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.

This continued/rescheduled meeting was held in Town Hall.
Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Veitenthal.
Moment of Silence
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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Councilman Rappaport moved seconded by Vice Mayor Veitenthal that Council approve the minutes of December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting/Work Session, January 5, 2026 Work Session and January 12, 2026 Work Session, as presented.*

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Wood, Veitenthal, Sealock, Rappaport, Ingram, DeDomenico-Payne
No – N/A
Absent – N/A
Abstain – N/A ROLL CALL

ADDITION/DELETION OF ITEMS FROM THE AGENDA OR REVISION TO ORDER OF BUSINESS
Vice Mayor Veitenthal moved seconded by Councilman Wood that Council delete #6 Recognition/Awards/Reports and #12 Closed Meeting from the Agenda.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Wood, Veitenthal, Sealock, Rappaport, Ingram, DeDomenico-Payne
No – N/A
Absent – N/A
Abstain – N/A ROLL CALL

~~RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS~~ - REMOVED
~~A. Recognition of Officers – Chief Whited~~
~~1. MADD Award to Officer Brooke Duvall and Officer Carrie Gibson~~
~~2. Promotion of Corporal Mark Hajduk~~
~~3. Introduction of New Police Officer Cooper Blake~~

PUBLIC HEARINGS
Special Use Permit Request Submitted by Fussell Florist for an Artistic Mural at 202 E. 2nd Street
Staff – No comment
Applicant - No comment at this time.
Mayor Cockrell opened the public hearing. No one else spoke the public hearing was closed.
Katie Bonnet, 112 Douglas Drive, Middletown, applicant and owner of Fussell Florist, advised that the current mural will be updated with a new one as presented in Council's packet displaying a positive message to the community.

Vice Mayor Veitenthal moved seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne that Council approve a Special Use Permit submitted by Fussell Florist [property owner CJMWO Family] for an artistic mural, exceeding sixty (60) square feet in size, on the east side of the building located at 202 E. 2nd Street, identified by Tax Map 20A8-1-4-33, as presented.

Vice Mayor Veitenthal suggested that this part of the Town Code be revisited due to the property owners' rights being affected. Councilman Rappaport appreciated the hard work.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Wood, Veitenthal, Sealock, Rappaport, Ingram, DeDomenico-Payne
No – N/A
Absent – N/A
Abstain – N/A ROLL CALL

Receive Public Comment on a Request from Zuckerman Metals, Inc. to Vacate a Portion of an Unimproved Street Located Between East 5th Street and Happy Creek

Staff - Town Manager Joe Petty advised that this item and the next two were related and located in the general area. He recommended a title exam if approved. Councilman Wood confirmed with him that the owners were aware of the costs associated with the purchase. Vice Mayor Veitenthal confirmed that the owner had been paying the taxes on the property for years and that staff had looked at the request commenting on the storm sewer.

Applicant – J. Daniel Pond III, attorney for the applicant, advised Council that he and the applicant(s) were available to answer any questions reiterating that they had be paying taxes on two of the three properties for many years.

Mayor Cockrell opened the public hearing. No one else spoke the public hearing was closed.

Vice Mayor Veitenthal moved seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne that Council adopt an ordinance as presented approving the conditional vacation and sale request from the applicant.

Vice Mayor Veitenthal advised that she was not typically in favor of this motion; however, the circumstances proved otherwise and suggested they purchase the land. Councilman Wood suggested putting to rest to any concerns with the easements. Councilman Ingram reiterated that they had been paying taxes on the property and suggested moving toward the purchase.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Councilman Rappaport moved *that Council adopt an ordinance as presented approving the conditional vacation and sale request from the applicant conditioned that the applicant provide a title exam.*

MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Wood, Veitenthal, Sealock, Rappaport, Ingram, DeDomenico-Payne
No – N/A
Absent – N/A
Abstain – N/A ROLL CALL ON ORIGINAL MOTION

Receive Public Comment on a Request from Zuckerman Metals, Inc. to Vacate a Portion of an Unimproved Street Located Between East 5th Street and Lot 17A
Staff – No comment
Applicant – No comment
Mayor Cockrell opened the public hearing. No one else spoke the public hearing was closed.

Vice Mayor Veitenthal moved seconded by Councilman Rappaport that Council adopt an ordinance as presented approving the conditional vacation and sale request from the applicant.

Mayor Cockrell stated that in the past Council has approved the appointment of a Viewer's Committee to assess these requests more closely; however, the circumstances were different in these three requests. Vice Mayor Veitenthal agreed and reiterated that they had paid the taxes on the properties for many years.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Wood, Veitenthal, Sealock, Rappaport, Ingram, DeDomenico-Payne
No – N/A
Absent – N/A
Abstain – N/A ROLL CALL

Receive Public Comment on a Request from 218 E. 4th Street LLC to Vacate a Portion of an Unimproved Street Located Between East 4th Street and Lot 16.
Staff – No comment
Applicant – Mr. Pond, representative for the applicant, explained that the name of the property was being revised.
Mayor Cockrell opened the public hearing. No one else spoke the public hearing was closed.

Vice Mayor Veitenthal moved seconded by Councilman Rappaport that Council adopt an ordinance as presented approving the conditional vacation and sale request from the applicant.

Vice Mayor Veitenthal appreciated staff's input on these requests.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Wood, Veitenthal, Sealock, Rappaport, Ingram, DeDomenico-Payne
No – N/A
Absent – N/A
Abstain – N/A ROLL CALL

Receive Public Comment on a Request from James Heflin to Vacate a Portion of the Unimproved Randolph Avenue Between Washington Avenue and Lot 5
Staff – Mr. Petty explained the installation of the cul-de-sac and the need for a 20' and 10' drainage and utility easements along the northern and eastern boundaries. Councilman Wood confirmed with him that the owners were aware of the costs associated with the purchase. Mr. Petty confirmed that the easements did not appear on the survey and recommended they be referenced in the ordinance specifically noting that an updated survey would be recorded when the purchase was complete.
Applicant – No comment.
Mayor Cockrell opened the public hearing. No one else spoke the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Rappaport moved seconded by Vice Mayor Veitenthal that Council adopt an ordinance as presented approving the conditional vacation and sale request from the applicant.

After a brief discussion about revising the wording of the ordinance, a substitute motion was made by Councilman Rappaport:

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Councilman Rappaport moved seconded by Councilman Wood that Council adopt an ordinance as presented approving the conditional vacation and sale request from the applicant with the following change, 20' wide drainage and utility easement running along the northern boundary of the property and a 10' wide drainage and utility easement running along the eastern boundary of the property, all as shown on a survey.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Wood, Veitenthal, Sealock, Rappaport, Ingram, DeDomenico-Payne
No – N/A
Absent – N/A
Abstain – N/A ROLL CALL ON THE SUBSTITUE MOTION

Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 12 and Chapter 70 Pertaining to Electricity Fees and Procedures.
Staff – Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne voiced concern over the new language in 70-50(3) *Upon completion of the work, the Town will reconcile the estimated payment with the actual time and materials expended. The Town will then either issue an additional invoice or provide a reimbursement to the developer, builder, or customer, as applicable.* Director of Energy Services Carey Saffell explained that his department reaches out to the developer on the costs of materials before ordering them. Vice Mayor Veitenthal advised that based on her personal experience, the Energy Services Department's communication response was immediate. Mr. Carey confirmed that this was only for commercial and industrial noting residential was a flat fee.

Mayor Cockrell opened the public hearing. No one else spoke the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Ingram moved seconded by Councilman Rappaport that Council adopt ordinance amendments to Chapter 12 - Fees and Chapter 70 – Electricity pertaining to fees and procedures, as presented.

Councilman Rappaport was pleased to see 70-50(4)(C) - *Grid impact assessment: load studies, reliability analysis* as new language in the ordinance.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Wood, Veitenthal, Sealock, Rappaport, Ingram, DeDomenico-Payne
No – N/A
Absent – N/A
Abstain – N/A ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT RELATED TO PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mark Bauer, 1070 Goodview Drive, member of the Executive Council of American Legion Post 53, thanked the Council for the Military Tribute Banners installed around Town, but voiced concern that they were too small and suggested that when the program comes back in two years to make them larger.

REPORTS

Town Manager Report – Mr. Petty thanked staff and their families for their hard work and long hours during the latest snowstorm, noting that he had talked with the schools and the Warren County Builders Association to determine how assistance could be better distributed for the next event. He advised that staff were currently handling many water breaks. He concluded that Town Business Offices would be closed on Monday, February 16, 2026 for Presidents Day.

Town Council Reports

Councilman Sealock thanked Energy Services employees for their timely assistance on Virginia Avenue during a recent outage. He also thanked staff for their hard work during the snowstorm.

Councilman Rappaport gave the same sentiment to the Town Staff and asked the public to watch for those who were walking.

Vice Mayor Veitenthal gave the same sentiment to the Town Staff. She voiced concern about the emergency alert about the grid forcing a possible power outage that came across their phones during the storm. She opined about data centers and how they did not belong in Front Royal.

Councilman Wood gave the same sentiment to the Town Staff and stated that the public was not aware of what Town Staff endures a snowstorm of this magnitude, specifically noting those employees collecting trash in six-degree weather. He anticipated the results of the Solid Waste Study that would show how automated trash trucks could assist with this situation. Mr. Wood stated that it was unrealistic for the public to open sidewalks in front of their property since some snowbanks were seven feet tall.

Councilwoman DeDomenico-Payne gave the same sentiment to the Town Staff. She also voiced concern about the emergency alert mentioned by Vice Mayor Veitenthal. She attended the Liaison Committee Meeting.

Report of the Mayor – Mayor Cockrell attended the Community Book Fair, Smithsonian Meeting, Little League Meeting, Liaison Committee Meeting, The Front Royal Volunteer Fire Department Annual Awards Banquet, Recovery Court Meeting, Citizen Academy, and the Front Royal/Warren County Chamber's Annual Dinner/Awards - Stargazer's Gala. She mentioned the concern over the emergency alert and noted that the Town did respond to it. She stated that the current weather event had brought days of freezing temperatures making it a unique situation. She expressed her gratitude to Town Staff.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Purchase of ArcGIS Enterprise Software Licensing

Council approved the purchase of ArcGIS Enterprise Software Licensing from Environmental Systems Research institute, Inc. (Esri), in the amount of $90,537, over a 3-year period, $30,179 annually to support the newly created GIS position, in its duties, analysis, and data management.

FY26 Budget Amendment for Grant Award Operation Ceasefire Forensic and Analytical Technology

Council approved a FY26 Budget Amendment in the amount of $110,143.00 to receive funds from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services' Operation Ceasefire Forensic and Analytical Technology Grant Program for use by the Front Royal Police Department to purchase technology equipment for rapid, accurate, 3D documentation of crime scenes and crash sites, allowing the ability to create a "digital twin" for forensic analysis, evidence preservation, and court presentation.

Two (2) Year Extension of Automated Systems Speed Enforcement Systems Agreement with Blue Line Solutions LLC

Council approved a two-year extension of the Automated Systems Speed Enforcement Systems Contract Agreement with Blue Line Solutions LLC. for the continued deployment of speed cameras for school zone speed enforcement during drop off and pickup hours in four (4) school zones [Warren County Middle School, Skyline Middle School, A.S. Rhodes Elementary School and Ressie Jeffries Elementary School].

Standard Operating Procedures for Front Royal Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Operations
Council approved the Standard Operating Procedures for Front Royal Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Operations for the Town of Front Royal, as presented.

Rights of Requesters and Responsibilities of Town of Front Royal FOIA Policy Revisions
Council approved the revisions to the Rights of Requesters and Responsibilities of the Town of Front Royal FOIA Policy, as presented.

Vice Mayor Veitenthal moved seconded by Councilman Sealock that Council approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Wood, Veitenthal, Sealock, Rappaport, Ingram, DeDomenico-Payne
No – N/A
Absent – N/A
Abstain – N/A ROLL CALL

BUSINESS ITEMS – None

~~CLOSED MEETING~~ - REMOVED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10pm.

Approved by Town Council
Date: 2/23/26