



Roll Call by Clerk of Council

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

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

AMP 2025/2026 Power Cost Projection Presentation – Energy Services Director Carey Saffelle introduced Craig Kleinhenz, Assistant Vice President of AMP Power Supply Planning. He gave an overview and history of AMP. He continued with a presentation: **Delivery of Power** explained the three types of charges and how AMP bills for each Energy [75%], Transmission [10%], Installed Capacity [15%]; **Front Royal's 2025 Energy Sources** showed Front Royal's Energy Supply noting a 0.1% Growth; **Current Prices for 2026** showed the calendar for 2026 and the **Monthly Purchases**; **Transmission and Installed Capacity** showed the increase and impact of transmission charges on the overall rates in Front Royal. Council questioned how inflation and data centers affected transmission, which led to the explanation of **PJM** whose job was to coordinate the movement of wholesale electricity. Mr. Kleinhenz stated that PJM's job was to "keep the lights on" and explained how prices were set by auctions and how members received capacity credit for generator resources and peak shaving; **PJM RPM Installed Capacity Charges** noted coal plants were retiring and being replaced with natural gas and how the capacity charge impacted the overall rates in Front Royal; **2025/2026 Year Impacts and Reasons for the Changes** included increased load forecasts caused by the increase in data centers. It was stated that Northern Virginia was the #1 place for data centers; **Future Auctions** showed a new ceiling and a new floor for negotiated price caps as well as a bid jump in load forecast in the last three years indicating the rise in data centers; **Peak Shaving** showed that peaks set this summer set the rates for next year. Mr. Saffell advised that the goal this year was to better educate the public on energy savings. Mr. Kleinhenz advised that AMP was evaluating the building of capacity resources by evaluating batteries and peaking units; **Front Royal's Annual Power Rates** showed energy costs were flat but were increasing in transmission and capacity. He advised that **Virginia investor-owned utility rates** were going up by approximately two cents compared to Front Royal's retail rate at half a cent. He then showed a **Monthly Rate Difference** and how the higher costs would hit June 2025. There was discussion on how much the average household would pay and staff noted that it would depend on the size of the house, household and usage reminding them that a Cost of Service Study would be coming to them in late summer or early fall that would help identify the increases more clearly. Mr. Wilson explained adjusting the PCA (Power Cost Adjustment).

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Proposed Budget Additional Discussion – Mr. Wilson advised that health insurance would be an increase of approximately \$28,000 (6.5%) overall. He then asked for any other questions.

Councilman Wood had questions related to various line items in the budget including Highway Maintenance Bridge Repairs; Automated Ticketing in General Fund revenue. Mr. Wilson advised that the additional revenue was coming back to Council in May. Mr. Wood continued with Visitor Center questions including sales, grants, repairs and advertising; Curb/Gutter charges; O/M explanation; Increase in Bus System; Council budget line items for Professional Services and retreat expenses; health insurance consultant; pay study; maintenance service contracts;



repairs/maintenance supplies. He continued with postage and auto drafting in the Finance Department. Mr. Wilson explained that the Town's current software could not do auto drafts, but staff was currently looking at new software that could. Mr. Wood continued with maintenance service contracts at the Police Department; planning/zoning fees; streetlights; and mowing Leach Run Parkway and substations. Staff noted that there were recently two retirements in Horticulture and seasonals were just hired. Mr. Wood questioned whether the 5-year Sewer Map could be placed under a loan with other infrastructure. Mr. Wilson explained how the loan process worked. Mr. Wood suggested beginning setting money aside for Happy Creek Road Phase II. Discussion ensued regarding the enormous cost of widening Happy Creek Road. Staff explained that line painting was contracted noting that thermoplastic was expensive to put down and take up. Mr. Wood suggested having developers paying for conduit installation in subdivisions. Mr. Saffelle advised that \$2,500 was charged per lot noting the charge was low and would be evaluated during the Cost of Service Study. The last question was the four options for the secondary water source. Mr. Wilson advised that he hoped to have options for the secondary water source to Council next month.

Councilman Rapaport questioned the decrease in PILOTs. Mr. Wilson advised of the many vacant buildings in the corridor therefore creating a decrease in businesses. Mr. Sonnet reminded Council that the Town did not collect meals/lodging taxes through the PILOT Program explaining that in lieu of, the Town received a portion of what the County received in the Rt. 522 Corridor pursuant to a MOU. Mr. Rappaport questioned why the new position for the Deputy Director for Public Works was for six months. Mr. Wilson explained that debt service funding would be paid, and it would allow time to continue working on the job description. Discussion ensued about hiring an engineer.

Mayor Cockrell questioned how much was spent on outside engineering services, suggesting that an engineer could do some things the new proposed planning/zoning position could do. Mr. Wilson advised that discussions along these lines had begun and will continue with Mr. Petty bringing it back to Council in May. Vice Mayor Veitenthal agreed that an engineer should be a high priority trumping tourism. She opined that it was not the government's job to increase sales revenue for businesses owners.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Purchase of Outdoor Circuit Breakers for Happy Creek Substation Expansion Project – Purchasing Manager Michelle Campbell advised the purchase of two 38kV outdoor circuit breakers explaining the bidding process and that they were budgeted. Council agreed to add to the April 28th Consent Agenda.

B. Purchase of Truck Chassis and Dump Bed for Horticulture Department – Mayor Cockrell gave a quick overview noting the quotes. Council questioned the bidding process and the use of GSA. Mr. Wilson advised that anyone in the state can bid and that GSA charges to use their services. Council agreed to add to the April 28th Consent Agenda.

C. Purchase of Truck Chassis and Service Body for Energy Services Department – Mayor Cockrell gave a quick overview noting it was cooperative contracting and budgeted. Council agreed to add to the April 28th Consent Agenda.

D. Purchase of Truck Chassis with Utility Bed and Crane for Fleet Maintenance Department – Mayor Cockrell gave a quick overview noting it was cooperative contracting and budgeted. Council agreed to add to the April 28th Consent Agenda.

E. FY25 Budget Amendment for 2025 Law Enforcement Grant for Police Department – Mr. Wilson explained the process of receiving the grant. Council agreed to add to the April 28th Consent Agenda.



F. 4-H and Jamestown Pump Stations Engineering Design Services – Mr. Wilson advised that this was a task order to keep projects moving forward and it would be coming back to council with the loan documents. Council agreed to add to the April 28th Consent Agenda.

G. 2025 Virginia Municipal League (VML) Policy Committee Nominations – the following list was determined by Council. Mr. Petty will confirm staff members. Council agreed to add to the April 28th Consent Agenda.

Community and Economic Development: Councilman Wood and Lizi Lewis

Finance – Councilman Ingram and Finance Director BJ Wilson

General Laws – Councilman Sealock and Town Attorney George Sonnett

Human Development and Education – Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne and Town Manager Joe Petty

Infrastructure (Transportation and Environmental/Natural Resources) – Councilman Rappaport/Dir of PW R Boyer

Proclamations

Mayor Cockrell read and approved the following proclamations.

- National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week (April 13-19)
- National Administrative Professionals Day (April 23)
- Arbor Day (April 25)

CLOSED MEETING

Councilman Rappaport moved seconded by Vice Mayor Veitenthal 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 §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, Board of Zoning Appeals; and, 2) 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, stormwater issue on W. Commonwealth Drive; and, 3) 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, the insolvency and disposition of assets including the Avtex Property of the Industrial Development Authority of the Town of Front Royal and the County of Warren, Virginia.

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

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Councilman Ingram moved seconded by Councilman Rappaport 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 Wood, Veitenthal, Sealock, Rappaport, Ingram, DeDomenico-Payne

No – N/A

Absent – N/A

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Adjourned approximately 10:45pm.

Approved by Town Council

Date: 4/28/25