

The regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal, Virginia was held on April 10, 2017, in the Warren County Government Center's Board Meeting Room. Mayor Tharpe 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 Hollis L. Tharpe
Councilman Bébhinn C. Egger
Councilman Jacob L. Meza
Councilman Christopher S. Morrison
Councilman William A. Sealock
Councilman Eugene R. Tewalt
Town Attorney Douglas W. Napier
Interim Town Manager Joseph E. Waltz
Clerk of Council Jennifer E. Berry, CMC

ABSENT: Councilman John P. Connolly

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

Vice Mayor Tewalt moved, seconded by Councilman Meza moved that Council approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes of March 13, 2017 as presented.

Vote: Yes - Connolly, Egger, Meza, Morrison, Sealock and Tewalt

No - N/A

Abstain - N/A

Absent - N/A

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

RECEIPT OF PETITIONS OR CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no receipts of petitions or correspondence from the public.

Mr. Waltz noted that lane closures continued along John Marshall for the work along Leach Run Parkway. He stated that the Jamestown Road lane installation construction also continues and he asked that drivers be alert for delays. Mr. Waltz stated that work for tree removal along Westminster Drive would be occurring and the Town crews would be flushing hydrants for next the two weeks

Mr. Smith, Tourism Coordinator, noted that visitation has picked up considerably during the first ten days of April, with visitors from over 28 states represented this spring so far. He noted that the Department's social media work continues, with daily posts and a large number of followers. Mr. Smith stated that their posts on FaceBook were viewed many times in the last week, they have an e-newsletter, they use Twitter, and they also are send mailings, which have increased this year over last. He noted that advertising print media codes will be used in order to determine how well particular magazines are used. Mr. Smith added that Earth/Arbor Day events will soon take place, as well as the Civil War Weekend, May 6th, which will be larger than last year.

Jeremy Camp, Director of Planning & Zoning, noted that many permits have been issued, with this being the highest year since 2007. He stated that the issuance of business licenses were at 55, and the zoning clearances were also at the highest year ever reported. He stated that Code Enforcement has had 172 cases opened so far this year. Mr. Camp stated that the Downtown Revitalization Plan had been submitted, and he thanked the Project Management Team who have worked so hard over the last year.

Mr. Camp stated that the Planning Department continues to work with the Department of Environment Services, the Economic Development Authority, and Warren County Planning Office regarding new and prospective businesses to work collaboratively as they come in.

Mr. Camp stated that the Town Staff is exploring options for an online portal for InterGov software with Warren County. He noted that his Staff continues to provide development review for projects, including large projects for FRLP, and he stated that the Town's GIS Coordinator was always working towards the final Criser Road Trail plans.

Mayor Tharpe noted that there were two scholarship winners and he stated that Councilman Egger and Councilman Connolly had handled the scholarship process for Council.

Councilman Egger noted that it was an honor and inspiring to read the submittals and she congratulated all that applied. She and Mayor Tharpe presented Prutha Patel and Cecelia Bockrath with checks from the Town and expressed their congratulations on behalf of the Town Council and Staff.

Councilman Meza presented the GFOA to BJ Wilson, the Town's Finance Director, for his work throughout the year in the office of Finance.

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

Councilman Meza moved, seconded by Councilman Morrison, to postpone the Criminal Justice Academy item until the 24th.

Vote: Yes - Egger, Meza, Morrison, Tewalt and Sealock

No - N/A

Abstain - N/A

Absent - Connolly

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

(By Roll Call)

CONSENT AGENDA

A. COUNCIL APPROVAL - Proclamation - Arbor Day

B. COUNCIL APPROVAL - Proclamation - Building Safety Month

Vice Mayor Tewalt moved, seconded by Councilman Morrison that Council approve the consent agenda as presented.

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, trees reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and,

WHEREAS, Front Royal has been recognized as a Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree-planting practices;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Hollis L. Tharpe, Mayor of the Town of Front Royal, do hereby proclaim Saturday, April 22, 2017 as

ARBOR DAY

in the Town of Front Royal, and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands; and

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well being of this and future generations

PROCLAMATION BUILDING SAFETY MONTH 2017

WHEREAS, Warren County's continuing efforts to address the critical issues of safety, energy efficiency, water conservation, and resilience in the built environment that affect our citizens, both in everyday life and in times of natural disaster, give us confidence that our structures are safe and sound, and;

WHEREAS, our confidence is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians—building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, laborers and others in the construction industry—who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings, and;

WHEREAS, these guardians—dedicated members of the International Code Council—use a governmental consensus process that brings together local, state and federal officials with expertise in the built environment to create and implement the highest-quality codes to protect Americans in the buildings where we live, learn, work, worship, play, and;

WHEREAS, the International Codes, the most widely adopted building safety, energy and fire prevention codes in the nation, are used by most U.S. cities, counties and states; these modern building codes also include safeguards to protect the public from natural disasters such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, floods and earthquakes, and;

WHEREAS, Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council, to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' largely unknown guardians of public safety—our local code officials—who assure us of safe, efficient and livable buildings, and;

WHEREAS, “Code Officials - Partners in Community Safety and Economic Growth” the theme for Building Safety Month 2017, encourages all Americans to raise awareness of the importance of mentoring the next generation of building professionals; building design for all ages; managing the damage - preparing for natural disasters; investing in technology for safety, energy & water efficiency. Building Safety Month 2017 encourages appropriate steps everyone can take to ensure that the places where we live, learn, work, worship and play are safe and sustainable, and recognizes that countless lives have been saved due to the implementation of safety codes by local and state agencies, and,

WHEREAS, each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, Americans are asked to consider projects to improve building safety and sustainability at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local and state building departments, fire prevention bureaus and federal agencies in protecting lives and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and the Front Royal Town Council does hereby proclaim the month of May 2017 as *Building Safety Month* and encourages our citizens to join with their communities in participation in Building Safety Month activities.

Vote: Yes - Egger, Meza, Morrison, Tewalt and Sealock

No - N/A

Abstain - N/A

Absent - Connolly

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

(By Roll Call)

COUNCIL APPROVAL - Budget Amendment, Resolution and Purchase of Street Sweeper Summary: Council is requested to approve a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$231,784.00 (\$36,710 funded) to accept loan proceeds and a Resolution Approving Financing Terms with Preliminary Amortization Schedule, as presented. Council is further requested to accept the bid from Valley Supply & Equipment in the amount of \$268,494 to purchase a Johnson VT651 vacuum street sweeper mounted on a Medium Freightliner.

Budget/Funding: Loan proceed amendment will be:

4500-3410001 - Highway Maintenance - Bond Proceeds - \$231,784.00

4500-47005 - Highway Maintenance - Motor Vehicles - \$231,784.00

Purchase of sweeper will then be:

4500-47005 Highway Maintenance - Motor Vehicles - \$268,494.00

The FY17 budget includes funding of \$36,710 for the purchase of a sweeper

Councilman Egger moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Tewalt that Council approve a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$231,784.00 to accept loan proceeds and a Resolution Approving Financing Terms with Preliminary Amortization Schedule, as presented. He further moved that Council accept the bid from Valley Supply & Equipment in the amount of \$268,494 to purchase a Johnson VT651 vacuum street sweeper mounted on a Medium Freightliner.

Vote: Yes - Egger, Meza, Morrison, Sealock and Tewalt

No - N/A

Abstain - N/A

Absent - Connolly

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

CLOSED MEETING - PERSONNEL MATTER**Motion to Go Into Closed Meeting**

Councilman Egger moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Tewalt that Council convene and go into Closed Meeting for the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of a public body, pursuant to Section 2.2 3711. A. 1., of the Code of Virginia.

Vote: Yes - Egger, Meza, Morrison, Sealock and Tewalt

No - N/A

Abstain - N/A

Absent - Connolly

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

(By Roll Call)

Motion to Certify Closed Meeting at its Conclusion

Councilman Meza moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Tewalt 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 - Egger, Meza, Morrison, Sealock, Tharpe and Tewalt

No - N/A
Abstain - N/A
Absent - Connolly

(By Roll Call)

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

APPROVED:

Jennifer E. Berry
Clerk of Council