natural Resources) – Councilman Rappaport and Director of Public Works Robbie Boyer

C. Recommendation of Appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

Council recommended Cody Taylor to the Judge of the Warren County Circuit Court for appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) to a five-year term ending May 1, 2029.

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

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL



BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Adopt an Ordinance Conditionally Approving the Vacation and Sale Request from Property Connection LLC of Approximately 3,390 Square Feet of E. 7th Street at its Intersection with Kibler Street and Abutting 225 E. 7th Street

Councilman Rappaport moved seconded by Councilwoman Morris that Council adopt an ordinance conditionally approving the vacation and sale request from the applicant (Property Connection, LLC), as presented.

Councilman Wood voiced concern that an adjacent property owner was still using the street. Mayor Cockrell reminded Council that all property owners were notified of the public hearing and had the opportunity to voice their concerns.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

B. Out of Town Utility Connection Contract with the Catholic Diocese of Arlington on W. Criser Road

Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne moved seconded by Councilwoman Morris that Council approve a contract with the Catholic Diocese of Arlington for out-of-town water and sewer connection. I further move that Council direct the Town Manager and Town Attorney to execute the necessary documents.

Councilman Wood voiced his disappointment that the installation of a sidewalk was not included in the project. Councilwoman Morris advised that third party infrastructure was involved in the installation of sidewalks therefore the cost would have been more than the \$125,000 the church offered. Mr. Wood disagreed and stated that the Town was missing out on an opportunity to build sidewalks.

Mayor Cockrell confirmed the \$125,000 offer from the church was in lieu of in-town water and sewer rates creating an issue with the Town's general and enterprise funds. Mr. Waltz confirmed that the sidewalk project would have cost more than \$125,000.

Councilman Rappaport stated that he was happy that the Council was "at the end of the road" on this project and the sidewalk would be put aside.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:19pm.

Approved by Town Council

Date: May 28, 2024