



Town of Vienna

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

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Conference Session

Monday, September 20, 2021

7:30 PM

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

1. Resolution

A. [21-2567](#) Resolution for Continuity of Government

Mayor Linda Colbert read into the record the Continuity of Government. The Resolution was approved through voice vote.

2. Regular Business

Council: Council Member Chuck Anderson; Council Member Ray Brill Jr; Council Member Nisha Patel (via ZOOM); Council Member Steve Potter, Council Member Ed Somers; Council Member Howard Springsteen and Mayor Linda Colbert.
Staff: Mercury Peyton, Town Manager; Marion Serfass, Director of Finance, Gwen Riddle, Finance Operations Manager; Mike Gallagher, Director, Public Works; Dave Donahue, Deputy Director, Public Works; Leslie Herman, Director, Parks and Recreation; Shelley Kozlowski, Deputy Town Clerk; Steve Briglia, Town Attorney (Via ZOOM); Natalie Monkou, Manager, Economic Development (Via ZOOM); Andrew Jinks, Transportation Engineer (via Zoom) and Jim Morris, Chief, Vienna Police Department (via ZOOM).

A. [21-2507](#) Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Through 2036

A. 21-2507 Capital Improvement Plan through 2036
Mayor Colbert called on Marion Serfass, Director, Finance, to present the draft of the Capital Improvement Plan through 2036 with the intent to finalize projects for inclusion in the 2022 bond issue. Additionally, discussion was directed toward approval of the proposed funding distribution between bond and ARPA funding. Director Serfass set forth ten assumptions for the debt model. Discussion focused on the assumption that Asphalt, Mill and Overlay is funded at the level to bring overall road conditions up from "poor" but below what is needed to bring roads to "fair – good". Mike Gallagher, Director, Public Works, responded that bring the average Pavement Condition Index to "fair" would require expenditure of \$2M per year for 10 years, translating into \$4M every bond issuance (currently at \$2.3M per bond issuance). Funding must be aggressive; Council is challenged to identify where tradeoffs can be made.

Director Serfass continued with a summary review of projects from 2018 and 2020 bond monies. Council sought clarification on a variety of projects. Among those were the following:

- Status of the Freeman Store Bridge. Director Gallagher reviewed the ongoing challenges associated with this project, noting that the most current bid package is under review by VDOT. Andrew Jenks, Transportation Engineer, indicated that the project will most likely go out for bid in 2023.*

- *Community Center Generator. Cost will be far greater than the \$250,000 budgeted, which generated discussion on ways to reduce final costs. Leslie Herman, Director, Parks and Recreation will work with Mayor Colbert to discuss size and placement issues that have delayed project completion.*

Director Serfass presented a reallocation schedule for projects in the 2020 bond totaling \$330,000. Council expressed concern regarding moving money from the W&OD Trail Crosswalk project (Multimodal Study recommendation). In response Andrew Jenks, Transportation Engineer, presented a recent NOVA Parks trail upgrade plan that will impact a portion of the trail through Vienna. To avoid duplicating effort, the crosswalk project will be delayed until NOVA Parks informs which trail section will be subject to upgrade. The timeline suggests three to five-years, depending on NOVA Parks. Council recommended moving this project to a future CIP or using the money for another project recommended in the Multimodal Study.

Mayor Colbert acknowledged a lack of consensus on the reallocation of funds and suggested that further discussion be tabled until a later date.

Director Serfass continued with a list of projects identified for the 2022 CIP. Discussion included the following:

- *Concern regarding equitable spending throughout the Town; request a breakdown of project spending per town quadrant;*
- *Concern regarding Church and Mill Street Improvement – Recommended in Multimodal Study as a pedestrian safety improvement; Council in favor of crosswalks, split on slip lane; will revisit at later date;*
- *Question total budget for Southside Park Ball Field Improvement – Council requests complete breakdown of expenditures;*
- *Request to move Freeman Store Roof Replacement from ARPA spending to CIP;*
- *Request dollars allocated for Central Business District (Design and acquire banners, wayfinding signs and gateway arches) be moved to ARPA;*
- *Request ARPA funding for interactive business directory at W&OD Trail;*
- *Propose future Conference Session to discuss Asset Maintenance Plan/Land Use Study (Town owned properties). November 8, 2021.*
- *Request funding for alternative method for leaf disposal; money currently available.*

B. [21-2508](#)

Initial Discussion Of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Plan

B. 21-2508 Initial Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Plan

Mayor Colbert indicated that a report is forthcoming to address the impact of ARPA spending on Water and Sewer Rates (\$1M; \$2M; etc.).

Discussion opened with Council questioning many of the proposed spending priorities and asking for clarification on the stated use of ARPA funds. General consensus was that Council could not support projects that did not clearly fall into public health, public safety, water, sewer, and/or broadband infrastructure.

Mayor Colbert suggested that each Council Member identify their spending priorities. These included:

- *Water and Sewer/Broadband (Public Health)*
- *Sidewalks (Improved access to business);*
- *Police and public safety;*

- Storm water;
- COVID and other disaster response (Public health and safety).

Additionally, one specific item was brought forward for discussion; TOV Marketing Grant Support and Economic Development Division and Marketing Support. Recognized as one of the uses for ARPA funds under Category A to address the negative economic impacts of COVID-19, this program would involve a partnership with Fairfax County EDA and the other regional / County partners. The grant program would disburse funding to eligible small businesses in the Town for marketing support, technical assistance and other customized support. Additional monies would assist the Economic Development Division in providing support to the business community through a variety of marketing services. Council spoke in favor of the item as a way to directly assist the Town's struggling businesses impacted by the COVID crisis.

Closing the conference session, Mayor Colbert reiterated that further discussion on the CIP and the ARPA funds will be continued to the next conference session.

Mayor Colbert announced Town Manager Mercury Payton as the recipient of the VML 2021 Innovation Award.

3. Meeting Adjournment

Mayor Colbert closed the conference session at 10:45 PM.

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