

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, September 21, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

Town Hall Conference Room

1. **Vacation of Streets / Alleys Policy Revisions** – Interim Town Manager, Matt Tederick, noted that the Town’s current policy for vacation of streets and alleys was outdated. He identified the key changes as recommended by town staff which included the removal of the \$100 application fee, removal of the second review of the viewing committee, removal of the phrase - “engaging the services of a real estate appraiser,” and the addition of the phrase - “the Town Attorney’s Office shall execute and process final documents after final approval from Council.” After no discussion, council agreed to add the policy revision to their consent agenda.

2. **Review of FY21 Revenues** – Finance Director, BJ Wilson, explained that the town’s revenues were doing ‘pretty well’ and that town staff would continue to review them monthly. He noted that while the number of delinquent utility accounts in May totaled 2,022, as of the end of August it had dropped down to 856. Mr. Wilson recommended the release of the third-year compensation study funding from contingency – totaling \$124,000. Mr. Tederick added that town staff had also discussed implementing merit increases and questioned if there were any Capital Improvement Items that should be considered for release.

Councilman Meza asked how it was possible for so many businesses to be affected almost to the point of closing, yet the town’s revenues continued the same trend. Mr. Wilson explained that while lodging taxes were down, meals and sales taxes were not. He added that while many existing restaurants had survived by changing their business plans, there were also a couple new businesses such as Dunkin Donuts and Sheetz that had ‘come online.’

Vice Mayor Sealock asked if the town had received the CARES Act funding from Warren County. He expressed his immense concern that they had not and requested the Mayor reach out to the Chairman of the Board.

Mayor adjourned the work session at 7:22 P.M. and council went into closed session.

3. Closed Meeting – Town Manager Position, EDA Lawsuit, Public Alley

Councilman Gillispie moved, seconded by Councilman Meza, that Town Council go into Closed Meeting for the following purposes:

- (1) *With respect to the Town Manager’s position, the discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, salaries, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 1. of the Code of Virginia.*
- (2) *With respect to the Town’s lawsuit against the EDA, consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in Open Meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating*

Mayor Initial 

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.

- (3) Regarding a Town public alley, the disposition of publicly held real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiation strategy of Town Council, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711. A. 3.

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

Councilman Cockrell moved, seconded by Councilman Holloway, that the Mayor and Council certify that to the best of each member's knowledge, as recognized by each Mayor and 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 the Mayor and 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 Tewalt, Councilmen Sealock, Cockrell, Gillispie, Holloway, Meza, and Thompson

No – N/A

Abstain – N/A

Absent – N/A

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Tewalt, Vice Mayor Sealock, Councilman Cockrell, Councilman Gillispie, Councilman Holloway, Councilman Meza, 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.

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 Work Session Meeting minutes of September 21, 2020 on September 28, 2020.

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