



Town of Vienna

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

Meeting Minutes Town Council Conference Session

Monday, December 13, 2021

7:30 PM

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

1. Resolution

- A. [21-2702](#) Resolution for Continuity of Government

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; Shelley Kozlowski, Deputy Town Clerk; Steve Briglia, Town Attorney; Marion Serfass, Director, Finance; Mike Gallagher, Director, Public Works; Leslie Herman, Director, Parks and Recreation; Natalie Monkou, Manager, Economic Development; Jim Morris, Chief, Vienna Police Department; Brandy Wyatt, Recreation Program Coordinator (via ZOOM); and Jeremy Edwards, Parks Superintendent (via Zoom).

1. New Item: Roland Street Construction Work

Mayor Colbert recognized Council Members Springsteen and Potter to present the Item. Chief Morris has been notified of work vehicles blocking the street and will site them as necessary. Mike Gallagher, Director, Public Works indicated that signage will be put in place. He further noted that there is Code that protects the Town from damage due to heavy equipment.

2. New Item: Moving Election to November

Mayor Colbert called on Town Attorney Briglia to provide an update on the Item. Notification was received from Senator Chap Peterson that a bill has been discussed that would return elections to May. While not yet out of committee, the bill, should it pass, would not take effect until July 1, 2022. Two options before Council would include:

A. With consent of Council, Senator Peterson could conform the legislation for the Charter amendment that would say the Town would postpone current May elections to June 30, 2023 (the next elections would occur May of 2023 consistent with the ability to hold May elections). It would be a one-year special term ending in 2024. From that point forward the Charter would control election from July 1, 2024, every two years.

B. If General Assembly fails to reverse the May election provision, the Town would move forward with the Charter change via the resolution that was passed earlier. The Town will know soon if the bill gains traction. In anticipation of whatever will happen the Town will move forward with an ordinance for the Town Code.

A. [21-2772](#)

Time Limit Parking on Church Street.

Mayor Colbert called on Jim Morris, Chief, Vienna Police Department, to present the Item. Asked by the Town Manager to bring this discussion before Council, Chief Morris explained that the primary problem has been the food trucks parking by the Post Office. The property in question is owned by the Post Office and they are attempting to address the problem through signage.

An additional issue has arisen regarding the many variations of parking restrictions along Church St. While the five-minute parking restrictions (COVID related restaurant pickup) will be returned to two-hour parking restriction by January 2022, this also highlights other issues with commercial vehicle parking for the long term.

A summary of the discussion follows:

- Town must find a way to discourage Commercial parking;
- Overflow parking will need to be addressed through Code Create;
- Parking Management Studies should be required as part of any parking initiative; will provide leverage to encourage cooperation to solve these ongoing issues;
- Might consider parking meters as an option; must receive residential input;
- Library will help solve parking need; must address issue of charging for parking - if charge for space, will push parking to street; if free parking, will increase operating costs for Town portion of garage upkeep (30%).

Discuss the parking concerns along Church Street and discuss next steps to solving the problem.

B. [21-2771](#)

Discuss ARPA Funding Phase 1

Mayor Colbert recognized Marion Serfass, Director, Finance to provide an update on ARPA funding. A brief discussion followed questioning the certainty of budgeted spending items passing approval. Director Serfass explained that Finance worked closely with Town Attorney Briglia to tie each item back to a frequently asked question list provided by Government (list to be provided to Council). As per request by Council,

Finance will provide a briefly descriptive note for each budgeted item.

Specific Items discussed are summarized as follows:

Southside Park Improvements:

- Qualifies for COVID dollars because parks were documented as heavy use during COVID;
- Must consider if this is the best use of the funds; does this benefit few over many;
- Southside Park is only park permitted out to all Town organized sports groups so benefits all Town age groups;
- Outdoor facilities such as this encourage community involvement and provide for healthier lifestyle;
- Request this line item be removed for separate consideration;
- Parks study will shed light on needs for all community parks; some parks are already on future improvement list; Southside park moved forward to coordinate with the stream restoration project;
- Field use study would be helpful; current field monitor report (April 2020 – October 2021) will provide hard numbers;

- *Request alternative immediate maintenance plan as alternative to dollars allocated to Southside scoreboard/pressbox;*

Project Not Included:

- *Need for additional street sweeper; street flooding issues due to leaf clogged drains; Consider contracting out this work for a six-month trial;*
- *Need for Bobcat and Stake Body as multiuse equipment;*
- *Council should support purchase of equipment;*
- *Finance will provide ideas for funding these three items.*

Director Serfass will provide Council with a report on dollars expended to date. Going forward, the plan is to provide quarterly reports as well as an annual summary on ARPA spending.

Water and Sewer:

- *The \$5M investment will do little to change customer fees (the rate of fee increase);*
- *Maintenance is where it should be on a 50-year scale; strategy has been to stagger line replacement in order to prevent total system failure; study suggests Town is on track with fully funding the replacement of the Water and Sewer system.*

Council approve a preliminary ARPA spending plan.

3. Meeting Adjournment

Additional Business:

Mayor Colbert congratulated the Town Clerk and the Assistant Town Clerk on a beautiful holiday reception. As the event has grown significantly over the years she suggested that Council consider other options for executing the event, as it is not a responsibility of the Clerk's office. It was agreed that going forward the reception be included as a budget request.

Mayor Colbert adjourned the Conference Session at 9:35 PM.

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.