Town of Vienna

Meeting Minutes - Final
Town Council Work Session

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

Monday, October 20, 2025 | **6:00 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 Springsteen and Mayor Linda Colbert.

Staff Present: Mercury Payton, Town Manager; Steven Barlow, Deputy Director of Finance; Brad Baer, Director, Public Works; Leslie Herman, Director, Parks and Recreation; Dan Janickey, Deputy Chief, Vienna Police Department; David Levy, Director, Planning and Zoning; Nichole Toulouse, Director, Economic Development; Karen Thayer, Director, Public Information.

Mayor Colbert called the work session to order at 6:00 PM.

A. 25-5289 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Boards and Commissions: Annual Reports and Discussions, Part 1

Mayor Colbert recognized Chairmen Esswein and Eachus and Vice Chairman Schults to present their reports.

Patti Esswein, Chairman, Conservation and Sustainability Commission provided an overview of the FY 2025 Annual Report, noting the permanent composting drop off as the most notable accomplishment.

John Schults, Vice Chairman, Tree Advocacy Committee, shared a six-month report of the activities/plans for the newly formed committee. Council discussed opportunities for residents to contribute to a tree fund, a program available through the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Beth Eachus, Chairman, Transportation Safety Commission, reported on the Commissions work toward making Vienna a more efficiently mobile, walkable and bikeable community. A brief discussion was held regarding e-bike enforcement. Mayor Colbert noted that the November 12, 2025 Mayor and Chief discussion will address bicycle and e-scooter regulations. It was suggested that a NOVA Parks representative be present to discuss regulations on the W&OD Trail.

B. 25-5278 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Discuss the noise ordinance as it applies to the number of lawn and landscaping equipment being operated during certain times.

Mayor Colbert recognized Dan Janickey, Deputy Chief, Vienna Police, to present the item for consideration.

The following provides a summary of comments from Council.

- *Clarify language to prohibit simultaneous operation of multiple gas/electric*

lawn equipment between 7:00 AM-8:00 AM in residential zones;
- *Extend ban on operation of commercial lawn equipment to include federal holidays;*
- *A ban on commercial activity applies to construction activity;*
- *Recommend public hearing.*

Town Attorney Briglia will send language for setting a public hearing.

C. 25-5292 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Legislative Agenda 2026 Discussion of a proposed Virginia General Assembly legislative agenda

Mayor Colbert called on Steve Briglia, Town Attorney, to present the Item.

Following this discussion, ranked items should be returned to Town Attorney Briglia by October 30, 2025. The General Assembly pre-filing deadline for legislation is set for December 1, 2025.

Joining the meeting were Delegate Holly Seibold and Senator Saddam Azlan Salim.

The following includes a summary of comments:
- *Senator Salim recommended separating gaming commission and no casino priorities; A joint subcommittee is in place to study the feasibility of establishing the Virginia Gaming Commission to regulate and oversee all forms of gaming in the Commonwealth; Recommendations will be complete by December of 2025 for advancement to the General Assembly;*
- *Proposed new Item 22 (support for campaign finance reform) should be removed as repetitive and replaced with gaming commission;*
- *Item 15 (Plastic bag tax) has support from the Town Association of Northern Virginia;*
- *Delegate Seibold expressed support for Item 24 (Training for e-bikes), indicating that several legislators are planning to introduce this issue; Items 6 and 7 (Vaping) and Item 3 (Trees) will be carried forward.*

Town Attorney Briglia will provide a clean draft to Council by Close of Business Tuesday October 21, 2025.

Additional Information:
Mayor Colbert informed Council of a proposed redistricting plan from Fairfax County Public Schools. The plan would affect residents of Northeast Vienna, whose high school age children would be moved from James Madison High School to George Marshall High School. Mayor Colbert is preparing a resolution in opposition to this proposal.

Mayor Colbert called for a break at 7:56 PM. Meeting resumed at 8:00 PM.

Provide additional direction for Town Attorney to facilitate drafting and ranking items for the 2026 Legislative Agenda.

This discussion should be a preview of the Public Hearing on the proposed Legislative Agenda, set for November 10th. This Conference Session that is intended to facilitate additional input from Senator Salim and Delegate Seibold before receiving public input. The General Assembly pre-filing deadline for legislation is earlier this year and is now set for December 1st.

D. 25-5283 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Capital Improvement Plan 2026-2042 (Work Session #2)

Mayor Colbert called on Steven Barlow, Director, Finance to present the Item for consideration.

The following is a summary of comments from Council.

- *Storm water drainage improvements (Center St.) project should be completed; Outdated design study should be updated to reflect todays financials; Commitment made to residents; Must ascertain ongoing need for project given time lapse;*
- *Property acquisition (NOVA Parks/Economic Development Center – Stilts Building) has drainage issues originating from center of Maple Avenue and terminating near the Freeman Store; Potential to combine assessment for this project with Center St. project; Request $400,000 to fund study of hydraulic calculations and design development for accurate cost estimates; Suggest updated financials only, no design;*
- *Consider moving Community Center parking lot improvements to 2026 CIP (currently 2032 CIP); Porous surface continuing to deteriorate;*
- *Nutley Street property yard improvements completed through use of ARPA funds; Property no longer considered a liability;*
- *Glyndon St. SE curb/gutter design project - NVTA 30 funds; Request funding for sidewalk; Design phase in review; Design/construction funding proposed for 2030;*
- *Concern expressed regarding proposed offer for Stilts building ($4M); Prefer lower offer ($2M-$3M) until NOVA Parks submits plan; Cannot support lower offer due to purchase agreement; Item included in CIP 2028 to allow for opportunity to assess purchase option;*
- *Clarified 2026 CIP funding request for body worn cameras; Future funding to be built into operating costs;*
- *Congratulate Staff on success of grantsmanship efforts;*
- *NVTA grant applications historically well funded.*

Director Baer will investigate cost for preparation of updated financials to Center St drainage project.

Additional discussion regarding Aquatics and Fitness Center project:

- *Request line item designation change from "aquatics and fitness center" to "new/upgrades for parks facilities"; Appears more impartial;*
- *Prefer not to change line item designation of "aquatics and fitness center" at least until the meeting with Navy Federal (interest free loan of $3M);*
- *Recommend not accepting Navy Federal proposal until economy feels more stable;*
- *Suggest slowing down on aquatics center until political landscape is more settled;*
- *Concern with accepting $3M from Navy Federal for project design when operational sustainability of project is so unclear;*
- *Navy Federal interest free loan to be repaid in five years; Built into 2030 CIP;*
- *Aquatics center fundraising proposal presented by Council member Brill to demonstrate opportunities available for fundraising campaign;*
- *Some members of Council voted to increase meals tax to help fund an aquatics and fitness center; meals tax revenue, as of now, continues to rise;*
- *A decision must be made based upon the data currently available;*
- *Vienna is one of 10 localities in Virginia (total of 323 Virginia localities) with a triple bond rating, reflecting a very stable financial condition;*
- *Council must not send mixed signals; Retain line item title "aquatics and fitness center"; demonstrates a commitment to the project.*

Council requested additional opportunity to review the draft agreement with Navy Federal prior to meeting.

2. Meeting Adjournment

With no additional discussion, Mayor Colbert adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM.

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