

**TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.  
Town Hall Conference Room

**ROLL CALL for MAYOR/TOWN COUNCIL**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Eugene R. Tewalt  
 Vice Mayor William A. Sealock  
 Councilman Lori A. Cockrell  
 Councilman Gary L. Gillispie  
 Councilman Chris W. Holloway  
 Councilman Letasha T. Thompson  
 Interim Town Manager Matthew A. Tederick  
 Town Attorney Douglas W. Napier  
 Deputy Clerk of Council Mary E. Lynn

**ABSENT:** Councilman Jacob L. Meza

*(the above represents municipal officers of the Town of Front Royal as stated in Town Charter Section 4)*

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**PUBLIC HEARING – Amendment to the FY2021 Budget to Receive Funds Related to the CARES Act Equitable Distribution**

There were no speakers for the Public Hearing

*Councilman Holloway moved, seconded by Councilman Thompson, that Council approve a FY21 budget amendment in the amount of \$1,201,558.00 to receive funds from the County of Warren related to the second round of CARES Act Equitable Distribution.*

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie Holloway, and Thompson  
 No – N/A  
 Abstain – N/A  
 Absent – Councilman Meza  
 ROLL CALL

**COUNCIL APPROVAL – FY21 Budget Amendment and Transfer for Main Street Pavilion and Restroom**

*Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Councilman Holloway, that Council approve a FY21 budget amendment in the amount of \$100,000.00 from the Community Development Block Grant Façade Improvement Funds to the Main Street Pavilion/Restroom Project Funds AND to carry funds forward from FY20 to FY21 totaling \$225,715.00.*

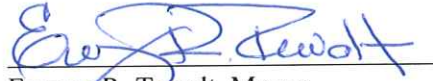
Mayor Initial 

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie Holloway, and Thompson  
 No – N/A  
 Abstain – N/A  
 Absent – Councilman Meza  
 ROLL CALL


Mayor adjourned the Special Meeting at 7:04 P.M. and Council began their Work Session

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APPROVED:

  
 Eugene R. Tewalt, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
 Tina L. Presley Clerk of Council  
 Minutes Written by Mary Ellen Lynn Deputy Clerk of Council

*Councilman Cockrell moved, seconded by Councilman Meza approved the Special Council Meeting minutes of September 8, 2020 on September 28, 2020.*

Mayor Initial 

**TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

Town Hall Conference Room

1. **Budget Calendar** – Finance Director, BJ Wilson, presented the Budget Calendar for the new fiscal year. He noted that it was the same as the previous year which included two work sessions prior to the tax rate advertisement. He added that in the past there had been a Work Session dedicated to Town Council budget goals. He questioned if Council would prefer to include that Work Session or wait until after the new Council Members were elected.

Councilman Gillispie stated that he would like to move forward with the Town Council budget goal Work Session. He explained that there were still a 'number of issues' that needed to be addressed. Councilman Thompson agreed. Council requested Interim Town Manager, Matt Tederick, find a time and schedule the Work Session.

Council all agreed to add the Budget Calendar to their consent agenda.

2. **Discussion of Drug Epidemic in Town** – Chief of Police, Kahle Magalis, presented council with an overview of the Police Departments current responsibilities and strategies regarding the Opioid Crisis facing the community. He noted that the Regional Drug Task Force is in place to address drug dealers, but not necessarily drug users. He explained that recent legislation changes, which are designed to assist and save lives during a drug overdose, prevent the Police Department from charging users with a crime. They are only able to seize contraband. He added that, so far, in the year 2020 the Town of Front Royal Police Department had responded to calls for 47 overdoses and 10 overdose related deaths. Chief Magalis added that the Warren Coalition had just secured a 1-million-dollar grant to be used for harm reduction based on drug prevention.

Councilman Sealock asked how many of the 47 overdoses were recurring. Chief Magalis noted that there had been a couple. He stated that many users have nothing to lose, specifically due to legislation preventing law enforcement from holding them accountable. He added that many large localities have treatment facilities, as well as a program called 'drug court' where drug users can choose to go to a treatment facility rather than be incarcerated. Councilman Gillispie questioned what the best course of action to bring a treatment facility closer would be. He asked if there were any private companies the town could reach out to. Chief Magalis reiterated that it would come down to funding but suggested starting with Northwestern and the Department of Social Services. Councilman Thompson noted that the City of Winchester has an outpatient program that includes care specialists and cab vouchers so patients can seek employment.

Mr. Tederick pointed out that law enforcements job is to 'arrest bad people that are breaking the law' not to address dependency on drugs. He added that the Town was limited on what it could do since the Drug crisis is a Social Service and Health Care issue. He recommended that the Town Council partner with Warren County, the Board of Supervisors, and the Warren Coalition. Mr. Tederick stated that the drug epidemic was a community problem and therefore, would take a community solution.

Mayor Initial 

Mayor adjourned the work session at 7:32 P.M. and council went into closed session.

3. Closed Meeting – Personnel and Pending Litigation

*Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Councilman Cockrell, that Town Council go into Closed Meeting for the following purposes using CARES Act funds and Drug Enforcement Agency grant funds:*

- (1) Discussion and consideration of assignment, promotion, performance, and salaries, of specific public officers, appointees, and employees of the Town, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 1. of the Code of Virginia*
- (2) Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 8. of the Code of Virginia.*

Vote: Yes – Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, and Thompson

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – Councilman Meza

ROLL CALL

*Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Councilman Holloway, that the Mayor and 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 the Mayor and Council be taken by roll call and recorded and included in the minutes of the meeting of Town Council.*

Vote: Yes – Mayor Tewart, Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, and Thompson

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – Councilman Meza

ROLL CALL

**PRESENT:** Mayor Tewart, Vice Mayor Sealock, Councilman Cockrell, Councilman Gillispie, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Thompson, Interim Town Manager Tederick, Town Attorney Napier, Deputy Clerk of Council Lynn, Director of Finance Wilson, and members of the public and press.

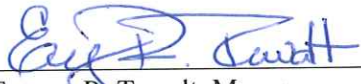
**ABSENT:** Councilman Meza




SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE

Mayor Initial RT

APPROVED:

  
Eugene R. Tewalt, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Tina L. Presley Clerk of Council  
Minutes Written by Mary Ellen Lynn Deputy Clerk of Council

*Councilman Cookrell moved, seconded by Councilman Meza approved the Work Session Meeting minutes of September 8, 2020 on September 28, 2020.*

Mayor Initial 