



Town of Vienna

Charles A. Robinson Jr.
Town Hall
127 Center Street South
Vienna VA, 22180

Meeting Minutes - Draft Town Council Meeting

Monday, February 2, 2026

7:30 PM

Charles Robinson Jr. Town Hall, 127 Center
St. South

Invocation: Mercury Payton, Town Manager

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

1. Roll Call

All Council Members were present.

Present: 7 - Council Member Chuck Anderson, Council Member Roy Baldwin, Council Member Doug Francis, Council Member Dann Nash, Council Member Jessica Ramakis, Council Member Howard J. Springsteen and Mayor Linda Colbert

2. Acceptance of the Minutes:

The minutes were accepted unanimously.

- A. [26-5430](#) Acceptance of the January 5th Town Council Meeting and the January 12th Work Session Minutes

3. Receipt of petitions and communications from the Public that are not on the Agenda. (Limited to 3 minutes per issue and no formal action can be taken this evening)

Laura Bligh, 226 Glen Ave SW.

"As you know and most residents do not, town elections are currently exempt from Virginia's Campaign Disclosure Finance Act and the Stand By Your Ad Law. These rules normally only apply to towns with more than 25,000 residents, but under Virginia law, towns can choose to be subject to these rules by passing an ordinance. With the election behind us and the next one 2 years away, now seems to me like an ideal time for the Council to establish clear, consistent policy for campaign finance within the town. This is not about misconduct, it is about transparency especially with multi million dollar decisions coming before you so often. 6 years ago I raised a similar proposal that went over like a lead balloon, however our current mayor who was then on the council said she was willing to comply. I hope you all are now as well, with 2 years to get this established. This would be a simple, limited step and most of us are already subject to this and I am asking the council to consider passing an ordinance to make Vienna elections subject to the Virginia Campaign Disclosure Finance Act and the Stand By Your Ad Law. Thank you."

4. Reports/Presentations

A. Report and Inquiries of Council Members

Council Member Springsteen reported that a transformer exploded in his neighborhood over the weekend. Dominion Energy crews worked for three consecutive days to repair the damage and restore power to residents. He

emphasized the importance of maintaining strong infrastructure systems so that issues like this can be addressed quickly and effectively.

Council Member Francis thanked the Public Works Department for its prompt response to a water main leak on MacArthur Avenue and for resolving the issue efficiently.

Council Member Nash expressed appreciation to Public Works for their around-the-clock snow removal efforts. He also shared that he attended his first Northern Virginia Regional Commission meeting. During that meeting, Mercury Payton and Council Member Ramakis presented on Liberty Amendments Month, which was well received and generated significant interest among other jurisdictions in hosting similar initiatives.

Council Member Ramakis thanked the Town Manager and Lily Widman for their excellent work in promoting Liberty Amendments Month and for supporting neighboring jurisdictions in developing related events. She also expressed appreciation to Public Works for their continued snow removal efforts and noted the importance of providing residents with an update on the status of sidewalks that remain unplowed.

Council Member Anderson thanked Public Works, including Director Brad Baer, for their snow removal efforts. He also provided an update on the "No Casino" movement, noting that the bill has passed the Gaming Subcommittee and the Senate General Laws Committee and is now before the Finance and Appropriations Committee. He added that several anti-casino groups are traveling to Richmond to voice their opposition, and that the Council will participate in Legislative Day on Thursday to advocate against the proposal as well.

B. Report of the Town Manager

A. [26-5431](#) Fiscal Year 2026 Mid-Year Financial Review

Town Manager Mercury Payton introduced Finance Director Steven Barlow to provide the Mid-Year Financial Review to the Town Council. Director Barlow presented the mid-year financial review, providing an overview of revenues and expenditures through December 31 and projections through fiscal year end. General Fund revenues are generally tracking as expected; however, a projected \$450,000 year-end deficit is anticipated due primarily to one-time personnel costs, including higher-than-average retirement payouts, accrued leave settlements, and increased overtime. The Town's unusually low vacancy rate has reduced the typical salary savings that often offset these expenses. Staff outlined corrective measures already implemented, including deferring vehicle replacement purchases, eliminating use of prior year surplus, implementing a temporary hiring freeze, and closely monitoring discretionary spending and overtime. The Debt Service Fund and Water and Sewer Fund were reported as stable and operating within expectations.

B. [26-5433](#) Aquatic and Fitness Center Timeline (5 min. staff presentation)

Town Manager Mercury Payton introduced Parks and Recreation Director Leslie Herman to provide the Aquatics and Fitness Center Project Timeline to the Town Council. Director Herman presented a proposed timeline outlining the phased approach for

the Aquatics and Fitness Center project. Phase 1 includes procurement of a project manager, followed by Phase 2 selection of a design firm, and Phase 3 development of schematic and final designs with multiple Council review points. Staff emphasized that each phase includes opportunities for Council direction, approvals, and potential off-ramps should the project not proceed. Council discussion focused on fiscal planning, capital priorities, the need for updated cost estimates, and ensuring meaningful community engagement during design. Council Members acknowledged that future decisions will depend on refined financial information and design proposals presented at later stages.

Council Members also discussed water and sewer system replacement rates and the importance of maintaining infrastructure reliability. Staff explained that the current replacement rate is near industry norms and that the system is functioning safely with response times for repairs remaining strong. Consideration is being given to increasing the replacement rate to improve long-term resilience, and consultants are evaluating potential impacts to rates and borrowing strategies. Staff clarified that water and sewer funds are financially separate from the General Fund and capital projects such as the aquatics facility. No immediate changes were adopted, but the topic will be addressed further during upcoming budget work sessions. Mayor Colbert briefly recessed the meeting following this discussion.

The meeting was called back to order at 9:05 pm

The Town Manager called Brad Baer to provide an update on Snow Removal to the Town Council.

The Director of Public Works provided an update on snow and ice operations, noting that crews have worked extended shifts for more than a week to clear primary and secondary roads before shifting focus to sidewalks and pedestrian areas. Due to the density and volume of snow, heavy equipment is required and progress has been slower than typical events. Current priorities include major corridors such as Maple Avenue, Church Street, and Nutley Street to improve safety for pedestrians who might otherwise walk in travel lanes. Council Members raised concerns about school routes and student safety, and staff indicated that priorities could be adjusted based on Council direction and available resources. The report concluded with appreciation for staff efforts and continued monitoring of conditions.

During extended Town Manager time, the Town Manager requested clarification from the Finance Director regarding whether Council had authorized staff to initiate the RFP process for a project manager for the Aquatics & Fitness Center. The Finance Director stated that approval of the FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which included the project and identified funding through the Navy Federal Credit Union advance, provided staff with authority to begin the RFP process and solicit proposals. He further clarified that while staff was authorized to pursue proposals, the decision to award a project management contract remains solely with Council. No contract has been awarded, and Council retains full discretion to approve, deny, or defer the award.

The Town Manger ended his time by directing Public Works to prioritize clearing sidewalks of snow in close proximity to schools.

C. Report of the Mayor

Mayor Colbert thanked Council Member Nash for representing the Town on the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) and noted positive feedback from regional partners regarding Vienna's recent presentation. She recognized the many

community volunteers who assisted neighbors and local schools during recent snow events and encouraged submission of nominations for the upcoming Mayor's Volunteer Reception in April. The Mayor announced that Town of Vienna 250th anniversary ornaments are available for purchase at Town Hall and the Community Center. She also expressed appreciation to Texas Donuts for providing complimentary donuts to Public Works and Parks & Recreation crews during snow response efforts. Finally, she noted that several Council members would travel to Richmond to meet with legislators and advocate for the Town's legislative priorities.

D. Proposals for Additional Items to the Agenda

E. Closed Session Report

Council Member Ramakis made a motion, seconded by Council Member Baldwin. The motion passed unanimously.

"I move that the members of the Vienna Town Council be polled to affirm that a Closed Session was held on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in accordance with State Code citation 2.2-3711(A)(1) (Personnel)."

And

"I further move that the Certification Resolution be adopted in accordance with State Statutes, and that the Town Clerk is authorized to execute the Certification Resolution."

"And I further move that the Closed Session be continued to Monday, February 23, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in accordance with State Code citation 2.2-3711(A)(1) (Personnel)"

Council Member Ramakis made a second motion, seconded by Council Member Baldwin. The motion passed unanimously.

"I move to re-appoint David Miller to the Planning Commission for a two-year term. Said term to begin February 5, 2026, and expire February 5, 2028," and

"I move to appoint Jennifer Melchior to the Pedestrian Advisory Committee for a two-year term. Said term to begin February 3, 2026 and expire February 3, 2028," and furthermore,

"I move to re-appoint Gloria Runyon to Historic Vienna Inc. for a two-year term. Said term to be retroactively effective November 25, 2025, and expire November 25, 2027."

5. Public Hearings

6. Consent Agenda

7. Regular Business

- A. [26-5434](#) Request approval of the Transportation Safety Commission's motions regarding Micro Mobility vehicles.

The Director of Public Works presented two motions adopted by the Transportation Safety Commission (TSC) regarding safety concerns related to micro-mobility devices, including electric bikes and scooters. The TSC recommended (1) development of an educational and communication campaign in partnership with the Town's Public Information Office and Police Department to address safety risks and applicable laws, and (2) advocacy for state legislation to improve safety regulations governing micro-mobility vehicles. Chair of the TSC Beth Eachus cited

ongoing community concerns about underage riders, excessive speeds, lack of helmet use, and recent safety incidents both locally and nationally. Commissioners also reviewed pending state legislation, including House Bill 1120, which would direct the Virginia Department of Transportation to study and recommend safety improvements through a stakeholder work group. Council discussed helmet requirements under existing law and the need for clearer public awareness regarding current regulations.

A motion to approve was made by Council Member Baldwin, seconded by Council Member Springsteen. The vote passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Council Member Baldwin, seconded by Council Member Springsteen, that the Action Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council Member Anderson, Council Member Baldwin, Council Member Francis, Council Member Nash, Council Member Ramakis, Council Member Springsteen and Mayor Colbert

B. [26-5432](#)

Town Council Priorities 2026

A motion to postpone this item to the February 9th Work Session was made by Mayor Colbert, seconded by Council Member Nash. This motion passed unanimously

A motion was made by Mayor Colbert, seconded by Council Member Nash, that the Action Item be postponed. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council Member Anderson, Council Member Baldwin, Council Member Francis, Council Member Nash, Council Member Ramakis, Council Member Springsteen and Mayor Colbert

8. Meeting Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m..

THE TOWN OF VIENNA IS COMMITTED TO FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STANDARDS. TRANSLATION SERVICES, ASSISTANCE OR ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS FROM PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE TO BE REQUESTED NOT LESS THAN 3 WORKING DAYS BEFORE THE DAY OF THE EVENT. PLEASE CALL (703) 255-6304, OR 711 VIRGINIA RELAY SERVICE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED.