Town of Vienna

Meeting Minutes - Final
Town Council Work Session

Monday, October 21, 2024	**7:00 PM**	**Vienna Police Department Community Room, 215 Center St. South**

1. Regular Business

Roll Call

Council Present: Council Member Sondra Allen; Council Member Chuck Anderson; Council Member Roy Baldwin; Council Member Ray Brill; Council Member Jessica Ramakis; Council Member Howard Springsteen and Mayor Linda Colbert.

Staff Present: Mercury Payton, Town Manager; Steve Briglia, Town Attorney; David Levy, Director, Planning and Zoning, Brad Baer, Director, Public Works; Andrew Jenks, Traffic Engineer

A. [24-4736](#) Follow-up discussion of a proposed 2025 Virginia General Assembly legislative agenda with Senator and Delegate

Mayor Colbert opened the Work Session at 7:00 PM by introducing Senator Saddam Salim, 37th District.

Mayor Colbert presented the Towns top two priorities. Discussion included the following:

Council is working on Town legislation in opposition to gambling facilities in Fairfax County; Vienna would welcome a grandfather clause to continue as part of a revised bill; Would appreciate extra time (March 2025) before State legislature receives revised bill.

Senator Salim reiterated his opposition to the Casino bill and stated that a working bill is unlikely prior to December.

Mayor Colbert and Town Attorney Steve Briglia reviewed the Town's position on various other Agenda Items. Senator Salim indicated that other cities in his District have largely prioritized budgetary items thereby freeing space for the nonbudgetary items from Vienna. He acknowledged that a priority list of six to eight items was preferred. Including a list of Town positions proves helpful as he determines which bills to support throughout the session.

Town Manager Payton reminded Council that a Public Hearing on the Legislative Agenda is scheduled for November 18, 2024. While the majority of bills are due the week prior to Thanksgiving, Senator Salim indicated that he would save three-four spots for Vienna.

Mayor Colbert thanked Senator Salim for his time tonight and his continuing support for the Town of Vienna.

Mayor Colbert called for a break at 7:55 PM. Work Session resumed at 8:00 PM.

Council discussed proposed agenda items that should be removed from the list due to lack of support. The following is a list of those items:

- *20. Ending Police/Federal/State use of Private Property for training in residential areas.*
- *21. Ending Law that makes relocation of wild animals in urban areas a crime.*
- *22. Protecting Senior of Fix Income from paying excessive taxes. Council noted that this item would be struck unless it could be written with greater clarity.*
- *4. Request to Amend State Code §15.2-1400(E) to permit localities to have May local elections. Suggest removing this item may garner support for more important and timely items (such as the casino issue).*

B.   24-4623   Annual TSC Presentation.

Mayor Colbert introduced Beth Eachus, Chair, Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) to provide the annual report of activities.
Comments from Council are summarized as follows:
- *Lighted stop signs have proven effective;*
- *Eye-to-eye contact campaign is successful and should be extended; Suggest placing these signs where pedestrians are at high risk;*
- *Windover Heights has proven to be a unique district; TSC recommendations have been opposed; Urge TSC to continue to investigate creative solutions to traffic/pedestrian coexistence challenges; Consider meandering path, or "shared street" signage; Studies disprove value of lowering speed limit – drivers currently travel below 25mph;*
- *Church St./Lawyers Rd. intersection recommended for reconfiguration in Multi Modal Study; Plan includes reconfiguring from one major into two minor intersections; Process requires working with private land owners;*
- *TSC is reactionary body; Urge Council to alert TSC of needs in order to initiate action from Commission; Urge Council to draft letter of support to Northern Virginia Parks Authority in support of reprioritizing Vienna W&OD Trail upgrade.*

C.   24-4695   Overview of processes and standards for installing stop signs

Mayor Colbert recognized Brad Baer, Director, Public Works to present the Item for consideration.

Comments from Council are summarized as follows:
- *Traffic volumes must align with the stated criteria in order to warrant a four way stop sign; If intersection has significantly more pedestrian traffic than auto traffic (and does not meet the standard for number of autos) adding stop signs may cause pedestrian safety issues; drivers ignore stop sign if believe to be unwarranted;*
- *Town may have some unwarranted stop signs; Focus going forward is to add signage only where warranted;*
- *Consider making crosswalks more vivid;*
- *Suggest providing public with simplified version of criteria for evaluating and process for selecting intersections appropriate for stop signage.*

Council agreed that the information presented was useful but determined that there was no need for additional investigation into this issue.

In additional discussion, Mayor Colbert shared an earlier conversation with delegate Seibold regarding the legislative agenda. Delegate Seibold noted that there were items on the current legislative agenda that she could champion.

The town hall meeting to discuss a temporary meals tax increase is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Colbert reported that eight restaurants were represented in an earlier ZOOM discussion on this proposal.

The annual Halloween parade will be held Wednesday October 23, 2024 starting at 7:00 PM.

2. Meeting Adjournment

Mayor Colbert concluded the work session at 9:50 PM.

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