



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
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 Hillary Wilfong
Various members of the staff and public

ACTION ITEM

Resolution Establishing a Temporary Moratorium on Data Center Applications– Council adopted a resolution imposing a temporary ninety (90) day moratorium on the acceptance of land use applications for data center development within the Town of Front Royal while the Town completes the legislative process to define and address data center uses in the Zoning Ordinance.

Discussion: Vice Mayor Veitenthal asked whether the Town had received any applications for data center land uses. Staff responded that they were not aware of any applications and would confirm with the Planning Department.

Councilman Rappaport asked Town Attorney George Sonnett to explain the legal basis for the proposed temporary moratorium. Mr. Sonnett stated that, in his legal opinion, Virginia law does not authorize a legislative moratorium through the zoning ordinance. He explained that the proposed resolution was drafted as an administrative action to provide a temporary pause while zoning regulations are under review.

Vice Mayor Veitenthal asked for clarification regarding the use of the term "prohibit" in Virginia law. Mr. Sonnett stated that the term appears in Virginia Code § 15.2-2281 regarding zoning text amendments.

Vice Mayor Veitenthal moved, seconded by Councilman Wood, that Council adopt the Resolution Establishing a Temporary Ninety (90) Day Moratorium on the Acceptance of Data Center Land Use Applications as presented.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Rappaport, DeDomenico-Payne, Ingram, Wood, Sealock, Vice Mayor Veitenthal
No – None
Absent – None
Abstain – None

ROLL CALL

Request to discontinue the use of motor vehicles on a portion of Church Street between East Main Street and East Jackson Street- Mr. Petty presented the proposed resolution requesting authorization to discontinue the use of motor vehicles on approximately 1,932 square feet of Church Street between E. Main Street and the parking lot behind 201 E. Main Street pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-2001 and 15.2-2006.



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Mr. Petty explained that the one-way alley has been closed since late 2025 due to the redevelopment of the former Murphy Theater property and that the Town has received little to no public feedback regarding the closure's impact on traffic. He noted that the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission's 2019 Downtown Parking Study recommended converting Church Street into a pedestrian walkway to improve connectivity between the Jackson Street parking area and Main Street.

Mr. Petty stated that, if approved, the Town would retain ownership and maintenance of the alley as a public pedestrian walkway. No immediate improvements are proposed other than installing barriers to prevent vehicle access. He further noted that the Town would work with downtown stakeholders to identify future planning and funding opportunities for the design and implementation of the pedestrian walkway. Staff comments and a preliminary survey were included in the agenda materials.

Discussion included the recommendations from the Town's 2019 Downtown Parking Study, the potential to improve pedestrian connectivity between Main Street and the Jackson Street parking area, opportunities to activate the space for downtown events and public use, and confirmation that no public parking spaces would be eliminated.

Council also discussed vehicle access to the adjacent parking lot, potential impacts to traffic circulation, public notification requirements, and the importance of receiving input from downtown businesses, property owners, and the public before any final action is taken. Staff noted that the alley has been closed for several months due to construction without receiving significant public feedback regarding traffic impacts and confirmed that vehicle access to the rear parking lot would be maintained.

Questions were raised regarding emergency vehicle access, public notice requirements, and the timeline for holding a public hearing. Staff explained that abutting property owners would be notified in accordance with state law and that additional outreach could be conducted to encourage public participation.

Following discussion, Council reached a consensus to advertise and schedule the required public hearing for July 27, 2026, with the understanding that the public hearing could be continued if additional public input or Council discussion became necessary before final action.

Special Use Permit 2600139- 508 Kendrick Lane – Ms. Kopishke, the Planning and Zoning Director, presented the Special Use Permit application submitted by Andres A. Montesinos, on behalf of Eagle Sky Industrial Park, LLC, requesting approval to operate an automobile graveyard (junkyard) at 508 Kendrick Lane (Tax Map No. 20A1-3-4), located within the I-2 Industrial Employment District.

Ms. Kopishke stated that adjoining property owners were notified of the public hearing. She further explained that the applicant was not present at the Front Royal Planning Commission public hearing held on June 17, 2026. As a result, the Planning Commission was unable to discuss the proposed use or any mitigation measures with the applicant and recommended denial of the Special Use Permit.

Council discussed the proposed Special Use Permit, including environmental concerns related to the proximity of the property to the Shenandoah River and floodplain, enforcement of permit conditions, and the applicant's



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absence from the Planning Commission public hearing. Vice Mayor Veitenthal noted the role of the Town's Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (ACES) in reviewing applications involving environmental considerations.

Mr. Petty advised that he had recently met with ACES leadership to discuss expanding the committee's involvement in the land use review process and developing a process for obtaining advisory comments on applications involving environmental issues. Mr. Sonnett noted that the committee's responsibilities outlined in the Town Code would be reviewed to clarify its role.

By consensus, Council directed staff to refer the application to ACES for review and comment prior to the public hearing and to delay scheduling the public hearing until the committee's recommendations could be considered.

CLOSED MEETING

Councilman Ingram 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: 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, a) the Town Attorney, and b) Appointments to the Planning Commission.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Abstain – None

Motion carried by roll call vote.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Abstain – None

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:23 PM

Approved by Council:

07/27/2026