

**TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Monday, August 17, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

Town Hall Conference Room

1. **United Way Presentation** – Steven Schetrom, Executive Director of the Front Royal/Warren County United Way, handed out a brochure and some data regarding the 2019-2020 United Way Fiscal year. He noted that their revenue had increased by 63%, their Community Impact Grant had increased by 17%, and the number of agencies given to had increased by 60%. He thanked the town and its citizens for their continued support.
2. **Continued Discussion of South Street Improvements Resolution** – Interim Town Manager Tederick explained that VDOT requires a resolution for the Smart Scale Program and asked if Council had any questions. Robbie Boyer, Director of Public Works, added that the application, which included a draft of their resolution, had been submitted the previous Friday. He noted that the official resolution was due in October and that VDOT would make their decision in January. Council all agreed to add the resolution to their consent agenda.
3. **Closure of Main Street Review** – Mr. Tederick stated that a motion to allow him to close Main Street had been passed on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. He added that the Town had received a petition from several Main Street business owners and residents requesting the weekend street closure be stopped. He noted that the Town had also received positive feedback from citizens regarding the closure and suggested possible modifications which included opening Chester Street and the Gazebo area. Mr. Tederick requested input from council on how to proceed.

Councilman Gillispie stated that Council had good intentions to help downtown businesses in the face of the COVID when they originally decided to close Main Street. He suggested limiting the closure to once or twice a month. Councilman Cockrell noted that while several downtown businesses had signed the petition, there were many that did not. She added that there were not many people downtown the previous weekend, but suspected it was due to the extreme heat.

Councilman Sealock asked what the cost would be to have Town Staff close and open the street outside of their regular working hours. He questioned if the overtime could be considered a COVID expense. Town Finance Director, BJ Wilson, confirmed his belief that it could. Councilman Sealock also suggested changing the direction of the one-way Church Street Alley as a way to create some vehicular access to Main Street during the closure.

Mayor Tewalt stated that he had not seen many citizens eating outside recently. He suggested speaking with the downtown restaurants and other businesses in advance so they could rearrange and make accommodations. Mr. Tederick concluded that the Town should plan for the reopening of Main Street by Labor Day weekend.

4. **General Discussion of Front Royal IDA** – Due to the absence of Councilman Meza, Council agreed to postpone their discussion regarding the Front Royal IDA to a later date.

Mayor adjourned the work session at 7:26 P.M. and council went into closed session.

Mayor Initial           

5. Closed Meeting – Personnel and Pending Litigation

Councilman Cockrell moved, seconded by Councilman Gillispie that Town Council go into Closed Meeting for the following purposes: (1) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation concerning the EDA, where such consultation of briefing in Open Meeting would adversely affect the negotiation or litigating posture of the public body; "probable litigation" meaning litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body 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. (2) Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry regarding Town-owned property, where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 5. of the Code of Virginia.

There was unanimous consensus of Council to go into closed meeting.

Councilman Cockrell moved, seconded by Councilman Holloway 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 – Mayor Tewalt, Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, and Thompson

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

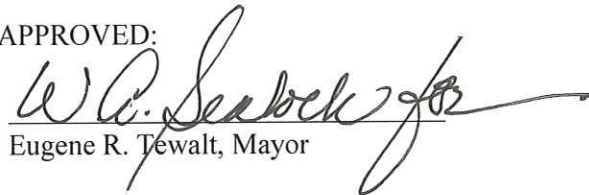
Absent – Councilman Meza

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Tewalt, Vice Mayor Sealock, Councilman Cockrell, Councilman Gillispie, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Thompson, Interim Town Manager Tederick, Town Attorney Napier (via telephone), Deputy Clerk of Council Lynn, Director of Finance Wilson, Director of Public Works Robbie Boyer, and members of the public and press.

ABSENT: Councilman Meza

APPROVED:

  
Eugene R. Tewalt, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Tina L. Presley Clerk of Council

Minutes Written by Mary Ellen Lynn Deputy Clerk of Council

Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Councilman Meza approved the Work Session minutes of August 17, 2020 on August 24, 2020.

Mayor Initial 