



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 (Remote)
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

REMOTE PARTICIPATION: Councilman Ingram participated remotely. Mayor Cockrell confirmed Councilman Ingram's location as Austin, Texas, where he was present for work-related purposes.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Use Permit- Rotary Club Mural at 37 Water Street– Lauren Kopishke, Director of Planning and Zoning, presented a Special Use Permit application submitted for an artistic mural exceeding sixty (60) square feet on the north side of the building located at 37 Water Street, facing the intersection of N. Commerce Avenue and Manassas Street. The property is identified as Tax Map Number 20A8-6-C3 and is zoned C-2, Downtown Business District. Ms. Kopishke noted that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on July 15, 2026, and forwarded a recommendation of approval to the Town Council.

Council confirmed that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on July 15, 2026, and unanimously recommended approval of the Special Use Permit without conditions. Council asked whether staff had any concerns and inquired about the removal of trees adjacent to the proposed mural. Staff explained that two trees located on private property could be removed by the property owner, while the tree located within the Town right-of-way would require coordination with the Public Works Department. Council also discussed the Town's mural regulations, and staff clarified that murals exceeding sixty (60) square feet require approval through the Special Use Permit process on a case-by-case basis. Council asked about the ownership of the property and whether the property owner's permission had been obtained. Additional questions were raised regarding the mural's design and artist, with staff stating that the rendering provided in the application reflects the commissioned artwork.

Council agreed to hold a Public Hearing on this item on August 24, 2026.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment- Outdoor Dining Areas- Lauren Kopishke, Director of Planning and Zoning, presented a proposed ordinance amendment to define "outdoor dining area" in Town Code § 175-3, permit outdoor dining as an accessory use in the C-1, Community Business District, and C-2, Downtown Business District, and establish performance standards under Town Code § 175-118. Ms. Kopishke explained that the amendment would provide parameters for staff to regulate and permit outdoor seating within the Town's commercial



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.

districts. She noted that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on July 15, 2026, and forwarded a recommendation of approval.

Council discussed the proposed ordinance amendment to establish definitions and performance standards for outdoor dining areas within the C-1, Community Business District, and C-2, Downtown Business District. Staff explained that the amendment is intended to provide a framework for regulating and permitting outdoor dining areas and to address existing situations where outdoor seating and related items are located on both private property and within the Town's public rights-of-way. Council discussed the distinction between outdoor dining on private property and the separate process governing use of the public right-of-way, with staff clarifying that the right-of-way utilization process is being addressed independently.

Council raised questions regarding the proposed performance standards, including the applicability to existing and future establishments, the requirement that outdoor furniture be temporary and removable, and whether revisions to the language were needed to better reflect the intent of the ordinance while remaining supportive of local businesses. Staff indicated a willingness to revise portions of the proposed language and provide additional clarification. Following discussion, Council directed staff to return the ordinance amendment to the August 10, 2026, Work Session for further review prior to scheduling a public hearing.

OLD BUSINESS

An Ordinance Amendment to Town Code §175 Regarding Data Center Definitions and Zoning District Regulations
– Lauren Kopishke, Director of Planning and Zoning, presented a proposed ordinance amendment to Town Code §175-3 to define “Data Center” and redefine “Technology Businesses,” and to Town Code §§175-53.10, 175-55, and 175-65 to prohibit data centers as a use within the Mixed-Use Campus Development (MCD) District, I-1, Limited Industrial District, and I-2, Industrial Employment District.

Ms. Kopishke reviewed the history of the Town's consideration of data center regulations, which has included research into regulatory approaches adopted by other Virginia localities, stakeholder engagement, and multiple Planning Commission work sessions. She explained that the Town's initial approach focused on regulating data centers through a Special Use Permit process intended to evaluate and mitigate potential impacts on the community. Following Town Council's direction to obtain an independent legal review of the proposed ordinance, Council determined that the Special Use Permit framework did not provide the level of protection desired. Council subsequently adopted a temporary administrative application moratorium and directed Staff to prepare the proposed zoning text amendment to define and prohibit data centers as a land use within the Town.

Staff reviewed the proposed definitions and explained that the amendment would establish a comprehensive definition of “Data Center,” distinguish data centers from technology businesses and other computing-related uses, and prohibit data centers within the MCD, I-1, and I-2 zoning districts.

Council discussed the proposed definitions and prohibitions of data centers, including the distinction between data centers and technology businesses and the importance of ensuring the ordinance would not create opportunities for the proposed restrictions to be circumvented through alternative classifications. Council also discussed the previous Special Use Permit approach and the independent legal review.



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.

Council directed Staff to submit the proposed ordinance to outside legal counsel for review and return the item to Council for further consideration upon completion of that review.

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 purposes: 1)pursuant to section 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, the Town Attorney; 2)discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, more specifically, acquisition pursuant to Town Charter §18 and Virginia Code §15.2-2109.

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

No – N/A

Absent –N/A

Abstain – N/A

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 – N/A

Absent –N/A

Abstain – N/A

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:12PM

Approved by Council: **08/24/2026**