The regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal, Virginia was held on November 26, 2018, 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 John P. Connolly
Councilman Gary L. Gillispie
Councilman Jacob L. Meza
Councilman Christopher S. Morrison
Councilman William A. Sealock
Vice Mayor Eugene R. Tewalt
Town Attorney Douglas W. Napier
Town Manager Joseph E. Waltz
Clerk of Council Jennifer E. Berry, MMC

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

Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Tewalt to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes of November 13, 2018 as presented.

Vote: Yes – Connolly, Gillispie, 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)
(By Roll Call)

RECEIPT OF PETITIONS OR CORRESPODENCE FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no receipts or petitions from the public.

Town Manager Waltz asked the Chief of Police to come forward. Chief Magalis noted that the new Town K-9 Officer was Maverick was a Hungarian Black Labrador that graduated in October. He explained that Maverick was working with Officer Meadows in Town on locating narcotics and so far they had been successful on at least five occasions. Chief Magalis and Town Council wished Maverick and Officer Meadows continued success and safety.

Brandon Davis, of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, stated that the NSVRC was continuing their work on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and their goal was to enhance local governments by providing data to make decisions in their municipalities. Mr. Davis explained that they had been joined by many in the several months long process on the stakeholder leadership team, including Felecia Hart of the Town of Front Royal, and there is an executive summary on the NSVRC website. He reminded Council that the NSVRC does not create policy but rather they document matters in order to assist localities with their work, as they continue to provide services.

To answer a Council question from the last meeting regarding the commuter bus, Mr. Davis noted that there were 15 riders today on the bus. He stated that was just before the holiday

weekend, and there were nine new riders, which is the expected number for the beginning of a program.

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
A. COUNCIL APPROVAL – Renewal of Lease Agreement w/ Betty Foster – 130 E Main St
B. COUNCIL APPROVAL – Amendment to Lease Agreement with T-Mobile
C. COUNCIL APPROVAL – Bid for Concrete
D. COUNCIL APPROVAL – HEPTAD Request for 1-year Extension to Submit Dev Plan

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

Vote: Yes – Connolly, Gillispie, 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)
(By Roll Call)

COUNCIL APPROVAL – Proclamation for "Michael Ryan Ramey Day"
Council is requested to approve a Proclamation proclaiming December 5, 2018 as "Michael Ryan Ramey Day" in the Town of Front Royal, as presented.

Vice Mayor Tewalt moved, seconded by Councilman Sealock that Council approve a Proclamation proclaiming December 5, 2018 as "Michael Ryan Ramey Day" in the Town of Front Royal, as presented.

Mayor Tharpe asked Clerk of Council Berry to read the proclamation. He then presented the proclamation to the family in honor of Michael.

Vote: Yes – Connolly, Gillispie, 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)
(By Roll Call)

PROCLAMATION

Michael Ryan Ramey Day

WHEREAS, a beautiful child, Michael Ryan Ramey, joined this world on December 5, 2010, to proud parents, Marc & Ashley, and;

WHEREAS, Michael bounced through this life creating joy & leaving a trail of epic smiles wherever he landed; &

WHEREAS, Michael had the heart, determination, and bravery of the Superheroes he so admired; and

WHEREAS, Michael had great love and respect for the men and women in uniform; both law enforcement and firefighters; and

WHEREAS, Michael had a special interest in the bird of the Commonwealth, the Cardinal; a bird which symbolizes determination, joy, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Michael took pride in making friends, and had a deep love for his family: Marc, Lacey & Seth Ramey; and Ashley, Joseph & Jackson Woodall;

WHEREAS, Michael left this world on June 10, 2018, leaving an indelible mark on his community through his life and love for others and will be long and warmly remembered by all; and

WHEREAS, in honor of Michael, his school, Ressie Jeffries Elementary School on Criser Road, will plant a tree on Sat., December 8th to celebrate his precious life;

NOW THEREFORE, **the Mayor & Town Council of the Town of Front Royal, in recognition of the light & life Michael contributed to our community as a whole, we hereby proclaim December 5th, 2018 as**

" Michael Ryan Ramey Day "

in the Town of Front Royal.

COUNCIL APPROVAL – Amendment to the FY2019 Budget Concerning a List of Outstanding Purchase Orders that Need to be Carried Forward *(2nd Reading)*

Summary: Council is requested to adopt on its second and final reading an amendment to the FY 2019 Budget concerning a list of outstanding purchase orders that the Finance department has compiled, totaling $14,654,326.96, based on the final audit results that need to be carried forward to the FY2019 budget cycle to complete unfinished projects.

Budget/Funding: Funding will be offset from the appropriate fund balance reserves for each fund indicated, the revenue for these projects having been connected in previous budget cycle, as follows:

General Fund $ 447,908.78
Special Projects $1,384772.81
Electric Fund $ 539,112.6
Sewer Fund $7,247,675.70
Water Fund $3,147,458.28
Solid Waste Fund $ 28,907.79
Street Fund $1,858,490.09

Vice Mayor Tewalt moved, seconded by Councilman Sealock that Council adopt on its second and final reading an amendment to the FY 2019 Budget concerning a list of outstanding purchase orders that the Finance department has compiled, totaling $14,654,326.96, that need to be carried forward to the FY2019 budget cycle to complete unfinished projects.

Vote: Yes – Connolly, Gillispie, 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)
(By Roll Call)

COUNCIL RE-APPOINTMENT – Urban Forestry Advisory Committee
Summary: Council is requested to re-appoint a member to the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC) to a four-year term ending December 20, 2022.

Councilman Connolly moved, seconded by Councilman Meza, that Council re-appoint Linda Taylor to the Urban Forestry Advisory Commission (UFAC) to a four-year term ending December 20, 2022.

Vote: Yes – Connolly, Gillispie, 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)
(By Roll Call)

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT – NSVRC Elected Representative
Summary: Council is requested to appoint an elected representative to the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission said term to expire when the elected representative's term expires (12/31/2022).

Councilman Connolly moved, seconded by Councilman Sealock, that Council appoint Councilman-Elect Letasha Thompson as the elected representative to serve on the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission (NSVRC) said term to begin January 1, 2019 and end December 31, 2022.

Vote: Yes – Connolly, Gillispie, 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)
(By Roll Call)

COUNCIL APPROVAL – Budget Amendment for the Purchase of a Refuse Truck and a Resolution for the Financing Associated with the Purchase
Summary: Council is requested to approve a Budget Amendment in the amount of $176,928.00 for the purchase of a Freightliner M2-112 chassis with a Loadmaster Excel body (Refuse Truck) from Richmond Machinery. Council is further requested to approve a Resolution for the full amount ($176,928.00) to finance the truck, as presented.

Budget/Funding: 4203-3410001 Solid Waste Management – Bond Proceeds $176,928.00
4203-47001 Solid Waste Management – Machinery/Equipment $176,928.00

Vice Mayor Tewalt moved, seconded by Councilman Connolly that Council approve a Budget Amendment in the amount of $176,928 for the purchase of a Freightliner M2-112 chassis with a Loadmaster Excel body

(Refuse Truck) from Richmond Machinery. He further moved that Council approve a Resolution that approves the financing for $176,928 for a period of five (5) years, as presented.

Councilman Meza noted that the Town has had extensive conversations about improvements and changes to the refuse program previously. He noted that the Town does not have the money for the truck, and the Council has discussed where the refuse program should go. Mr. Meza explained that Council is here 18 months after said discussion, and they are financing the truck to continue to limp the program along. He noted that the Town has previously purchased one truck, and now they were financing another at a 4% rate and lately all of the Town's major purchases have been financed. He reminded Council that the Town does not have the funding.

Vote: Yes – Connolly, Gillispie, Sealock, and Tewalt
No – Meza and Morrison
Abstain – N/A
Absent – N/A
(Mayor Tharpe did not vote as there was no tie to require his vote)
(By Roll Call)

COUNCIL APPROVAL – Resolution to Authorize IDA Issuance of Revenue Bonds for Financing for Royal Arms Community Partners, LP to Rehabilitate Housing Complex Buildings at 401 E Criser Road

Summary: Council is requested to approve a Resolution with Respect to Industrial Development Authority (IDA) Financing for Royal Arms Community Partners, LP certain costs of acquisition, construction, rehabilitation and equipping of an approximately 144-unit affordable housing complex comprised of four, three story buildings and a pool/maintenance building on approximately 9.5356 acres at 401 E. Criser Road, as presented.

The IDA/EDA has agreed to issue the bonds and conducted a public hearing on the proposed financing on October 26, 2018.

Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Councilman Sealock that Council approve a Resolution with Respect to Industrial Development Authority (IDA) Financing for Royal Arms Community Partners, LP to rehabilitate housing complex buildings at 401 E Criser Road, as presented.

Vote: Yes – Connolly, Gillispie, 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)
(By Roll Call)

COUNCIL APPROVAL – Resolution Regarding Town's Finances with EDA

Summary: Council is requested to approve a Resolution regarding Town's Finances with the Economic Development Authority (EDA), as presented.

Councilman Connolly moved, seconded by Councilman Morrison that Council approve a Resolution regarding Town's Finances with the Economic Development Authority (EDA), as presented.

Councilman Connolly noted that recently the media had posted that the EDA had financially overcharged the Town. He stated that this resolution is the accurate record of the Town's work and research thus far and this resolution commends the Town's Staff for their efforts. Mr. Connolly noted that the resolution advises the public of the Town's Staff's abilities and that the public funds are being accurately handled.

Councilman Sealock stated that he spoke to the support of alerting the public to debt service issues and new project matters as well. He stated that the Town's resolution should address how to determine ways to pay for incoming projects and this resolution does not address unfunded projects. Mr. Sealock noted that he was unsure how to fund many projects and this resolution does not state how the future payments of projects would be handled, which concerns him.

Councilman Sealock stated that recent discussions with the Town's accounting auditors brought forward matters regarding reserve for Staff health benefits and retirements and this inflated resolution does not address those issues either. He added that the resolution is inadequate and the new projects are not addressed. He opined that the full facts are not noted in the resolution and it fails to state that potential future sale of property which would alleviate some of the debt service for example.

Mr. Sealock stated that there two types of resolutions and also a press release option, which would have been another way to convey information to the public. He voiced that the resolution is not factual and was too lengthy. He questioned the Town's procedures and noted that matters should have been brought forward by Staff long before now.

Vice Mayor Tewalt noted that the Town is unsure of how much money the Town has overpaid to the EDA and until the Town has the facts in full, he cannot support the resolution.

Councilman Meza stated that the Town is putting out information in order to place out a timeline of information due to the vast amount of FOIA requests submitted to the Town. He noted that as Mr. Sealock stated, it does not contain all of the facts, which is true, so much more can be added into the resolution. Mr. Meza stated that the information in the resolution is factual, and it is difficult to be brief due to the vast amount of information to cover. He added that months of information and research has gone on and in order to paint the entire picture of what has taken place and this resolution was to give an accurate timeline rather than bits and pieces of information through FOIA requests.

Vote: Yes – Connolly, Gillispie, Meza, Morrison
No – Sealock and Tewalt
Abstain – N/A
Absent – N/A
(Mayor Tharpe did not vote as there was no tie to require his vote)
(By Roll Call)

After appealing to Council to speak, and being granted some time, Ms. Jennifer Roberts noted that she was experiencing theft and break ins at her home and she is upset at her apartment manager. Ms. Roberts stated that she has been contacting the Police Department and matters have not been resolved and she needs help with her eviction process.

Mayor Tharpe stated that the Town Attorney would be in touch with Ms. Roberts.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned 7:39 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Jennifer E. Berry
Clerk of Council