

The Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal, Virginia was held on January 6, 2020 in the Town Hall Council Meeting Room. Vice Mayor Sealock led Council and those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and Mayor Tewalt opened with a Moment of Silence.

Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Sealock 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 January 6, 2020 Special Meeting and for such additional and further meetings and times that are a continuation of the January 6, 2020 meeting at her services such as Clerk pro tempore may be needed.

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

Roll was called:

PRESENT: Mayor Eugene R. Tewalt
Vice Mayor William A. Sealock
Councilman Gary L. Gillispie
Councilman Chris W. Holloway
Councilman Jacob L. Meza
Town Attorney Douglas W. Napier
Interim Town Manager Matthew A. Tederick
Pro Tempore Clerk of Council Tina L. Presley

ABSENT: Clerk of Council Jennifer E. Berry, MMC
Councilman Letasha T. Thompson

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

William Huck, owner of C & C Frozen Treats located at 404 E. Main Street, Front Royal, addressed Council. He noted that the facilitator meetings scheduled for January 16, January 30 and February 13 was a good idea and he planned to participate. He reminded Council, however, that it takes six months to a year to plan events like Family Fun Day and the Wine/Craft Festival which are held in May and only a short five months away. He asked that if any changes were made as a result of the facilitator meetings, that they would occur at a later date, so that these events in May would not be affected. Council asked that Mr. Huck contact the Interim Town Manager.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT – Councilmember

Due to former Councilman Eugene Tewalt being elected as Mayor in the Special Election held in November 2019, there is currently a vacancy on Town Council. Council was requested to make an appointment to this vacancy.

Councilman Holloway moved, seconded by Gillispie appointed Lori A. Cockrell to the Front Royal Town Council, to fill an unexpired term expiring December 31, 2020.

Councilman Meza and Councilman Gillispie thanked all those who applied and their willingness to serve. They welcomed Mrs. Cockrell to the Town Council.

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

**CLOSED MEETING – Executive Search Firms Reviews and Consultation with Legal Counsel
 Specific to EDA and Afton Inn**

Councilman Holloway moved, that Council convene and go into Closed Meeting for the purpose of discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds, specifically, bargaining with insurance consultant or consultants 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. Councilman Gillispie continued to move that Town Council convene and go into Closed Meeting for 1) Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for Executive Search Firms to assist Town Council in consideration of hiring candidates for a permanent Town Manager, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 1. of the Code of Virginia; 2) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, specifically, the Economic Development Authority where such consultation or briefing in Open Meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of Town Council; "probable litigation" meaning litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which Town Council or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party;; pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 7. of the Code of Virginia; and 3) Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by Town Council regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, specifically, what the Town will be doing with the Afton Inn building and parties legally interested in it, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 8. of the Code of Virginia, seconded by Councilman Meza.

Vote: Yes – Tewalt, Sealock, Gillispie, Holloway and Meza
 No – N/A
 Abstain – N/A
 Absent – Councilman Thompson

Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Councilman Meza, that Town 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 – Tewalt, Sealock, Gillispie, Holloway and Meza
 No – N/A
 Abstain – N/A
 Absent – Thompson

 There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned 8:40 p.m.

APPROVED:

 Tina L. Presley, Pro Tempore Clerk of Council