



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.

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

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

Councilwoman Morris moved seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne that Council add to the agenda an item to the closed meeting specifically "2) b) the conditional vacation and sale of a portion of N. Royal Avenue and an unimproved alleyway between N. Royal Avenue and Virginia Avenue"; and to the regular agenda under New Business as Item #3D - DMV Matching Grant for Police Department Budget.

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

No – N/A

Absent – Vice Mayor Sealock

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

VDOT STAR Study Update (Virtual) by Adam Campbell went through his presentation: Survey Summary and Study Recommendations; Public Survey Summary; Intersection with Guard Hill Road; Intersection with Park and Ride and Commercial Entrance (McDonalds); Intersection with I-66 Eastbound Ramps; Intersection with I-66 Westbound Ramps; Intersection with Crooked Run/Country Club (Thru-Cut); Intersection with Crooked Run/Country Club (Bow-Tie); Intersection with Country Club/Caroline Drive; and Next Steps.

Council questioned how it was determined that a traffic light was not needed at the Guard Hill intersection. Mr. Campbell explained that a certain volume of traffic during certain hours of the day warranted a traffic light, and this intersection did not meet that criteria rating. He advised that there were no turns being restricted at this intersection. Council questioned and discussed the intersection at McDonalds. Mr. Campbell advised that new signal heads would be tied into the existing signal creating additional gaps and remove free flow. He explained the Smart Scale Applications that the County had applied for and that the survey results were not part of the applications.

Councilman Wood asked about reducing the speed limit from the North Fork Bridge to Country Club Road intersection. Mr. Campbell explained that VDOT was not going to change speed limits if there was not going to be any monitoring or enforcement; lowering the speed limit requires enforcement to be effective.

Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne questioned the pedestrian aspect in the area of the shopping centers. Mr. Campbell agreed that the pedestrian traffic was low, and the traffic data did not include pedestrians;



however, the highest pedestrian traffic was in the roundabout and the County was looking at adding it to their Comprehensive Plan as a shared path on one side of the roadway. There were no further discussion and Mr. Campbell was thanked for his time.

New Business

A. Bid for Chemicals at the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants – Purchasing Manager Michelle Campbell advised that there were nine bids. Council agreed to add to the consent agenda on the 23rd.

B. Bid for Various Grades of Stone FY25 – Purchasing Manager Michelle Campbell advised that there were two bids. Councilman Wood confirmed that travel would be required to Strasburg with the haul rate being included in the bid. Council agreed to add to the consent agenda on the 23rd.

C. Proposed Vape Ordinance – Mayor Cockrell asked Council for their thoughts on a possible ordinance for Front Royal. Councilwoman Morris noted the 17 vape shops currently existed, and Council needed to take the next step and do something. Councilman Ingram agreed. Councilman Rappaport noted that it was never too late to add criteria and regulate vape shops. Mayor Cockrell stated that vape shops should be in commercial areas or shopping centers.

Town Attorney George Sonnett questioned whether council was interested in a stand-alone ordinance or rolling it into the zoning ordinance. Councilwoman Morris cautioned that the existing vape shops would not be affected by an ordinance Council adopted. Mr. Sonnet advised that implementing an ordinance does not make the vape shops go away. Mayor Cockrell questioned where there was a timeframe to adopt an ordinance. Town Manager Waltz advised that it would 6 – 9 months to roll into the zoning ordinance since it was currently be revised and reviewed at the Planning Commission level. The stand-alone ordinance was discussed noting that location, time, signs and other specific issues could be addressed. Mr. Sonnet advised that the general rule was that the regulation had to have a rational basis and grounded in personal safety and welfare of the community. There was some discussion on the Quantico ordinance #6 *“No Smoking, inhaling or ingestion of tobacco products or vape related products shall be permitted on the premises of the vape shop at any time”* and how that was enforceable. It was noted that the Quantico ordinance had a “lot of teeth” with strict criteria and asked that it be investigated to see if the ordinance was effective. Mr. Waltz advised that he would contact Quantico and ask about the effectiveness of the ordinance and report back to Council through email. It was recommended that Mr. Sonnet write up a proposed ordinance for Council to review at the October 7th Work Session with the possibility of a public hearing on October 28th. There was also the mention of requiring a Special Use Permit for vape shops. Mr. Sonnet stated that he would have to research this further.

D. DMV Matching Grant for Police Department and Budget Amendment – Town Manager Joe Waltz advised that the deadline for this matching grant was October 1st. He explained that it was something the Police Department applied for annually and apologized for being last minute. Mr. Waltz advised that it was not a big impact to the budget since it was costs already being incurred. Council agreed to add to the consent agenda on the 23rd.

Old Business

A. Liaison Committee Meeting Items for October 17th Meeting – Mayor Cockrell reviewed the items that were placed on the July meeting but was cancelled. Council agreed to leave the following items on the agenda: 1) Increase in Solid Waste Tipping Fees, 2) Vape Shops, 3) Transportation Subcommittee Update, 4) Regional Shooting Range Facility and a new item 5) Town Water Restrictions during a drought and how



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out-of-town water customers using town water should adhere. Councilman Ingram will attend the meeting with the Mayor.

B. Resolution Requesting Additional Healthcare Providers – Councilwoman Morris advised that she was ready to pass the resolution that was originally given to Council at the July meeting. After a brief discussion Council asked that Mr. Sonnet draft a similar resolution that was given to them at the July regular meeting and add to the September 23rd meeting under Business Items.

CLOSED MEETING

Councilman Ingram 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 purpose and that Council consider taking action on these matters in open session pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, for the discussion, consideration, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body, more specifically the Town Attorney, and 2) pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia, 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) the dissolution of the Industrial Development Authority of the Town of Front Royal and the County of Warren, Virginia, and, b) the conditional vacation and sale of a portion of N. Royal Avenue and an unimproved alleyway between N. Royal Avenue and Virginia Avenue.

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

No – N/A

Absent – Vice Mayor Sealock

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Councilman Wood 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, Wood

No – N/A

Absent – Vice Mayor Sealock

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Adjourned approximately 9:50pm

Approved by Town Council

Date: 9/23/24