



TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL WORK SESSION MINUTES

Monday, March 22, 2023

Town Hall Conference Room

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.

ROLL CALL BY CLERK OF COUNCIL

PRESENT: Mayor Lori A. Cockrell
Councilwoman Melissa DeDomenico-Payne
Councilman Joshua L. Ingram
Councilman H. Bruce Rappaport
Councilman Duane R. "Skip" Rogers
Vice Mayor R. Wayne Sealock

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Manager Joseph E. Waltz
Town Attorney George M. Sonnett, Jr.
Clerk of Council Tina L. Presley
Various member of Staff and Press

ABSENT: Councilwoman Amber F. Morris

Advertisement of 2023 Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Rate - Finance Director BJ Wilson gave an overview and presentation pertaining to the Calendar Year 2023 Real Estate & Personal Property Tax Rates. He advised Council that property reassessment values increased approximately 27.8% and to equalize the rates there is the option to decrease the real estate tax rate from \$0.13 to \$0.10. Mr. Wilson continued that the preliminary 2023 personal property assessed values decreased approximately 20% due to more new vehicles being manufactured and used vehicle values decreasing. He explained that the personal property tax relief was 46% and was mandated by the state being the same amount since 2005. He recommended that Council equalize the real estate tax rate at \$.10. It was confirmed that there would be no tax increase to taxpayers if advertised at equalization rate.

Mayor Cockrell voiced concern of the loss of \$64,000 between \$0.10 and \$0.13. Mr. Wilson advised that supplemental tax bills would make up the difference. She questioned the tax increase in 2011. Mr. Wilson confirmed that there were three projects in 2011 that the real estate tax rate increase was allocated towards.

Councilman Rappaport question funding for the Prospect Street Bridge. Mr. Wilson advised that there was some funding in the budget and staff were researching other funding to expedite the project. He hoped to come back to Council in May to allocate some funding.

Councilman Ingram thanked Mr. Wilson for his hard work. Council agreed to advertise for a public hearing on April 24th for the equalization tax rate.

3. CLOSED MEETING

Motion to go into Closed Meeting

[to be approved by affirmative recorded vote, with motion set forth in detail in the minutes]

Councilman Ingram moved seconded by Vice Mayor Sealock that Town Council convene a closed meeting, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia, for consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, specifically, proposed agreement with Discover Front Royal, Inc., related to promotion of the Town's common economic interests and tourism.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers DeDomenico-Payne, Ingram, Rappaport, Rogers, Vice Mayor Sealock

No – N/A

Absent – Councilwoman Morris

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Motion to Certify Closed Meeting at its Conclusion

[At the conclusion of the Closed Meeting, immediately re-convene in open meeting and take a roll call vote on the following:]

Councilman Rappaport moved seconded by Councilman Rogers. 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 DeDomenico-Payne, Ingram, Rappaport, Rogers, Vice Mayor Sealock

No – N/A

Absent – Councilwoman Morris

Abstain – N/A

ROLL CALL

Adjourn 8:04pm

Approved by Town Council

Date: 3/27/23