



# Town of Vienna

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

## Meeting Minutes Town Council Work Session

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Monday, January 13, 2025

7:30 PM

Vienna Police Department Community Room,  
215 Center St. South

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### 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 (Remote); Council Member Howard Springsteen and Mayor Linda Colbert.*

*Staff Present: Mercury Payton, Town Manager; Steve Briglia, Town Attorney; Steven Barlow, Deputy Director of Finance; Marion Serfass, Director, Finance; Christina Williams, Budget Manager; David Levy, Director, Planning and Zoning, Brad Baer, Director, Public Works; Leslie Herman, Director, Parks and Recreation; Tony Mull, Director, Information Technology; Michelle Crabtree, Director, Human Resources; Jim Morris, Chief, Police Department; Karen Thayer, Director, Public Information; Kelly O'Brien, Interim Director, Economic Development*

*Council Member Ramakis was inaudible throughout.*

*Mayor Colbert opened the work session at 7:30 PM.*

#### A. [24-4808](#)

#### 7:30 p.m. - 7:40 p.m. Annual Town Business Liaison Committee Report

*Mayor Colbert recognized Jen Morrow, Chairman, Town Business Liaison Committee, to present the report. Also present was Kelly O'Brien, Interim Director, Town Business Liaison Committee.*

*Comments from Council included following:*

- *Interaction with the business community is vital for the health of the Town; Suggest including Council Member when conducting initial business visit;*
  - *Restaurant week is very successful; Consider a second restaurant event later in the year;*
  - *Consider initiating a mentoring program;*
  - *Low vacancy rate proves worth of TBLC and Economic Development efforts;*
  - *Memos to Council are effective means to convey issues and requests; Committee has option to request time on a work session to present issues to Council.*
- Mayor Colbert noted that an information sharing dinner was held with all Commission/Committee chairs to encourage greater interaction.*

#### B. [24-4809](#)

#### 7:40 p.m. - 7:50 p.m. Planning Commission 2024 Annual Report

*Mayor Colbert recognized Jessica Plowgian, Past Chairman, Planning Commission, and Mathew Glassman, Chairman, Planning Commission to present the annual report.*

*Comments from Council included the following:*

- *Quality of input from Commission exceptional;*

- *Comprehensive Plan work is invaluable.*

C. [24-4807](#)

*Mayor Colbert recognized Patty Esswein, Chairman, Conservation and Sustainability Commission to provide the report.*

*Comments from Council included the following:*

- *Commission has discussed issues with waterways; Some are under the jurisdiction of the Park Authority; Considering stream cleanupeffort, especially as Town storm drains directly connect to Town waterways;*
- *Composting effort successful; Monies requested expected to cover permanent composting services.*

D. [24-4820](#)

8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Second Discussion of 2025-26 New Budget Initiatives

*Mayor Colbert asked Council to provide the three most worthy new initiative projects for funding. Among the projects cited by Council were the following:*

- *Annual reserve to fund an aquatics center;*
- *Maintenance (irrigation, etc ) for various beautification and landscaped sites across Town (should be worked into budget in future);*
- *Halloween Parade safety fencing;*
- *Staff videographer/multimedia design specialist;*
- *Tree replacement - Additional item not currently in any request.*

*Council discussed the issue of identifying top initiatives without the benefit of revenue projections. Revenue numbers are not available from the County until late February. The idea for current discussion was to help inform budget discussions. Steven Barlow, Director, Finance, indicated that it would be possible to provide a 3-5 year running average from the past, although numbers may be skewed do to historic inflation and dramatically increased tax assessments.*

*A brief discussion was held regarding Town Hall space issues related to adding more Staff positions. Brad Baer, Director, Public Works, reviewed the ongoing space study and assured that adequate space would be available for any new hires.*

*Mayor Colbert called for a break at 9:00 PM. Meeting resumed at 9:05 PM.*

*Recording began mid discussion.*

*The process for mounting banners was reviewed.*

*Council was reminded that with a new year, new Council priorities should be established. The 2024 priorities included the following:*

1. *Parks Master Plan;*
2. *Diversity and Housing (ALU's passed on November 18, 2024);*
3. *Zoning Ordinance;*
4. *Aquatics and Fitness Center.*

*Council was asked to submit 2025 priorities via email by January 22, 2025 for vote on January 27, 2025.*

E. [24-4821](#)

8:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Discussion on Invasive Plant Species, Bamboo and Deer Repellant Devices in Town

Mayor Colbert recognized Jeremy Edwards, Parks Maintenance Superintendent, to present the Item for discussion.

Council comments are summarized as follows:

- Town relies on volunteers to control invasive species/bamboo in Town parks; Do not have internal department capacity to perform this work;
- Suggest Town Bamboo Ordinance similar to Fairfax County (enacted January 2023); County Bamboo Ordinance models State ordinance;
- Suggest monitoring success of County ordinance prior to addressing for Town; Gather information from County on success/issues with ordinance;
- Due to inevitable spread, the bamboo issue pits neighbor against neighbor; Remediation costs can be prohibitive;
- No current statute to address responsibility when bamboo jumps property lines;
- Consider financial assistance for homeowners who show need;
- Enforcement must be a consideration – complaint driven;
- Must clear bamboo on Town property prior to consideration of ordinance.

Leslie Herman, Director, Parks and Recreation, will research the effectiveness of the Fairfax County ordinance prior to development of a management plan. An educational campaign would provide a valuable tool.

Mayor Colbert recognized Police Chief Jim Morris to discuss deer repellent devices.

Council comments include the following:

- The devices have questionable effectiveness;
- Devise whistle level is adjustable;
- Residents have complained that noise level is invasive.

Chief Morris suggested that in response to resident complaints, Staff should reach out to determine if the device noise level could be adjusted. He also indicated that a notice, along with educational material, will be sent to residents as a reminder not to deal with deer issues on their own.

F. [24-4806](#) 9:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Reviewing the Shared Mobility Device (SMD) Pilot Program and Next Steps

Mayor Colbert recognized Andrew Jenks, Transportation Engineer to present finding of the Shared Mobility Device Pilot Program.

Council comments included the following:

- Must consider if Town wants an ordinance; Without an ordinance any company can come into Vienna unregulated;
- Pilot program can be left open ended; Due to financial issues, Bird Global, Inc. has removed itself from the pilot program; Without adequate data to write an effective ordinance, the Town should remain in pilot program status;
- Town does not provide the right population composition for sustaining this type of transportation option, however, recommend remaining in pilot program status as a means of regulating new market entrance.

## 2. Meeting Adjournment

With no further discussion, Mayor Colbert concluded the work session at 10:00 PM.