

The regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal, Virginia was held on July 22, 2019, in the Warren County Government Center’s Board Meeting Room. Mayor Tederick lead Council and those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mayor Tederick held a Moment of Silence and the roll was called at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Matthew A. Tederick
Councilman Gary L. Gillispie
Councilman Jacob L. Meza
Vice Mayor William A. Sealock
Councilman Eugene R. Tewalt
Councilman Letasha T. Thompson
Asst. Town Attorney George M. Sonnett
Town Manager Joseph E. Waltz
Town Attorney Douglas W. Napier
Clerk of Council Jennifer E. Berry, MMC

ABSENT: Councilman Chris W. Holloway

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

Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Councilman Tewalt, that Council approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes of July 8, 2019 as presented.

Vote: Yes – Gillispie, Meza, Sealock, Tewalt and Thompson
No – N/A
Abstain – N/A
Absent – Holloway
(Mayor Tederick did not vote as there was no tie to require his vote)

RECEIPT OF PETITIONS OR CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC

Bonnie Gabbert, of 1221 Valley View Drive, noted that she wanted to speak that the citizens feel that there are angry concerned citizens that are not heard. She stated that many people are upset about issues in the community regarding the County assessments and how it affected the Town at the 13 cents. Mrs. Gabbert stated that the electric rate increase was of concern to many citizens as well as utility rates for water and sewer rates. She noted that garbage rates also went up and people in the community cannot afford these price increases. She asked that Council go through the budget line by line to determine areas of savings for the Town.

Mrs. Gabbert expressed concern that Council voted to allow the new Warren Memorial Hospital to be built with only 36 beds and without a obstetrics unit and these women are going to have

Mayor Tederick stated that the Town Council would have an ~~Town would have an~~ in-depth audit discussion at their August 5th worksession, and the Town would hold a worksession regarding the Town’s strategic goals on August 19th. He invited Mrs. Gabbert and members of the public to attend and learn all they can on matters of the Town’s budget and goal setting process. Mrs. Gabbert stated that a citizen should be on the Finance Committee that Council has planned for.

Paul Gabbert, of 1221 Valley View Drive, stated that he agreed with Mr. Tederick that the EDA should be dissolved. He noted that the EDA lawsuits are spending Town tax money that are not helpful and he also expressed his agreement with Councilman Tewalt that all stipulations on workforce housing should go away. Mr. Gabbert explained that Councilman Meza should not have voted on the Valley Health bond issues in his opinion.

Mr. Gabbert began to make further comments regarding Council members; though Mayor Tederick then noted that Mr. Gabbert walk the line with reference to attacking character during his comments, as it is inappropriate.

Mr. Gabbert opined that he would not want to be a woman in this Town or County with how things are in this community. He added that he would be on the ballot for special election for Mayor of the Town of Front Royal.

Town Manager, Mr. Waltz, noted that curb and line painting will continue throughout the community. He stated that the Town of Front Royal will continue their Town-wide recycling program at this time and will notify the public of various updates on what to recycle and how to prepare it. Mr. Waltz added that the Town has shifted to single stream recycling and there was no need to separate recycling.

Jennifer Flynn, Superintendent of the Shenandoah National Park, noted that the Park is like operating a small town and they operate four wastewater plants and fourteen water systems. She stated that the Park has a \$24 million operating budget and of course the Skyline Drive is part of the park as well. She added that they also have about \$12 million from the Federal Government and four formal partners, including philanthropic and education contributors. Ms. Flynn noted that the Potomac Appalachian group helps to care for large portions of the Appalachian Trail. She stated that the last government shutdown came at a crucial time for the park, though there were so many people that reached out to provide care to the park and her employees.

Ms. Flynn explained that last year they had almost double the amount of rain from a normal year. She noted that the Park Service has a large economic impact on surrounding localities, and there are three free days left in 2020. She stated that they continue to work towards active bear management in the park, especially with 11 bear struck by vehicles. Mr. Meza thanked Ms. Flynn for the report and her vital Park dedication, noting that the report was very informative. Mr. Gillispie thanked her for her work and noted how important the Park work is to the Front Royal community.

Mayor Tederick asked about the property near Skyline High School. Ms. Flynn noted that a proposal could go forward to swap land and she would be interested in discussing that option regarding the land parcel.

Mayor Tederick stated that he and the Chief of Police would be interested to making traffic flow more smoothly in the fall to assist with the leaf traffic and he would be open to the ideas from the Park and Ms. Flynn.

Mayor Tederick noted that the Town/County Liaison Meeting was held and it was productive, yet contentious in some regard. He stated that he brought up the discussion of possibly dissolving the EDA and a joint meeting will be held soon. Mayor Tederick stated that he has requested the Deputy Clerk of the County be contacted in order to schedule the meeting with Chairman Murray and the Board of Supervisors as soon as possible.

Mayor Tederick stated that the Citizen Committee concept was also discussed by the Town and County, and he asked that Council give input on who shall serve on such a committee, perhaps with five people total. He also asked that Council consider what the mission of such a committee would be.

Mayor Tederick noted that he has been contacted at times about running for Mayor, though he has no intention of doing so. He stated that he will not be seeking the position of Mayor in the upcoming special election.

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - none

COUNCIL APPROVAL – Bid for Various Grades of Asphalt

Council is requested to approve the bid from Stuart M. Perry, Inc. for various grades of asphalt for general street patching and surfacing of the streets in the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) maintenance system for FY2020 at costs stated in attached bid tabulation summary.

Councilman Tewalt moved, seconded by Councilman Gillispie, that Council approve the bid from Stuart M. Perry, Inc. for various grades of asphalt for general street patching and surfacing of the streets in the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) maintenance system for FY2020 at costs stated in attached bid tabulation summary.

Councilman Tewalt noted that asphalt cost has increased so much over the years and the expenses are so high to pave so much roadway. He stated that it is a high cost and the Town could consider slurry seal in order to preserve the streets.

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

COUNCIL APPROVAL – Bid for Various Grades of Stone

Summary: Council is requested to approve the bid from Hanson Aggregates for various grades of stone for street, water and sewer maintenance for FY20 at costs listed on the attached bid tabulation summary.

Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Councilman Tewalt, that Council approve the bid from Hanson Aggregates for various grades of stone for street, water and sewer maintenance for FY20 at costs listed on the attached bid tabulation summary.

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

COUNCIL APPROVAL – Bid for Various Treatment Chemicals for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants

Summary: Council is requested to approve bids from various companies for various treatment chemicals to be used at the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant for FY2020 at costs listed in the attached memorandum and bid tabulation sheet.

Councilman Meza moved, seconded by Councilman Tewalt, that Council approve bids from various companies for various treatment chemicals to be used at the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant for FY2020 at costs listed in the attached memorandum and bid tabulation sheet.

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

COUNCIL APPROVAL – Budget Amendment to Accept Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Acceptance

Summary: Council is requested to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$3,058 to accept a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services – Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (BJAG) to finalize the complete upgrade and transition to the Police Department’s new radio system. The total cost of the Combat Push-to-Talk (PTT) module with remote volume control for Motorola APX series (10 operators + 2 for Crisis Negotiator) costs \$5,520 - \$3058 = \$2,480 matching funds. The matching funds can be utilized from the Police Department’s asset forfeiture funds.

Vice Mayor Sealock moved, seconded by Councilman Tewalt, that Council approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$3,058 to accept a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services – Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (BJAG) to finalize the complete upgrade and transition to the Police Department’s new radio system at a total cost of \$5,520 with a matching fund of \$2,480 to be utilized from the Police Department’s asset forfeiture funds.

Vote: Yes – Gillispie, Meza, Sealock, Tewalt and Thompson
No – N/A

Abstain – N/A
Absent – Holloway
(Mayor Tederick did not vote as there was no tie to require his vote)
(By Roll Call)

CLOSED MEETING– Evaluations of Town Manager, Town Attorney, Clerk of Council

Motion to Go into Closed Meeting

Vice Mayor Sealock moved, seconded by Councilman Gillispie, that Town Council go into Closed Meeting to discuss the performance and salaries of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 1. of the Code of Virginia.

Vote: Yes – Gillispie, Meza, Sealock, Tewalt and Thompson
No – N/A
Abstain – N/A
Absent – Holloway
(Mayor Tederick did not vote as there was no tie to require his vote)

Motion to Certify Closed Meeting at its Conclusion

Vice Mayor Sealock moved, seconded by Councilman Gillispie 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 Action 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, Meza, Sealock, Tederick, Tewalt and Thompson
No – N/A
Abstain – N/A
Absent – Holloway
(By Roll Call)

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

APPROVED:

Jennifer E. Berry
Clerk of Council