

The Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal, Virginia was held on July 6, 2011, in the Town Hall Conference Room. The roll was called at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Timothy W. Darr
Councilman Thomas H. Sayre
Councilman Thomas E. Conkey
Councilman Carson L. Lauder
Vice Mayor Chris W. Holloway
Councilman N. Shae Parker
Councilman Hollis L. Tharpe
Town Manager Steven M. Burke
Interim Town Attorney George M. Sonnett
Clerk of Council Jennifer E. Berry

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

Councilman Parker moved to amend the agenda to include Council/Town Manager discussion of agreements with Warren County.

Vote: Yes – Conkey, Holloway, Lauder, Parker, Sayre and Tharpe
No – N/A
Abstain – N/A
Absent – N/A
(Mayor Darr did not vote as there was no tie to require his vote)
(By Roll Call)

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – Planning Commission

Councilman Conkey moved that Council appoint William Cline and Robert Ballentine to the Front Royal Planning Commission with each member to fill a 4-year term, said terms to expire August 31, 2015.

Vote: Yes – Conkey, Holloway, Lauder, Parker, Sayre and Tharpe
No – N/A
Abstain – N/A
Absent – N/A
(Mayor Darr did not vote as there was no tie to require his vote)

COUNCIL/TOWN MANAGER DISCUSSION – Warren County Agreements

Mr. Burke noted the Town could develop an addendum to address the McKay memorandum of understanding (MOU) to Council’s satisfaction adding that a sample of the addendum would be available at the Liaison Meeting on Thursday.

Mr. Burke explained that the Leach Run Parkway cost estimate was prepared by the EDA with the four lane configuration. He noted that they previously met to discuss possible funding scenarios as well. Mr. Burke opined that Warren County and the Town should jointly develop an agreement which would be a 60/40 split (County/Town), adding that the matter would be an EDA project,

with the EDA facilitating a loan for the project with each locality paying their share. Mr. Burke explained that the Town would utilize revenue funds from VDOT as well, if possible, though they would not hear confirmation regarding said funds until the spring of 2012.

Councilman Sayre reminded Council that many preferred limited access to Leach Run Parkway if at all possible. Councilman Parker asked if a water line would be included in said costs; Mr. Burke noted that it did not. He stated that Patrick Nolan of Valley Health Systems/Warren Memorial Hospital stated that due to other pursuits with Valley Health, they would not be pursuing the new hospital in that area for at least the next couple of years. He added though, that Valley Health would be participating in the road project in advance of proffers. Mr. Burke stated that, according to a MOU between the Town, the County and the EDA, they would anticipate that construction would be completed by 2014, though they would not anticipate any revenue from the Swan property during that time. He added that jointly they would go forward and then appropriate reimbursements would take place according to the respective percentages.

Mr. Burke explained that part of their funding would be towards the road and part of the funding would be for the water line, noting that the future hospital would need about a 10" water line. He stated that the RFP for the road design would also include a water line; Mayor Darr voiced support of having the line laid in place when the road was built.

Councilman Conkey asked if it made sense to bury the electric lines when they placed the other lines underground; Mr. Burke noted that it should be discussed. He suggested a duct bank (a concrete vault for said utilities) on site to accommodate such needs.

Mr. Burke explained that Town and County Staff also recently discussed a MOU for the County to assume full funding of the library, partial funding of the Tourism operation and partial funding of the area trolley. Councilman Conkey noted that he was anxious to see the funding of the Tourism effort, noting that the County assuming half of the Tourism Marketing position's salary for example.

Mayor Darr asked if the MOU's could be discussed in Closed Session. Mr. Sonnett noted that he would look into the matter.

Councilman Lauder asked about future growth in the County by having the County installing future lines. Mr. Burke noted that for the most part the Town has the basics already installed regarding the Route 522 Corridor infrastructure.

Mr. Burke commented that the Fair Funding Formula was discussed as well for possible revisions. He stated that in talks with the County the formula was not reflective of how much effort the EDA was putting into the Town and County. Mr. Burke explained that when the Royal Phoenix site comes online for example, there would be additional industrial or commercial revenue from said site.

Mayor Darr referred to his conversations with Mr. Roy Boyles, noting that Mr. Boyles did not seem to be open to considering other areas for the new middle school, rather than the Route 55 area.

Mr. Burke commented that the Dominion Health & Fitness/Hampton Inn site may need another stop light, noting that Mr. Camp has been looking into the matter.

Councilman Sayre noted that he spoke with Burke regarding the low water pressure above Ressie Jeffries in some residential spots. Mr. Burke explained that it was an ongoing issue and the Town provides the minimum water pressure at said site. Members of Council noted that they were familiar with the low water complaints from previous contacts to the Town, adding that Mr. Burke could submit a summary to Council which could also be provided to the residents who are experiencing problems.

Mr. Burke clarified that property owners need to speak with the builder, as the matter was not within the Town’s hands. He added that the Staff has met the minimum requirements regarding the water pressure and has continually provided the same information to the residents.

Councilman Conkey expressed his concern with the Fair Funding Formula, noting that sharing revenue was done years ago as a convenience, and he had the desire to revise the percentages as they currently are. Mr. Conkey stressed that the Town taxpayers always ended up paying more, as they were paying a large portion of the County’s percentage as well. He added that in many adjoining communities, EDA’s are funded solely by the County.

CLOSED MEETING: Interview of Prospective Candidates for Town Attorney and Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding the Route 522 Agreement

Vice Mayor Holloway moved that Council convene a Closed Meeting to interview prospective candidates for Town Attorney, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended.

Vote: Yes – Conkey, Holloway, Lauder, Parker, Sayre and Tharpe
No – N/A
Abstain – N/A
Absent – N/A
(Mayor Darr did not vote as there was no tie to require his vote)

Vice Mayor Holloway moved that Council certify that to the best of each Council member’s knowledge as recognized by each Council member’s affirmative vote, that only public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the preceding closed meeting was convened; were heard, discussed or considered during the closed meeting of the Council; and that the vote of each individual member be taken by roll call and recorded and included in the minutes of this meeting.

Vote: Yes – Conkey, Darr, Holloway, Lauder, Parker, Sayre and Tharpe
No – N/A
Abstain – N/A
Absent – N/A

(By Roll Call)

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

Jennifer E. Berry
Clerk of Council