



Roll Call by Clerk of Council

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

ABSENT: Vice Mayor R. Wayne Sealock
Councilman Glenn E. Wood

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Manager Joseph E. Waltz
Town Attorney George M. Sonnett, Jr.
Clerk of Council Tina L. Presley
Various members of the staff and public

Presentation by Lisa Schwartz of the Beautification Committee of Front Royal – Mrs. Schwartz gave a brief presentation on what the Committee's mission and purpose were along with a history of how the Committee began (31) years ago. She stated the many benefits the various plantings give the community and what accomplishments the Committee has made over the years. She completed her presentation on the new initiatives for 2024, future plans and upcoming events. She voiced her appreciation for all the support the Town had given the Committee over the years and asked for continued support. She left with this quote for all *"Remember one thing: That you should not leave the Earth until you have made it A little more beautiful, A little lovelier, A little more loving."* Osho

Mrs. Schwartz confirmed that the tree plantings were not saplings but large substantial trees. She explained that native trees were used as much as possible; however, the crepe myrtles were not native. Town Manager Joe Waltz explained that the flowering baskets were now self-watering which reduced the Town's manpower by half. He confirmed that there was money in the Town's Horticulture Department's budget for in-kind labor to assist with plantings and flower baskets.

New Business

A. Request to Vacate a Portion of an Alley Behind 125 W. 8th Street – Mr. Waltz stated that the applicant (Mike McCool) was requesting to vacate approximately 2,000 square feet of an alley behind his property at 125 W. 8th Street to be used as an additional buffer from the construction of (5) townhouses on 9th Street. He showed a GIS plat that gave the location of the alley in relation to the request. He explained that if the request was approved as suggested it would leave the rest of the alley with no access. He also noted that another alley going in another direction would also be affected. Therefore, staff recommended that both alleys be vacated to eliminate any access issues, noting the current encroachments. He advised that there were no utilities or future plans for the alleys. Mr. Waltz suggested moving forward with notification of adjoining property owners and a public hearing in July.

It was noted that the public hearing would bring out any concerns from the adjacent property owners. Mr. Waltz confirmed that all adjacent property owners are notified by certified mail so staff can keep track of those who received the letters. Council voiced concern that some property owners may have the interest but not the means to purchase. Council agreed to advertise for a public hearing on July 22nd.



B. Blanket Resolution for Project Funding Commitment and Projects Under Agreement with VDOT—Infrastructure Manager Steve Scheulen noted that the resolution was specific for Happy Creek Road Phase II using VDOT'S SMART SCALE Program. He explained that the pre-application was completed in April and the final application opened June 1st. He noted that the one requirement for the application was a blanket resolution from the governing body. He explained that a blanket resolution had no dollar amount because that would commit the Town to an amount. Mr. Waltz advised that VDOT contacted the Town and suggested putting this project in SMART SCALE due to changes in their metrics. Council agreed to place under the consent agenda on June 24th.

Old Business

Local Board of Building Code Appeals (LBBCA) Membership – Director of Planning Lauren Kopishke gave a brief presentation on the state code requirements of a LBBCA noting they must have a minimum of (5) members to function and currently they were short two members. She also suggested appointing (2) alternates who would serve when a board member could not. There was discussion about Town and County residents serving noting that the Town Code specifically stated three Town residents and two County residents but no mention of alternates status. Mr. Sonnett advised that he had to review the residency requirements further. In the meantime, Council agreed to have applications available for all boards and commissions at the Town's Open House on the 22nd.

Closed Meeting

Councilman Rappaport moved seconded by Councilwoman Morris 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 purposes and that Council consider taking action on these matters in open session:

1) pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia, for consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, more specifically, a) an offer to purchase a conditionally vacated portion of 7th Street (3,390 square feet) located at its intersection with Kibler Street and b) a request from HEPTAD, LLC.

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

No – N/A

Absent – Vice Mayor Sealock and Councilman Wood

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Councilman Ingram 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 – Councilmembers Ingram, Morris, Rappaport, DeDomenico-Payne

No – N/A

Absent – Vice Mayor Sealock and Councilman Wood

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL



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.

Open session

Councilwoman Morris moved seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne that Council deny an extension of the deadline for submission of a Planned Neighborhood Development Plan, pursuant to Town Code §175-37.18, as requested by HEPTAD LLC by letter dated May 31, 2024.

Councilwoman Morris stated that the request was not timely submitted as required by Town Code §175-37.18, requiring request at least (20) days prior to expiration. Furthermore, the requesting party asked for immediate action. Lastly, Leach Run Parkway's right-of-way has not been conveyed to the Town, as required by the 2012 proffers.

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

No – Councilman Rappaport

Absent – Vice Mayor Sealock and Councilman Wood

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Adjourned approximately 9:32pm

Approved by Town Council

Date: 6/24/24