



TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, January 11, 2016 @ 6:00p.m.

Warren County Government Center

1. CLOSED MEETING – Interviews for Appointment to Town Council

Motion to Go Into Closed Meeting

Pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711.A.I of the Freedom of Information Act, Councilman Connolly moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Tharpe that Town Council go into closed meeting to discuss, consider, and interview prospective candidates for appointment to Town Council to fill the position vacated by the resignation of former Town Council Member Daryl L. Funk.

Vote: Yes – Connolly, Egger, Hrbek, Tewalt and Tharpe

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – N/A

(Mayor Darr did not vote as there was no tie to require his vote)

Motion to Certify Closed Meeting at its Conclusion

Councilman Connolly moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Tharpe 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 Action 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 – Connolly, Darr, Egger, Hrbek, Tewalt and Tharpe

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – N/A

(By Roll Call)

Present: Mayor Darr, Vice Mayor Tharpe, Councilman Connolly, Councilman Hrbek, Councilman Egger, Councilman Tewalt, Town Manager Burke, and Clerk of Council Berry

The regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal, Virginia was held on January 11, 2016, in the Warren County Government Center's Board Meeting Room. Mayor Darr led Council and those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and a Moment of Silence. The roll was called at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Timothy W. Darr
Councilman John P. Connolly
Councilman Bébhinn C. Egger
Councilman Bret W. Hrbek
Councilman Eugene R. Tewalt
Vice Mayor Hollis L. Tharpe
Town Attorney Douglas W. Napier
Town Manager Steven M. Burke, P.E.
Clerk of Council Jennifer E. Berry, CMC

(The above listed members represent the full body of Council as authorized in the Town Charter.)

Councilman Tewalt moved, seconded by Councilman Egger that Council approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes of December 14, 2015 as presented.

Vote: Yes – Connolly, Egger, Hrbek, Tewalt and Tharpe
No – N/A
Abstain – N/A
Absent – N/A
(Mayor Darr did not vote as there was no tie to require his vote)

RECEIPT OF PETITIONS OR CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC

Addison Gibbs, of 19 W. 13th Street, questioned Council about removing the cameras at the downtown Gazebo. Mayor Darr noted that the cameras were removed for various reasons and the matter has certainly been controversial. He noted that the Town could gather some information for Mr. Gibbs to review, if he would like to get in touch with Mr. Burke, the Town Manager.

Keith Menefee, of Downhome Comfort Bakery, thanked the Mayor and Council for the initial First Night Event downtown. He noted that it was well attended and well organized. Mr. Menefee stated that with the New Year's Eve event, more festivals, outside movie nights and Dancin' Downtown evenings, there has been a great resurgence in the downtown area. He noted that he saw the removal of the cameras as a detriment to the well being to the Town citizenry. He added that the Town cares about the safety of their citizens and Town citizens and visitors are aware that the cameras had been placed for security; he encouraged signs to be placed that state just that. Mr. Menefee noted that there were many absentee landlords and low rent housing tenants along Main Street and those individuals do not have a vested interest in the downtown area. He stated that some of those individuals loiter downtown and those areas are to be expected to be in the view of cameras. He stated that he wished that Council would look at it in the context of the eminent domain law, meaning that the safety of many should outweigh the paranoia of just a few.

Cole Trower, of Congressman Goodlatte's office, asked Council to reach out to him or anyone else from the Congressman's office, as they are always there to assist the Town however possible.

Charles Redelman, of 1412 Anderson Street, noted that the Leach Run Parkway was proposed 20+ years ago, though cost estimates were given before the project and he wondered what those were. He asked about subsequent change of work or large scale cost of the construction.

Mayor Darr noted that it was a group Town, County and EDA and the Staff would be pleased to grant him the information he would like. He asked Mr. Redelman to contact Mr. Burke at the Town Manager's office.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR, COUNCIL & STAFF

Town Manager Steve Burke noted that:

- The Town will continue to collect Christmas tree on Wednesday January 13th and January 20th. All tinsel, ornaments, and stands must be removed.
- Yard waste collection will cease January 13th and resume March 30th
- Town offices will be closed Monday, January 18th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Garbage collection for those with regular collection on Mondays will be Wednesday, January 20th
- Town will be repairing northbound lane of John Marshall Highway between Jamestown Road and Royal Lane and will be repairing Happy Creek Road between Bel Air Avenue and Manassas Avenue this week from 9:00 am until 2:30 pm. Crews will be excavating pavement and subgrade on Happy Creek Road and will prep John Marshall Highway on Tuesday, January 12th. Crews will excavate John Marshall Highway on Wednesday, January 13th. Paving will occur on both Happy Creek Road and John Marshall Highway on Thursday, January 14th. For more information, please visit the Town's website at www.frontroyalva.com.
- The Town is pleased to announce the winners for the 2015 Holiday Lights Contest: First place was 210 Randolph Avenue; Second place was 111 Accomac Road; and third place was 1250 John Marshall Highway. Thank you to all who entered and to those who voted.
- The Town wishes to thank all of those who planned, participated, and attended our first New Year's Eve Front Royal. We estimate between 500 and 800 residents attended the various performances throughout the evening. Special thank you to our Department of Energy Services for the incredible 2016 light display that illuminated the beginning of 2016. We will begin planning for the 2016 event and invite interested residents to contact Tim Smith, our Visitors Center Manager, to help make it an even better event.
- The Town will continue to provide updates about the transition of traffic onto the new portion of the South Fork Bridge as we receive input from VDOT's contractor.

John Madera, of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, stated that NSVRC held the interviews recently for the Executive Director position and a Director would soon be officially appointed. Mr. Madera stated that they continued their work with the collection of the homeless data information in the community, the CBDG planning grant team meetings, and they are in the early stages of the visioning process as well. He added that the work on the Stronger Economies Together program in order to strengthen the economic blueprint for the region, and the Civic Engagement Forum will be held soon, and formal invitations would be going out next week. Mr. Madera noted that the new signs for RideSmart will soon be installed on Route 66.

Councilman Hrbek asked that a copy of the homelessness study be provided to the United Way.

Councilman Egger noted that she has encouraged those with concerns relating to the Gazebo cameras to watch the December Council meeting video. She stated that some of the issues seem to be from the article printed from the Northern Virginia Daily. Ms. Egger noted that she did not stated that it was a privacy issue at all, but rather her concern is that it goes beyond the scope of local government. She opined that it was not the job of local government to keep bad things from happening, nor was it an expectation of the government to keep people safe, adding that individuals could still get mugged, even if cameras were in place. Councilman Egger noted that information was given by the Police Department to Council and there had not been any strong evidence that the cameras had been helpful with crime. She reiterated that those with concerns should review the December meeting video.

Councilman Connolly stated that he is appreciative of the guilty to proven innocent saying. He noted that the cameras were put in place as a deterrent, and at this point he does not feel that Council has not solved anything at this point. Councilman Connolly stated that he had proposed that the area be closed after 11 p.m. at the last meeting, as he would like to protect the Town's investment and he would like the issue of vandalism addressed.

Councilman Hrbek noted that he would not be running for re-election, though he hoped to accomplish a lot this coming year. He stated that his priorities included including the property maintenance code, hiring a community development director, working with EDA for one catalyst project, completing the Main Street extension to the Royal Phoenix property, the Leach Run Trail, and the Westminster sidewalk.

Mayor Darr commended Town Staff for the Town New Year celebration, as it was well organized and well attended, especially for being a first time event. He noted that the event will most likely prosper each year.

Mayor Darr asked if there were any proposals for additions or deletions to the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. COUNCIL APPROVAL – Deed of Easement from Winchester Road (E&A), LLC and Winchester Realty (E&A), LLC for Water and Sewer Right-of-Way at Riverton Commons

B. COUNCIL APPROVAL – Deed of Easement for Middle School Entrance at Leach Run Pkwy

C. COUNCIL APPROVAL – Liaison Committee Meeting Items

D. COUNCIL APPROVAL – Donation of Used Pole Lights and Installation of Lights & Utility Pole to Humane Society of Warren County

Councilman Tewalt moved, seconded by Councilman Egger that Council adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vote: Yes – Connolly, Egger, Hrbek, Tewalt and Tharpe

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – N/A

(Mayor Darr did not vote as there was no tie to require his vote)

(By Roll Call)

COUNCIL APPROVAL – Right of Way Permit Extension with Shenandoah National Park

Summary: Council is requested to approve a 10-year extension for a Right-of-Way Permit with the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service for an electric utility pole and guy wire on Criser Road at its intersection with South Royal Avenue that was made necessary by the addition of a turn lane at that intersection in 2006. Council is further requested to authorize the Town Manager to execute the permit.

Councilman Egger moved, seconded by Councilman Connolly that Council approve a 10-year extension for a Right-of-Way Permit with the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service for an electric utility pole and guy wire on Criser Road at its intersection with South Royal Avenue. I further move that Council authorize the Town Manager to execute the permit.

Vote: Yes – Connolly, Egger, Hrbek, Tewalt and Tharpe

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – N/A

(Mayor Darr did not vote as there was no tie to require his vote)

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

Jennifer E. Berry
Clerk of Council