

The regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal, Virginia was held on April 22, 2019, in the Warren County Government Center’s Board Meeting Room. Vice Mayor Sealock 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:** Councilman Gary L. Gillispie  
Councilman Chris W. Holloway  
Vice Mayor William A. Sealock  
Councilman Eugene R. Tewalt  
Town Attorney Douglas W. Napier  
Town Manager Joseph E. Waltz  
Clerk of Council Jennifer E. Berry, CMC

**ABSENT:** Councilman Jacob L. Meza  
Mayor Hollis L. Tharpe  
Councilman Letasha T. Thompson

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

*Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Councilman Holloway, to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes of April 8, 2019 as presented.*

Vote: Yes – Gillispie, Holloway, Sealock and Tewalt  
No – N/A  
Abstain – N/A  
Absent – Meza, Tharpe and Thompson  
(By Roll Call)

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**RECEIPT OF PETITIONS OR CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC**

Paul Gabbert, of 1221 Valley View Drive, noted that he had concerns about the IT contract on the agenda. He asked if the contract had been fully reviewed and whether contract pricing was more beneficial. Mr. Gabbert stated that the County Planning Commission turned down the request at the new subdivision next to Target. He noted that the citizens spoke and were also not in favor of the request. Mr. Gabbert stated that at the last Town meeting Councilman Tewalt noted that he would consider the project if the water loop system was in place. Mr. Gabbert stated that Councilman Meza’s comment was that the Town was in the business of selling water and he (Gabbert) felt that comment was absurd, as the citizens do not want to sell water to a site that should not be rezoned from commercial to residential.

Town Manager Waltz noted that the new Police Department headquarters were now open and a ribbon cutting would take place in May.

Councilmen Thompson and Gillispie presented a Town scholarship to Abigail Frey and congratulated her on her educational accomplishments.

Councilman Tewalt noted that in response to the speaker’s comments, he did say that he would consider the new subdivision if they would perhaps pay for the loop, though he does not

foresee that taking place. He opined that it would most likely not take place and all factors would need to be considered when a proposed project came to light.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

A. COUNCIL APPROVAL: Resolution for Renewal of Encroachment License for 125 W. 4th St

B. COUNCIL APPROVAL: Bid - Technical Services for IT Networking & Infrastructure

*Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Councilman Holloway that Council approve the consent agenda as presented.*

Vote: Yes – Gillispie, Holloway, Sealock and Tewalt  
No – N/A  
Abstain – N/A  
Absent – Meza, Tharpe and Thompson  
(By Roll Call)

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**PUBLIC HEARING – To Receive Public Comments/Concerns and Approve a Summary: Resolution for the Possible Sale of Town Real Estate – 179 Square Foot Parcel Located to the Rear and Adjacent to 120 and 124 E. Main Street**

Vice Mayor Sealock opened the public hearing. As no one else came forward to speak, he closed the public hearing.

*Councilman Tewalt moved, seconded by Councilman Gillispie that Council approve a Resolution authorizing the sale of 179 square feet of the Peyton Street Parking Lot located to the rear and adjacent to 120 and 124 E Main Street, per the Town Charter and the Town Code by bidding with the final sale of the property occurring at Council's regular meeting of May 28, 2019. He further moved that Council authorize Town Staff to advertise the terms of the sale.*

Councilman Tewalt noted that it was a small parcel behind the Brewing Company that their steps sat upon. He stated that in order to not cloud their title this process should move forward.

Vote: Yes – Gillispie, Holloway, Sealock and Tewalt  
No – N/A  
Abstain – N/A  
Absent – Meza, Tharpe and Thompson  
(By Roll Call)

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**PUBLIC HEARING – Adoption of a Resolution Regarding the Proposed Financing of the Construction and Equipping the Police Department Building at 900 Monroe Avenue**

Vice Mayor Sealock opened the public hearing. As no one else came forward to speak, the public hearing was closed.

*Councilman Holloway moved, seconded by Councilman Gillispie that Council approve a Resolution regarding financing of construction and equipping of the police department building at 900 Monroe Avenue and refinancing of a loan from the Front Royal-Warren County Economic Development Authority (EDA), used to interim finance the police department building with the Town expected to issue a general obligation bond or bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 to accomplish the financing, as presented.*

Councilman Tewalt explained that the Town must pay the loan that the EDA obtained for the Town and this loan will instead now be through a bond issue via the Virginia Municipal League. He stated that the New Market Tax Credit program went nowhere, in fact the Town was not even approved for the program and will instead use this program to proceed with the Police Department building.

Vote: Yes – Gillispie, Holloway, Sealock and Tewalt  
No – N/A  
Abstain – N/A  
Absent – Meza, Tharpe and Thompson  
(By Roll Call)

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**COUNCIL APPROVAL – Proclamation for “Workers Memorial Day”**

*Councilman Holloway moved, seconded by Councilman Gillispie that Council approve a proclamation proclaiming April 28, 2019 as “Workers Memorial Day” in the Town of Front Royal.*

Vice Mayor Sealock presented the proclamation to Local 26 Members and thanked them for their dedicated work.

Vote: Yes – Gillispie, Holloway, Sealock and Tewalt  
No – N/A  
Abstain – N/A  
Absent – Tharpe, Thompson and Meza  
(By Roll Call)

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**COUNCIL APPROVAL – Certificate of Recognition for “Vietnam War Veterans Day”**

*Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Councilman Tewalt that Council approve a Certificate of Recognition retroactively proclaiming March 29, 2019 as “Vietnam War Veteran’s Day” in the Town of Front Royal.*

Vice Mayor Sealock presented the proclamation to veterans and thanked them for their tireless service to the country, noting their sacrifice.

Vote: Yes – Gillispie, Holloway, Sealock and Tewalt  
No – N/A  
Abstain – N/A  
Absent – Tharpe, Thompson and Meza  
(By Roll Call)

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**COUNCIL APPROVAL – An Ordinance to Vacation a Portion of an Alley - 208 W Duck St – Jerry Bell, Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

*Councilman Tewalt moved, seconded by Councilman Gillispie that Council adopt on its second and final reading an ordinance to conditionally vacate a public right-of-way that includes the end portion of a twenty-five (25) foot alley located to the rear and adjacent to 208 W. Duck Street and owned by Jerry Bell, Jr. He further moved that Council rescind the ordinance approved by Council on December 11, 2017.*

Vote: Yes – Gillispie, Holloway, Sealock and Tewalt  
No – N/A  
Abstain – N/A  
Absent – Tharpe, Thompson and Meza  
(By Roll Call)

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**COUNCIL APPROVAL – Ordinance Amendment to Town Code Chapter 12-2 and 175-137 Pertaining to FEES (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

*Councilman Holloway moved, seconded by Councilman Tewalt that Council adopt on its second and final reading an ordinance amendment to Town Code Chapter 12-2 (FEES) and 175-137 (FEES, CHARGES, EXPENSES) as presented.*

Vote: Yes – Gillispie, Holloway, Sealock and Tewalt  
No – N/A  
Abstain – N/A  
Absent – Tharpe, Thompson and Meza  
(By Roll Call)

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**COUNCIL NOMINATIONS – 2019 Virginia Municipal League (VML) Policy Committees**

*Councilman Tewalt moved, seconded by Councilman Holloway that Council nominate the following to the various Virginia Municipal League (VML) Policy Committees, said terms to expire December 31, 2019:*

**Community & Economic Committee – Councilmen Gillispie and Thompson  
Environmental Quality Committee – Town Manager Waltz and Councilman Holloway  
Finance Committee – Finance Director Wilson and Councilman Meza  
General Laws Committee – Town Attorney Napier and Councilman Sealock  
Transportation Committee – Councilman Tewalt**

Vote: Yes – Gillispie, Holloway, Sealock and Tewalt  
No – N/A  
Abstain – N/A  
Absent – Tharpe, Thompson and Meza  
(By Roll Call)

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**CLOSED MEETING – Former Afton Inn Property**

*Councilman Tewalt moved, seconded by Councilman Holloway that Town Council convene and go into Closed Meeting with respect to the former Afton Inn property for the following purposes:*

*(1) Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 6. of the Code of Virginia.*

*(2) Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an Open Meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 29. of the Code of Virginia.*

Vote: Yes – Gillispie, Holloway, Sealock and Tewalt

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – Tharpe, Thompson and Meza

(By Roll Call)

**Motion to Certify Closed Meeting at its Conclusion**

*Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Councilman 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 – Gillispie, Holloway, Sealock and Tewalt

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – Tharpe, Thompson and Meza

(By Roll Call)

There being no further business, the Vice Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Jennifer E. Berry  
Clerk of Council