



Town of Vienna

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Town Council Meeting

Monday, April 27, 2026

7:30 PM

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

Invocation: Corky Eddins, Christ Church Vienna

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

1. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Colbert at 7:30 p.m. 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:

[26-5557](#)

March 14 and March 23, 2026 Draft Work Session Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

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)

Jay Fader (117 Battle Street) "I was a longtime resident of Vienna until I was 22 years old, and I moved back about six months ago. I'm happy to be back, and thank you for encouraging me to speak tonight, because I had not originally planned on it. At the intersection of Cottage Street and Battle Street, we are desperate for a stop sign. There is already a very large crosswalk there, but it actually creates confusion because many people driving through Cottage Street who are not Vienna residents end up treating it like a stop sign. About 25 to 30 students cross Cottage Street each day to get to and from Vienna Elementary School, and that does not include middle school students, pedestrian traffic going to the park, or other people walking through the area. In addition to the pedestrian activity, speeding is also an issue because Cottage Street is on a hill. The Vienna Police Department is aware of the problem and regularly conducts enforcement in the area, which I appreciate, but I believe a stop sign would improve safety for the residents and children in the neighborhood. The crosswalk itself is actually done extremely well, but because it is so visible, people mistake it for a stop sign, which creates additional confusion. Most intersections with crosswalks on all four sides are also four-way stops, so drivers often stop unexpectedly because they assume this intersection operates the same way. That creates the potential for rear-end collisions, in addition to the safety concerns involving children walking and riding bicycles through the intersection."

Roxanne Paul (1104 Trowbridge Lane SW), "As you know, I am the Chair of the Town's Tree Advocacy Committee, and we appreciate the opportunity to present our recommendations to you at your March 9 work session. Leslie Herman has arranged

with the Town Manager to place our first recommendation regarding the Town's street trees on your June 1 agenda, so I wanted to provide some advance comments tonight. Leslie and I are still working on the exact wording of the recommendations that will be submitted, but I will be away during two of your May meetings, so I hope you will remember my comments when you vote on these recommendations on June 1. You may recall that during our March presentation we divided the street tree recommendations into sections 1A and 1B. I am speaking specifically tonight about recommendation 1B because I feel very strongly about it and believe it has a better chance of being adopted. Recommendation 1B would specify that when a developer submits a site plan to the Town's urban forester, and the urban forester determines that the tree lawn between the sidewalk and the street is suitable for planting, street trees would be required as part of the final plan. In other words, the developer would no longer be able to veto street trees under the current policy. Our reasoning is straightforward. As you know, the Davy Tree study determined that Vienna lost 13 percent of its tree canopy between 2011 and 2021, primarily due to development. On most lots, all or nearly all of the front yard is clear-cut. This is one of the reasons the new tree conservation ordinance was adopted and the Tree Advocacy Committee was created. When the site plan for a new home is submitted, no one is living in that house yet, so no one can claim they do not want to rake leaves or have their view blocked because the home is still under development. The right-of-way is owned by the Town, and any street trees planted by the Town are watered and maintained by the Town for three years. Even in a small way, this policy would help mitigate the loss of trees removed during development, and street trees would also help shade sidewalks for pedestrians. We have invested in building sidewalks throughout Vienna, and we should plant deciduous trees to help make those sidewalks cooler during the summer months. If we are serious about preserving the tree canopy in Vienna, we need to adopt this change in policy. Please vote yes on recommendation 1B on June 1. Thank you."

Two students from Langston Hughes Middle School introduced themselves and stated they were attending the meeting as part of merit badge requirements, including communications and citizenship in the community.

4. Reports/Presentations

A. Report and Inquiries of Council Members

Council Member Baldwin highlighted several recent community events, including Green Expo, Arbor Day celebrations, Taste of Vienna, Walk on the Hill, and local theater productions. He expressed appreciation for the many volunteers, organizations, and Town staff members who contribute time and effort to make these events successful. He noted that strong participation in these events reflects Vienna's sense of community and civic engagement.

Council Member Springsteen provided updates on sidewalk construction projects, noting that most previously funded work has now been completed. He referenced ongoing discussions regarding sidewalks along Glen Avenue and suggested the Town consider outreach to the remaining property owners to achieve continuity on both sides of the street. He also discussed the costs associated with maintaining water infrastructure, including connection fees and long-term system expenses, and commented positively on the success and turnout of Taste of Vienna.

Council Member Francis discussed the Town's debt service obligations and explained that general obligation bonds fund long-term infrastructure projects such

as the community center, police department, and water and sewer systems. He noted that approximately 60% of debt service payments are supported by meals tax revenue and stated that annual debt service is projected to increase significantly in the coming years before declining. He emphasized that these obligations are fixed commitments resulting from prior borrowing decisions and cautioned that reductions in key revenue sources could place additional pressure on property taxes or other Town funding priorities.

B. Report of the Town Manager

[26-5553](#) Next Steps for Strategic Plan (10 mins)

Staff presented the Strategic Plan adopted in September 2025 and outlined options for Council, including reaffirming the plan, revisiting it through a work session, or making modifications. Staff explained that the Strategic Plan differs from the Comprehensive Plan by addressing broader operational and policy priorities, including governance, fiscal health, and community engagement.

Council Members discussed the purpose of revisiting the plan, particularly in light of newly elected members. There was general consensus that the existing plan remains appropriate and that Council should focus on implementation rather than revisiting or revising the document at this time. Staff confirmed that the plan would continue to guide operations and that updates could be provided as implementation progresses.

C. Report of the Mayor

The Mayor provided remarks regarding Town finances, noting that infrastructure investments are largely funded through meals tax revenue, while property taxes primarily support operational costs such as staff salaries. She noted that changes to the Capital Improvement Program can affect debt service and highlighted recent funding secured for a W&OD Trail project, which may provide additional flexibility.

[26-5552](#) Proclamations

The Mayor issued proclamations recognizing Professional Municipal Clerks Week (May 3–9, 2026), acknowledging the critical role of the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk, and Vienna Little League Day, celebrating the organization's 75th season, its history in the community, and its role in serving hundreds of youth participants each year.

D. Proposals for Additional Items to the Agenda

E. Closed Session Report

Council Member Baldwin made the following motion, "I move that the members of the Vienna Town Council be polled to affirm that a Closed Session was held on Monday, April 27, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in accordance with State Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), for consideration of personnel matters, specifically, the discussion of appointment and /or re-appointment to Town Boards and Commissions. 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, May 4, 2026, at 6:30 pm in accordance with State Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), for consideration of personnel matters, specifically, the discussion of appointment

and/or re-appointment of Town Boards and Commissions." This motion was seconded by Council Member Anderson and was approved unanimously.

Council Member Baldwin then made the following motions, "I move to appoint Gordon Brookes to the Bicycle Advisory Committee for a two-year term. Said term to begin May 19, 2026 and expire May 19, 2028." and, "I move to re-appoint Najee Davis to the Town Business Liaison Committee for a two-year term. Said term to be retroactively effective March 4, 2026 and expire March 4, 2028" and, "I move to appoint Owen Krzywda to the Conservation and Sustainability Commission to fill an unexpired term. Said term to begin June 1, 2026 and expire September 1, 2026." Council Member Springsteen seconded the motions and they were approved unanimously.

5. Public Hearings

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

[26-5544](#)

Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2026-27 Proposed Tax Rate (5 mins.)

Staff presented the proposed real estate tax rate of \$0.195 per \$100 of assessed value, noting that residential assessments increased by approximately 6.8% and commercial assessments by approximately 2.2%. Staff explained that maintaining the current rate would result in an average annual increase of approximately \$121 for homeowners and would support continued service levels, employee compensation adjustments, and reduced reliance on fund balance.

No speakers appeared for the public hearing. Council voted to close the public hearing while keeping the record open for written comments through May 1.

Council Members discussion focused on balancing affordability concerns with maintaining Town services and meeting financial obligations. Several members expressed interest in exploring potential reductions to the tax rate in response to rising assessments and resident concerns. Other members emphasized the impact of inflation, rising operational costs, and the importance of maintaining service levels and staff compensation.

Council discussed procedural considerations, including advertising requirements and timelines, and agreed to continue deliberations ahead of the May 18 adoption date. Members acknowledged that the advertised rate represents a maximum and that Council retains the ability to reduce the rate prior to final adoption. Due to public comment being left open, Council did not make a motion to advertise an intent to adopt. They will revisit the approval at the May 4th meeting.

Council Member Ramakis made the following motion, seconded by Council Member Nash, "I move to close the public hearing and leave public comment open until Friday May 1st close of business. " The motion carried 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

7. Regular Business

[26-5539](#)

Request approval of Transportation Safety Commission (TSC) motion for implementing recommendations at the intersections of Desale Street, SW, and Yeonas

Drive, SE, Desale Street, SW, and James Drive, SE, Ross Drive and Desale Street, SW, and Yeonas Circle and Yeonas Drive, SE. (10 mins.)

Staff presented recommendations resulting from a petition signed by 116 residents regarding traffic conditions at several intersections in the Desale Street and Yeonas Drive area. Staff outlined the petition process, data collection, and evaluation of both safety and operational considerations.

Recommendations included converting one intersection to an all-way stop based on traffic volumes, reassigning stop control at another intersection to better reflect traffic patterns, and installing high-visibility crosswalks at key locations.

Additional intersections would receive standard crosswalk markings in response to pedestrian activity.

Council discussion included concerns regarding visibility, traffic flow, and potential driver confusion when changing stop control. Staff explained implementation procedures, including temporary flashing stop signs and phased signage adjustments, as well as a planned six-month follow-up evaluation.

Council Member Springsteen made the following motion, seconded by Council Member Anderson, "I move to approve the Town's Transportation Safety Commission motion and implement improvements at the intersections of Desale Street, SW, and Yeonas Drive, SE, Desale Street, SW, and James Drive, SE, Ross Drive and Desale Street, SW, and Yeonas Circle and Yeonas Drive, SE, as described in this report." The motion carried 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

[26-5538](#)

Request Authorization for Additional Contract Expenditure for the Nutley Street Culvert Construction Contract, IFB 25-02, with FLB Contractors, Inc. (5 mins)

Staff requested approval of a change order related to the Nutley Street culvert project to install a casing pipe that will accommodate a future Fairfax County sewer line. Staff explained that completing this work during the current excavation would avoid future disruption and reduce long-term impacts on traffic.

The cost of the additional work will be fully reimbursed by Fairfax County. Council discussed the benefits of coordinating infrastructure projects and avoiding repeated excavation.

Council Member Springsteen made the following motion, seconded by Council Member Nash, "I move to approve a Fairfax County funded change order for the Nutley Street Culvert Construction Contract, IFB 25-02, in the amount of \$253,003.50 and increase the contract value to \$1,852,221.55 plus 25% contingency reserve for a total authorization of \$2,315,277 as described in this report." 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

[26-5546](#)

Donation of Funds to Historic Vienna, Inc. (HVI) for Vienna250 Programs (5 mins)

Staff presented a recommendation to transfer \$56,000 in funding received from Fairfax County for Vienna 250 programming to Historic Vienna, Inc. (HVI), which would administer the funds and coordinate event expenditures. Council discussed prior plans to allocate Town funding for similar purposes, the use of ARPA interest funds, and the need for transparency and accountability in managing the funds. Members noted that HVI, as a nonprofit, is well positioned to manage and distribute funds efficiently.

Council also discussed the potential for additional funding requests in the future and emphasized that any further Town contributions should be reviewed and approved by Council. The item was considered with general support for the proposed funding structure.

Council Member Ramakis made the following motion, seconded by Council Member Springsteen "I move to donate \$56,000 to Historic Vienna Inc. for purposes related to Vienna250 administration as outlined by the Vienna250 Committee's proposal." 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 adjourned at 9:05 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.