



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 Bella Skube

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 – Councilman Wood moved seconded by Vice Mayor Sealock that Council approve the 2024 Council Meeting minutes of the June 22nd Regular Meeting, July 1st Work Session and July 8th Work Session, as presented.

Councilwoman Morris stated that she was not present during a meeting and therefore would abstain.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – Councilwoman Morris

ROLL CALL

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

Councilwoman Morris moved seconded by Councilman Ingram that Council delete Business Item #11. Consider a Proposed Resolution Calling for the Dissolution of The Industrial Development Authority of the Town of Front Royal and the County of Warren, Virginia and the Appointment of a Receiver from the agenda and table for further discussion.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS

Recognition of Virginia Waterworks Operator Class I/Chris Vaught – Director of Public Works Robbie Boyer presented Chris Vaught a plaque for obtaining his Operator Class I License. Mayor and Council showed their appreciation.

Recognition of Class A Line Technician Certification for Cody Lohmann – Director of Energy Services Carey Saffelle presented Cody Lohmann a plaque for his certification. Mayor and Council showed their appreciation.



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Recognition of Town for Wastewater System of the Year from the Virginia Rural Water Association – Mr. Boyer explained how the award was given to the Town. Mayor and Council showed their appreciation.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Special Use Permit to Allow a Short-Term Rental at 415 E. Main Street for Mark Poe - Mayor Cockrell opened the public hearing. No one spoke and the public hearing was closed.

Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne moved seconded by Councilman Rappaport that Council approve a request from applicant Mark Poe for a Special Use Permit to allow a short-term rental located at 415 E. Main Street conditioned upon final approvals by the Warren County Building Code Officials Office.

Councilwoman Morris disclosed that Mark Poe was her cousin, but she had no personal or financial interest in his business and therefore could vote.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

B. Receive Public Comment Pertaining to an Application from Michael D. and Jane M McCool Requesting the Town to Vacate a Portion of a Public Alley (2,000 sf) located behind and abutting 125 W. 8th Street - Mayor Cockrell opened the public hearing. No one spoke and the public hearing was closed.

Councilwoman Morris moved seconded by Councilman Ingram that Council appoint viewers to view the vacation request from the Applicant to vacate a portion (2,000 square feet) of the public alley located behind 125 W. 8th Street, and to report to Council in writing any inconvenience to the public that would result from discontinuance of the Right-of-Way.

Councilwoman Morris noted that the Viewing Committee would look for things that Council may not be aware of and report back on their findings. Councilman Rappaport confirmed that adjacent property owners could be blocked from access if the vacation was approved. Councilman Wood confirmed that there were no utilities in the alley and that the property owners have been maintaining it.

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

No – Councilman Wood

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

C. Receive Public Comment and Consider Taking Action on the Resolution Approving the Proposed Public Use and Necessity of a Redundant Waterline for the Route 522 North Corridor and Directing the Acquisition of Property by Condemnation – Mayor Cockrell opened the public hearing. No one spoke and the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Wood moved seconded by Councilwoman Morris that council approve the Resolution Approving the Proposed Public Use and Necessity of a Redundant Waterline for the Route 522 North Corridor and Directing the Acquisition of Property by Condemnation, as presented.

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

Samantha Barber, Middletown, VA, founder and president of *Reaching Out Now (RON)* voiced disappointment in the Town for not giving them financial support and felt like the Town had given up on them and the children they serve.

Melanie Salins, Middletown, VA, voiced her concern that the community needed better access to health care. She listed various reasons for the change and read a draft resolution requesting additional health care providers and services for the Town of Front Royal and Warren County. The resolution was handed to the Clerk for the record. She encouraged Council to consider approval of the resolution.

REPORTS

A. Town Manager Report – Mr. Waltz gave an update on various road projects including curb/line painting, milling and paving, asking the public to take caution when driving.

B. Town Council Reports -

Councilman Ingram gave an update on the Transportation Subcommittee Meeting noting that funding for the East/West Connector Road was discussed.

Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne attended the grand opening of *Reitano Vineyards* and the VML Human Development & Education Policy Committee Meeting.

Councilman Wood attended Community Shred Day and the Christmas in July event on Main Street. He voiced his disappointment at not being transparent by placing items on the consent agenda that dealt with transferring large amounts of money. He referred to June's agenda where a budget amendment and transfer totaling \$535,000.00 was approved to be allocated toward the Town's 20% of the West Criser Sidewalk Project. He suggested not placing these types of items on consent agendas in the future.

Councilman Rappaport reminded everyone of the dire situation with the water in Town. He attended the Christmas in July event. He advised Mrs. Barber that the Town had not given up on the Student Union, but the budget was tight this year, noting that \$25,000 had been contributed.

Councilwoman Morris attended the VML Community & Economic Development Policy Committee and Transportation Subcommittee Meetings. She pointed out that during various work sessions the additional revenue was discussed and contributions to *Reaching Out Now* was not mentioned. She explained that social media had a lot of talk about the Town's recent drought, noting that a lot of localities are in a drought situation. The Town, she continued, does not have another water source to fall back on explaining that while McKay Springs had been discussed it takes time and money to construct a plant.

Vice Mayor Sealock gave a shout out to Community Development/Tourism Director Lizi Lewis for all her hard work at the many Gazebo events. He also noted National Night Out scheduled for August 6th.

C. Report of the Mayor – Mayor Cockrell encouraged the public to donate to *Reaching Out Now*. She attended the Ribbon Cutting for *Front Royal River Adventures*, *Reitano Vineyards/Old Spring House Wedding & Event Center*, Front Royal Cardinals Game with Town fireworks afterwards, Town Employee Appreciation Picnic, and Fireman's Parade. She invited the public to attend the Warren County Fair, National Night Out and Community Fun Day. She advised that the Liaison Committee Meeting scheduled for tomorrow night had been cancelled.



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CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Councilwoman Morris moved seconded by Vice Mayor Sealock that Council approve the consent agenda, as presented.

A. Cash Management Services

Council approved the proposal from Atlantic Union Bank for cash management services for the Town of Front Royal for a period of five (5) years.

B. Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) Vault Purchase for Jamestown Road

Council approved the purchase of a pressure reducing valve (PRV) vault in the amount of \$54,941.91 from Fortline Waterworks for Jamestown Road.

C. Appointments to the Local Board of Building Code Appeals (LBBCA)

Council appointed Ann Shaffer to the Local Board of Building Code Appeals (LBBCA) for an unexpired term ending November 1, 2027, and Michael Spence as an alternate to the LBBCA to a 4-year term ending July 22, 2028.

D. Appointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

Council ~~appoint~~ [recommended] Maria Dutton to the [Judge of the Circuit Court] for the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) to an unexpired term beginning July 27, 2024 and ending May 1, 2025.

E. Appointment to the Planning Commission

Council appointed L. Allen Neel to the Planning Commission to an unexpired term ending August 31, 2027.

Councilwoman Morris reminded Council that items from the Consent Agenda could be removed or deleted under #5 Addition/Deletion of items from the Agenda or Revision to Order of Business. Mayor Cockrell recognized those who would be serving on the various boards and invited citizens to apply for the various openings still available.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

BUSINESS ITEMS

~~A. Consider a Proposed Resolution Calling for the Dissolution of The Industrial Development Authority of the Town of Front Royal and the County of Warren, Virginia and the Appointment of a Receiver~~ **REMOVED**

CLOSED MEETING

Councilman Rappaport moved seconded by Councilman Wood 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: 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 two loan default letters received from United Bank regarding FRWCEDA debt.

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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Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne 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 Sealock, Ingram, Morris, Rappaport, DeDomenico-Payne, Wood

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25pm.

Approved by Town Council

Date: 8/26/24