



CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Council Chambers, 715 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

HON. MARY KATHERINE GREENLAW, MAYOR
HON. CHARLIE L. FRYE, JR., VICE -MAYOR, WARD FOUR
HON. KERRY P. DEVINE, AT-LARGE
HON. MATTHEW J. KELLY, AT-LARGE
HON. JASON N. GRAHAM, WARD ONE
HON. JONATHAN A. GERLACH, WARD TWO
HON. DR. TIMOTHY P. DUFFY, WARD THREE

Council Work Session

February 28, 2023

Area 10 Small Area Report for South Lafayette/South Routh 1 Planning Area – Rhodeside and Harwell Ranked Choice Voting

The Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia held a work session on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Large Conference Room of City Hall.

Council Present. Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Presiding. Vice-Mayor Charlie L. Frye, Jr. Councilors Kerry P. Devine, Timothy P. Duffy, Jonathan A. Gerlach, Jason N. Graham, and Matthew J. Kelly.

Also Present. City Manager Timothy J. Baroody, City Attorney Kathleen Dooley, Assistant City Manager David Brown, Assistant City Manager Mark Whitley, Community Planning and Building Director Charles Johnston, Principal Planner Mike Craig, Community Development Planner Bailey Thompson, and Clerk of Council Tonya B. Lacey.

Others Present. Ron Sessoms, Rhodeside and Harwell.

Area 10 Small Area Report for South Lafayette/South Routh 1 Planning Area – Rhodeside and Harwell. Community Development Planner Thompson introduced Ron Sessom from Rhodeside and Harwell and Mr. Sessom presented a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Sessom stated that he had been working with the Planning Department over the past seven months through the process of developing the Area Plan. He said there were many engagements to meet with the community.

There were key themes heard throughout the community engagement sessions and they were Transportation, Community Amenities and Natural; Resources and Placemaking and Land Use.

A major component to Area 10 was to apply the transects to the plan and they also created a new transect called the T-4V Village Center Transect. The t-4V would allow for smaller scale mixed use revitalization projects in some of the village center locations.

Mr. Sessom also discussed the transect plan, the Village Centers, he took a look at each of the proposed village centers, residential areas, parks and open space. He also talked about mobility along Lafayette Boulevard, Route 1, secondary and neighborhood street.

Councilor Graham stated that he would like to create a grid on the western side of Route 1 because it's a collection of gas stations and residents. It has no sense of place. He was hoping to try to make it more connective.

Councilor Duffy said the biggest improvement he would like to see is sidewalks. He said if they could get sidewalks on Lafayette Boulevard and Route 1 it would drastically change the way people view those areas.

Councilor Devine asked what would be some of the low cost improvements for the roundabout on Lafayette Boulevard and Mr. Sessom said it could be signage, flashing beacons, rumble strips, painting and continue to observe the crash history.

Finally, he discussed the stormwater management and areas of study. (See Attachment I & II for more information).

Councilor Kelly noted that as new neighborhoods are developed it is causing cascading affects with flooding and he wanted to know about the stormwater management and water and sewer as it relates to density in the area.

Councilor Gerlach echoed Councilor Kelly stating that there was a lot of erosion going on because of flooding. Some of the newer developments uphill on Lafayette Boulevard are not doing a good job at detention of stormwater and its it rushing down in to the neighborhoods causing flooding and erosion.

Mr. Sessom said they recognize in the plan that R-2 would be more appropriate in these areas but they don't have the infrastructure to support higher intensity.

Mr. Johnston reported that Area 5 would be the next area in the que and they plan to start in the spring.

Ranked Choice Voting. City Attorney Dooley updated the Council and she reminded them that they held a work session in October 25, 2022 and at the end of the presentation

there were a lot of questions that were not answered about ranked choice voting. Staff presented a resolution that the Council adopted at the November 22 meeting that identified three major topics: what is the cost the state would pose on to localities, what the costs would be to localities to convert and how will the ranked choice voting work?

The Department of Elections came out with a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). And localities will not have to pay for the state's costs because the cost to convert was not what they thought it would be. The preliminary cost is around \$45,000. The other big development that Ms. Dooley mentioned was that in December Arlington voted to adopt ranked choice voting for their June primary election. It was shortly after this that the Department of Elections approved a vote tabulation software. The Department of Elections was going to test the software in Arlington in January 2023. Once they tested the software then they would be able to write the manual on how to run the elections.

Ms. Dooley said she and the City Manager were to meet with the Electoral Board but it was not fully populated until recently and they did not get a chance to meet before the Council meeting. She explained that the Council had received complaints from them in the past about ranked choice voting and she was not sure how many of their concerns had been resolved.

Councilor Kelly expressed his concern with ranked choice voting and how he would have to vote for people that he does not necessarily agree with. He said ranked choice voting takes away the concept of what elections are about, vision and ideas of candidates.

Discussion ensued about the Council's pros and cons of ranked choice voting.

Closed Session. Closed Meeting Approved. Upon a motion Councilor Devine, moved approval to convene in closed session under Va. Code 2.2-3711(A)(7), for consultation with the City Attorney and briefings by staff members pertaining to actual litigation, namely two pending federal district court cases brought by Marc and Jacqueline Stout against Fredericksburg City employees, where such consultation in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the City; and Code 2.2-3711(A)(8) for consultation with the City Attorney regarding legal matters requiring the advice of counsel, namely, questions relating to the accessory dwelling unit ordinance; motion was seconded by Councilor Gerlach and passed by the following recorded votes. Ayes (7) Councilors Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Gerlach, Graham and Kelly. Nays (0).

Return to Open Meeting Approved. Upon the motion of Councilor Graham; seconded by Councilor Devine and passed by the following recorded votes, Council approved a return to an open meeting. Ayes (7) Councilors Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Gerlach, Graham and Kelly. Nays (0).

Resolution 23-19, Approved, Certifying Closed Meeting. Upon the motion Councilor Graham, approved Resolution 23-19 certifying the closed meeting; seconded by Councilor Devine and passed by the following recorded votes. Ayes (7) Councilors Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Gerlach, Graham and Kelly. Nays (0)

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council at this time. Mayor Greenlaw declared the session officially adjourned at 7:15 p.m.



**Tonya B. Lacey, MMC
Clerk of Council
City of Fredericksburg**