

The regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal, Virginia was held on March 9, 2020, in the Warren County Government Center's Board Meeting Room. Warren County Girl Scouts of Nation's Capital, Services Unit 14-4 led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and Mayor Tewalt asked for a Moment of Silence.

Councilman Thompson moved, seconded by Councilman Holloway to appoint and recognize Tina Presley as Clerk of the Front Royal Town Council pro tempore for the meeting of Front Royal Town Council on March 9, 2020 Regular Meeting; and for such additional and further meetings and times that are a continuation of the March 9, 2020 meetings at her services such as Clerk pro tempore may be needed.

Vote: Unanimous

ROLL CALL for MAYOR/TOWN COUNCIL

PRESENT:

Mayor Eugene R. Tewalt
Vice Mayor William A. Sealock
Councilman Lori A. Cockrell
Councilman Chris W. Holloway
Councilman Jacob L. Meza
Councilman Letasha T. Thompson
Town Attorney Douglas W. Napier
Interim Town Manager Matthew A. Tederick
Clerk of Council Pro Tempore Tina L. Presley

ABSENT:

Councilman Gary L. Gillispie

(The above represent municipal officers of the Town of Front Royal as stated in Town Charter Section 4)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Meza moved, seconded by Councilman Holloway to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes of February 24, 2020, Special Meeting minutes of February 19, 2020 and Work Session minutes of February 19, 2020 as presented

Vote: Unanimous

RECEIPT OF PETITIONS AND/OR CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC

Bruce Rappaport, 300 W. Main Street – voiced concern over the demise of the community noting that it never fully recovered from the closing of Avtex Fibers Plant. He opined that there was no way the Town could afford the many required services and repairs the Town will need over the next 30 years without raising taxes. Council's budget has \$29 million worth of capital improvement that includes a big-ticket item of a \$12 million water line that Dominion Energy needs completed. He voiced concern over the costs of maintaining the water line thirty years from now. He noted that the debt service had to be paid and the only way to do that was to raise taxes.

Linda Allen, 15 Massie Street – read the following for the record

Mayor Initial ERT

Good Evening, Mayor Tewalt, Members of Town Council, and Staff,
 There is a problem with the Main St. and Royal Ave. intersection that I discussed with the town engineer but he, as you know, is no longer here. The problem is serious enough to expect that it be fixed soon. At this intersection, cars face each other on Royal Ave. going north and south. On Royal Ave., one may be turning left and one may be turning right. At first, the two cars seem to aim at each other while entering the center of the intersection, then angle to make their respective turns. The problem occurs when there are cars in each lane of Royal Ave. and Main St. The persons on Main St. can turn right on red. If the car is turning from E. Main St. onto N. Royal-around the corner of the Afton Inn-- no vehicle collision can occur. The person on W. Main St. also turns right on red; for seconds it aims toward the car turning left onto W. Main St. There is not enough room for three cars unless they make their turns tightly. Size of vehicle and how far out the W. Main St. driver turns become the problem. There are times when you see eyes open wide as two vehicles turn, one from W. Main onto S. Royal and one from S. Royal going toward W. Main St. because one vehicle is large and the two vehicles come within inches of each other. I have had to stop while turning left from S. Royal onto W. Main St. because a medium sized SUV swung out from W. Main St., using right turn on red-beside Sona Bank. It would help if the town stops allowing a right turn on red from W. Main St. onto S. Royal Ave. It could avoid an accident. That kind of accident could hit the car on Royal Ave. turning left onto W. Main St. Even at low speeds, serious damage can be done to a car. Worse, a hit would be approx. at the driver door. With the door as the only protection against injury, it is not likely that bodily injury would be avoided. If you would, please, refer this problem to someone who can fix it, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

Paul Gabbert, 1221 Valley View Drive – voiced disbelief that Council wants the citizens of Front Royal to pay for the redundant water line for those who are in the Corridor. He voiced concern over the FOIA requests that he submitted recently regarding “whether the Interim Town Manager was doing a good job.” He continued that he received a letter from the Town Attorney with enormous costs associated with each request. He reminded Council of the email he sent each of them and received three responses. He read Councilman Meza’s response. He questioned whether Mr. Tederick filled out a Statement of Economic Interests when he became Interim Town Manager and read LLCs he believed he was involved with.

Mike McCarthy, Green Mountain Hospitality (aka Holiday Inn, Houlihan’s, Blue Ridge Golf Course) – mentioned the letter he had previously sent to Council pertaining to the dissolution of Tourism. He noted that his business spends thousands of dollars in marketing a year. He continued by voicing his concern over the dismissal of the Tourism Director and questioned his “faith” in Council on what their steps were moving forward. He read an excerpt from the article “*Tourism Expands and Strengthens the Shenandoah Valley in Economy*” October 2019 under visitshenandoah.org. He noted that each of the entities mentioned in the article have an active professional tourism person leading the charge. He voiced concern over the dismissal of the Tourism Director without a clear plan for the future.

REPORTS

a. Report of Special Committees or Town Officials and Interim Town Manager

Director of Energy Services David Jenkins recognized Preston Toms for graduating from the Northwestern Lineman College with a plaque. He explained the steps on how to get to the point of graduation. Council and those in attendance applauded this achievement.

Interim Town Manager clarified for the record various statement said earlier:

- Dominion Power will be paying for the redundant water line that will service businesses outside the Town Limits.
- Many of the LLCs that Mr. Gabbert listed earlier are not his, but they carry his office address to receive paperwork. He also noted that many of them are also closed. He fully supported his Statement of Economic Interests document that he completed as Interim Mayor and noted that he approached legal counsel to insure it was completed accurately.
- The Joint Tourism Board is very active and anticipates that they will be presenting to Council on March 16, 2020.
- Explained that he looked at the overall budget from the point of a Town Manager to produce a good sound budget to Council. He noted several advertisements that the Town paid for that were understandably beneficial to businesses such as Mr. McCarthy's; however, he explained that Tourism does not have a strategic plan in place and preferred that stakeholders get involved. He advised that the Town was required by law to spend 67% of the lodging tax on Tourism promotion not Tourism to assist a particular sector or specific business. He noted that he was "very happy with the direction the Town is headed"

b. Requests and inquiries of Council members.

Councilman Thompson – noted that she spent two hours at the Visitors Center recently receiving an education and noted various "pieces of misinformation" that the Joint Tourism Board may have received with regard to Tourism advertising. She advised that Meagan from the Visitors Center will be presenting before Council, at her request, on March 16 to clear up all misinformation on facts and figures. She also advised that the Joint Tourism Board has been invited to this meeting to so that everyone is in the same room together getting questions answered.

She voiced concern that Felicia Hart's contact information was listed on several items specifically on handouts at the recent Pittsburg Travel Show, but now that contact information is no longer valid and contacts are going into a "black hole".

She voiced concerns regarding a violation of the MOA between Town Council and Board of Supervisors with regard to any changes to the document.

Councilman Meza – thanked Mr. Gabbert for reading his email and voiced support of its content. He invited everyone to attend Council's Work Session on March 16 to hear information with regard to Tourism. It was confirmed that the Joint Tourism Board would meet on March 11 and is also invited to the March 16 Council Work Session. There is also a proposed Joint Meeting with the Board of Supervisors on March 30 to hear a presentation from the Joint Tourism Board, noting that this meeting has not been confirmed.

Councilman Cockrell – advised that she recently attended Bingo at the Elks Lodge for the Phoenix Project and expressed appreciation to Captain Crystal Cline of the Police Department for her enthusiasm and participation.

She touched on the coronavirus and the amount of fear and misinformation going around. She confirmed that Dr. Colin Greene gave a report to the Board of Supervisors recently and requested that he be asked to give a report to Town Council. Councilman Meza suggested reaching out to Valley Health since a number of representatives would be happy to give a report.

She questioned whether Felicia Hart's emails were going to a "black hole". Mr. Tederick clarified that all her emails go to him and Mrs. Presley and are reviewed daily; however, phone calls were not.

c. Report of the Mayor

Read Proclamation for "Women's History Month" and presented, along with Councilman Cockrell and Councilman Thompson, to the Girl Scouts in the audience:

PROCLAMATION
Congressional Resolution Designating the Month of March as
"Women's History Month"

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways;

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home;

WHEREAS, American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the Nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the Nation;

WHEREAS, American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our Nation;

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement;

WHEREAS, American women have served our country courageously in the military;

WHEREAS, American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked & undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor on behalf of the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal that March 2020 is designated as "Women's History Month" in the Town of Front Royal.

d. Proposals for Addition/Deletion of Items to the Agenda – None

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS –

A. COUNCIL APPROVAL – Liaison Committee Mission Statement and Policies Revision
Council approved the revision to the Liaison Committee Mission Statement and Policies as presented and contingent upon the approval of the same from the W.C. Board of Supervisors.

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B. COUNCIL APPROVAL – Proclamation – Women’s History Month

Council approved a proclamation designating the month of March as “Women’s History Month in the Town of Front Royal as presented.

C. COUNCIL APPROVAL – Proclamation – Governmental Purchasing Month

Council approved a Proclamation recognizing March as “Governmental Purchasing Month” in the Town of Front Royal, as presented.

D. COUNCIL APPROVAL – Bid for Metering Reading Handheld Devices

Council approved the purchase of (3) Trimble Ranger XE handheld devices for meter reading, from Core & Main and made by Neptune, through sole source procurement in the total amount of \$27,000.

E. COUNCIL APPROVAL – Encroachment License for 114-116 E. Main Street Handicap Ramp and Landing – Mark Poe of Poe Shoe and Brace Company

Council approved a five-year Encroachment License for 114-116 E. Main Street Handicap Ramp and Landing with Mark Poe of Poe Shoe and Brace Company, as presented.

Councilman Holloway moved, seconded by Councilman Thompson that Council approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Holloway, Meza and Thompson

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – Councilman Gillispie

ROLL CALL

PROCLAMATION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

GOVERNMENTAL PURCHASING MONTH

WHEREAS, the Virginia Association of Governmental Purchasing (VAGP) was established in 1958, is the largest chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing with approximately 1,260 professional public purchasing members employed by nearly 350 public entities in the Commonwealth of Virginia, comprised of cities, counties, towns, state agencies, colleges, universities, public schools, hospitals, political subdivisions, authorities and community service boards throughout Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Area Purchasing Association (CAPA), also a large chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, was established in 1978, and represents approximately 250 professional public purchasers from more than 55 public entities in the Virginia Capital Region; and

WHEREAS, the purchasing and materials management profession, with an aggregate purchasing power of billions of dollars, has a tremendous impact on the economy; and

WHEREAS, purchasing and materials management professionals work diligently to establish and maintain ethical standards in buying and selling, to increase knowledge of efficient procurement methods, to disseminate useful information to members, and to promote professionalism in public purchasing; and

WHEREAS, in addition to purchasing goods and services, purchasing and materials management professionals engage in, or have direct responsibility for executing, implementing and administering contracts, developing

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forecasts and procurement strategies, supervising and monitoring the flow and storage of materials, and developing working relationships with suppliers; and

WHEREAS, governmental purchasing professionals contribute positively to our Commonwealth's public agencies and services by improving purchasing methods and practices and by using new technology to increase efficiency and improve processes;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor on behalf of Town Council, do hereby recognize March as **GOVERNMENTAL PURCHASING MONTH** in the **TOWN OF FRONT ROYAL**, and call this observance to the attention of all citizens.

PUBLIC HEARING - Setting Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Tax Rates and Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 75-44 (1st Reading)

Mayor Tewalt Opened the Public Hearing

Paul Gabbert, 1221 Valley View Drive – voiced concern that reducing the tax rate and approving the proposed budget would put the Town in the hole for the next ten years. He questioned the moving of money around and placing into different categories and suggested raising the tax rate instead of lowering it. He suggested that Dominion Energy pay for the water line, not the increase of water rates.

Mayor Tewalt Closed the Public Hearing

Councilman Holloway moved, seconded by Councilman Cockrell that Council adopt a real property tax rate at \$0.13 per \$100 assessed value which represents a decrease of \$0.0005 from the current year's tax rate and a personal property tax rate at \$0.64 per \$100 assessed value, which represents no increase over the current year's rates; and the personal property tax relief rate (PPTR) for qualifying vehicles at a rate to be set by Town Council at future time pursuant to Virginia Code §58.1-3524. Councilman Holloway further moved, seconded by Councilman Cockrell that Council affirm on its first reading and ordinance amendment to Chapter 75-44.C. to reflect the adopted real and personal property tax rates, as presented.

Councilman Meza – defended the tax decrease and noted that Council has received backlash for increasing taxes, specifically drawing attention to the half cent increase last year for the Police Department. He expressed the need for Council to stay committed to the proposed tax decrease and budget. He noted that if more money is needed for a particular department, namely Tourism that is was okay but figure out where other areas could be cut to accomplish that goal. He advised that he supported the half cent decrease tonight.

Vice Mayor Sealock advised that he wanted to maintain the \$.13 ½ cents until the budget was fully reviewed and would vote no on the tax decrease tonight. He reminded Council that the real estate tax rate was advertised at \$.13 and it could not be increased.

Councilman Thompson reminded Council that after their previous budget discussions that she would not vote for any tax rate until there was a clear solid plan for Tourism. She advised that she would vote no tonight.

Councilman Meza noted that Council has had the proposed budget for about a month and staff has reviewed it with them line by line. He encouraged Council to make recommendations to the budget

including those related to Tourism. He noted that other than Tourism he hasn't heard any recommend changes to the budget.

Councilman Thompson reiterated that she and Councilman Sealock are looking more for an education on what the Visitors Center does so there is more understanding of its operation. She expressed hope that Council would be more educated by the second reading. Mayor Tewalt reminded Council that if the tax rate is voted down there will be no tax rate for this year.

Councilman Meza expressed fear that Council was "holding the budget hostage" over Tourism. He noted that what he was hearing was that Councilmen Thompson and Sealock were not concerned about decreasing the tax rate only concerned with the direction of Tourism. He reiterated that he was okay with that concern but stay committed to the \$.13 and decide how to change the budget to reflect the appropriate funding towards Tourism. He explained that if the amount is \$60,000 then where in the budget do you want to take it from to put it in Tourism. Vice Mayor Sealock voiced his concern on the dual role of Community Development/Tourism. He Voiced optimism for the Joint Tourism Board and the Town and County Tourism dollars going in a positive direction

Interim Town Tederick expressed his dislike for the process of having to vote on the tax rate and then vote on the budget. He expressed his willingness to continue to go through the budget in the next month or so to discuss all of Council concerns. He reminded Council that tonight they are voting the tax rate which is separate than the budget. Town Attorney Napier advised that only a vote of three is needed to set the tax rate and four to pass the budget. Councilman Meza expressed his commitment to figuring out the direction of Council on the Tourism Budget and moving the \$.13 forward tonight.

Vice Mayor Sealock urged Council to give real consideration to Tourism dollars, but to keep the tax rate moving forward he would change his vote tonight to yes on the tax rate.

Councilman Cockrell questioned the health insurance rates for employees. Mr. Tederick advised Council that preliminary estimates are going to be lower than what was estimated in the budget. He advised that they will be briefed on this at the March 16 Work Session as well.

She reiterated how impressed she was with the Joint Tourism Board and how capable they were to make decisions about promoting Tourism for the Town and County. She suggested looking at the Board more closely to see how it's made up.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Holloway and Meza

No – Councilman Thompson

Abstain – N/A

Absent – Councilman Gillispie

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL APPROVAL – Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 175-106.B.1.b[6] Pertaining to Sign Regulations for Medical Facilities with a Medical Center – Valley Health (*2nd Reading*)

Councilman Meza abstained from the vote due to his employment with Valley Health.

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Vice Mayor Sealock moved seconded by Councilman Holloway that Council adopt on its second and final reading an ordinance amendment to Town Code Chapter 175-106.B.1.b.[6] by defining what a medical center is and modify existing standards pertaining to just medical centers, as presented.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Holloway and Thompson

No – N/A

Abstain – Councilman Meza

Absent – Councilman Gillispie

ROLL CALL

175-106.B.1.b.[6]

~~[6] Medical and Professional Centers: Facilities located within a center of at least two (2) acres in size and including five (5) or more functions or offices planned as an integrated development shall be authorized to erect signs based on the following:~~

~~[a] Signs for Individual Establishments or Functions Within Center: Same as for multiple businesses, as outlined in Section 175-106B.2.c.~~

~~[b] Center Identification Sign: One (1) ground mounted or monument style sign per street frontage with an area of one (1) square foot per four (4) linear feet of lot frontage on which the sign is to be erected, up to a maximum of sixty (60) square feet. The center identification sign shall display only the name and address of the center, and establishments located therein. No other ground mounted signs shall be permitted on that same road frontage within the center.~~

[6] Medical Centers: In lieu of the other requirements of this section, Medical Centers may be granted alternative standards for signs, subject to the following provisions.

- a. A master signage plan shall be submitted with a sign permit application showing the location, size, height and appearance of each proposed sign on the property.
- b. The sign permit and master signage plan shall be reviewed by the Planning Commission and decided on within 60 days of submittal, unless otherwise agreed upon by the Applicant. Town Staff may authorize the refacing of signs or other minor alterations that meet the same specifications approved by the Planning Commission.
- c. Wall signs shall not exceed the maximum height requirement for the zoning district in which they are located.
- d. Wall signs may be permitted to encompass up to 20% of the area of each building wall, provided that, under no circumstance may the total amount of wall signage exceed 200 square feet per building wall.
- e. Ground Mounted signs may be allowed by the Planning Commission up to 150 square feet along public streets and up to 75 square feet along private streets. Monument style signs are recommended.
- f. All signs shall be setback no less than 5 feet from the property line, and not less than 5 feet from any private street, driveway, parking aisle, or other vehicle maneuvering area.
- g. For the purposes of this subsection, Medical Centers shall only include medical facilities that are part of an integrated development and are located on at least two (2) acres. Other permitted uses on the same property shall be allowed wall signage in accordance with Town Code 175-106.B.2. Ground mounted signs for other permitted uses shall be restricted, unless the Planning Commission authorizes the use to share signage primarily used for the Medical Center or if the signage is exempt by this Section.

COUNCIL APPROVAL – Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 9-303 to Provide for the Abatement of Blight Property (*2nd Reading*)

Councilman Holloway moved, seconded by Councilman Thompson that Council adopt on its second and final reading an ordinance amendment to Town Code Chapter 9-303 "Spot blight Abatement" as presented.

Councilman Sealock praised Councilman Gillispie for his hard work on this ordinance and bringing it before Council.

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Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Holloway, Meza and Thompson

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – Councilman Gillispie

ROLL CALL

9-303 AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE REMOVAL, REPAIR, ETC., OF BUILDING AND OTHER STRUCTURES SPOT BLIGHT ABATEMENT

A. Owners of real property within the Town shall remove, repair or secure any building, wall or any other structure which might endanger the public health or safety of other residents of the Town.

B. If an owner fails to do so, the building official may send the owner notice of his or her obligations under this section. Such notice shall be:

1. In writing, mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, sent to the last known address of the property owner; and

2. Published in a newspaper having general circulation in the locality in accordance with the applicable provisions of Code of Virginia §§ 15.2-1426, 15.2-1427.

C. The Town, through its own agents or employees, may remove, repair or secure any building, wall or any other structure which might endanger the public health or safety of other residents of the Town if the owner and lien holder of the property fails to do so within thirty (30) days following the later of the return of the certified mail receipt or newspaper publication. However, if the structure is deemed to pose a significant threat to public safety and such fact is stated in the notice, the Town may take action to prevent unauthorized access to the building within seven days of such notice. Repair of the structure may include maintenance work to the exterior of a building to prevent deterioration of the building or adjacent buildings.

D. In the event the Town, through its own agents or employees removes, repairs or secures any building, wall or any other structure pursuant to this section, the cost or expenses thereof shall be chargeable to and paid by the owners of such property and may be collected by the Town as taxes and levies are collected.

E. Every charge authorized by this section which remains unpaid shall constitute a lien against such property ranking on a parity with liens for unpaid local taxes and enforceable in the same manner as provided Code of Virginia (1950), Title 58.1, Chapter 39, Articles 3 and 4, as amended. F. The remedies provided by this section are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other remedy provided by general law or by the Building Code.

A. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Section is to provide for the abatement of blighted property that threatens the public's health, safety, and/or welfare.

B. DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter, unless otherwise required by the context:

1. "Blighted property" means any individual commercial, industrial, or residential structure or improvement that endangers the public's health, safety, or welfare because the structure or improvement upon the property is dilapidated, deteriorated, or violates minimum health and safety standards.
2. "Town" means the Town of Front Royal, Virginia.
3. "Farm building or structure" means a legally established building or structure, primarily used for agricultural, as defined by the Zoning Ordinance.
4. "Spot blight" means a structure or improvement that is a blighted property as defined in this chapter.
5. "Spot blight abatement plan" means the written plan prepared by the owner(s) of record of any blighted property to address spot blight, or if the owner(s) of record of such blighted property fail to respond as provided for in this chapter, the written plan prepared by the Town Manager, or designee, to abate, raze, or remove the blighted property.

C. SPOT BLIGHT ABATEMENT AUTHORIZED. Town Council is authorized under Code of Virginia §§ 36-49.1:1.G and 15.2-900, as amended, to declare any blighted property to constitute a nuisance, which declaration shall be made

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by ordinance adopted by Town Council specific to such blighted property, and thereupon abate, raze, or remove such blighted property.

D. INSPECTIONS. Upon receipt of a complaint that any individual commercial, industrial, or residential structure or improvement is spot blight, the Town Manager, or designee, shall be authorized to inspect such structure or improvement and make a preliminary determination that such structure or improvement is blighted property.

E. EXEMPTIONS. The following structures and improvements shall be exempt from this chapter:

1. Farm buildings or structures.
2. ~~Structures listed or eligible for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register or National Register of Historic Places, or as a contributing resource to a Virginia Landmarks Register or National Register of Historic Places listed or eligible Historic District.~~

F. PROCEDURE FOR DECLARATION OF BLIGHTED PROPERTY.

1. Should the Town Manager, or designee, make a preliminary determination of blighted property in accordance with this chapter, notice shall be sent to the owner(s) of record of the blighted property at the last known address of such owner(s) as shown on the current real estate tax assessment records, specifying the reasons why the property is a blighted property. Such notice shall be sent by Certified Mail and First Class Mail to said owner(s), and also shall be posted on the blighted property. The owner(s) of record shall have thirty (30) days from the date such notice is sent in which to respond in writing with a spot blight abatement plan to address the blighted property within a reasonable time.
2. If the owner(s) of record fail to respond within the thirty (30) day period with a written spot blight abatement plan that is acceptable to the Town Manager, or designee, the Town Manager, or designee, shall prepare a proposed spot blight abatement plan for the blighted property, and shall request that Town Council direct the Town Manager, or designee, to prepare an proposed ordinance to declare that said blighted property constitutes a nuisance.
3. If directed to prepare such proposed ordinance by Town Council, the Town Manager, or designee, shall provide notice of such ordinance and Town's proposed spot abatement plan in accordance with Code of Virginia § 15.2-1427, as amended, and bring such ordinance forward for public hearing, Town Council's consideration, and passage. In addition to the notice required by Code of Virginia § 15.2-1427, as amended, written notice of such ordinance and public hearing, together with a copy of the Town's proposed spot blight abatement plan, shall be sent to the owner(s) of record of the blighted property at the last known address of such owner(s) as shown on the current real estate tax assessment records and shall be posted on the blighted property.
4. If Town Council adopts the ordinance and the Town's proposed spot abatement plan or some variation thereof, the Town's spot blight abatement plan shall become effective and the Town Manager, or designee, may implement the Town's spot blight abatement plan.

G. PROPERTY LIENS. If the ordinance is adopted by Town Council, any costs incurred by the Town under the Town's spot blight abatement plan for the removal or abatement of the blighted property shall be a lien on the blighted property and such lien shall bear interest at the legal rate of interest established in Code of Virginia § 6.2-301, as amended, beginning on the date that such removal or abatement is completed through the date on which the lien is paid. Said lien may be recorded as a lien among the land records of the Circuit Court of Warren County, which lien shall be treated in all respects as a tax lien and enforceable in the same manner as provided in Code of Virginia Articles 3 (§ 58.1-3940 et seq.) and 4 (§ 58.103965 et seq.) of Chapter 39 of Title 58.1. as amended.

COUNCIL APPROVAL— Contract with CHA Consulting for I & I Abatement

Councilman Cockrell moved, seconded by Councilman Holloway that Council approve a new contract with CHA Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$424,000, to allow the Town and CHA to continue working on reducing the amount of I & I treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant with completion of the following tasks: Task 1 – FR-5 Sanitary Sewer Conveyance Improvements in the amount of \$144,000.00; Task 2 – Annual I & I Abatement Engineering Services in the amount of \$200,000.00; and Task 3 – Preliminary Engineering Report in the amount of \$ 80,000.00. Councilman Cockrell further moved, seconded by Councilman Holloway that the Interim Town Manager execute all documents specific to the contract.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Holloway, Meza and Thompson

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – Councilman Gillispie

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS AND MOA – Clerk of Council and Deputy Clerk of Council

Councilman Meza moved, seconded by Councilman Holloway that Council appoint Tina L. Presley as Clerk of Council and Mary Ellen Lynn as Deputy Clerk of Council, said positions to be in addition to their current job duties as Senior Executive Assistant to the Town Manager and Administrative Assistant to the Director of Energy Services respectfully; and contingent upon 1) administer of their oaths from the Clerk of the Circuit Court that includes an approved copy of these minutes and 2) executed Memorandums of Agreements (MOA) from each of the Clerk of Council and Deputy Clerk of Council as presented.

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Holloway, Meza and Thompson

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – Councilman Gillispie

ROLL CALL

Mayor and Council declared the meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM

APPROVED:


Eugene R. Tewalt, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tina L. Presley Acting Clerk of Council

Councilman Cockrell moved, seconded by Holloway approved the Regular Council Meeting minutes of March 9, 2020 on April 13, 2020.

Mayor Initial 