



Town of Vienna

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

Meeting Minutes Town Council Work Session

Monday, September 30, 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; Leslie Herman, Director, Parks and Recreation.

A. [24-4690](#)

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Discussion of a proposed 2025 Virginia General Assembly legislative agenda

Mayor Colbert opened the work session by calling on Town Attorney Briglia to present the Item for discussion.

The proposed 2025 priorities include some carryover from last year. As recommended by Council, five top priorities were identified as well as 14 legislative positions. Council discussed each priority, in turn.

Comments are summarized as follows;

#1. The Town requests local zoning authority to provide tree canopy credits for development that preserves medium and large trees on lots under development and/or the authority to require developers to ensure 20% tree canopy coverage in 10 years rather than 20 years and improve storm water management efforts and water quality.

- Not in favor of a "Vienna only" application of the bill as presented last year; Requires 2/3 majority and this is likely unachievable if written as such;*
- Should continue to push for ten year 20% coverage;*
- Historic tree designation is intended for a specific tree; Not appropriate for redevelopment so should not be in tree ordinance language.*

#2. The Town of Vienna opposes any action to establish, or facilitate the establishment of, any gambling casino in Fairfax County.

- Added late last year; continues as a threat;*
- Consider moving to top priority;*
- Consider adding language regarding "threat to health" of citizens.*

#3 The Town of Vienna opposes any bill that reduces or eliminates local land use authority.

- Don't want state to mandate how land is used/developed;*
- Suggest adding language to include "any mandatory requirement for ALU's" to allow for discussion; Such language may be too specific; May create situation that allows for opposition;*

- *The best people to make these decisions are those elected locally; Suggest prioritizing land use as #2.*
- Council agreed that the two top priorities for the 2025 agenda would be Casinos and Land Use.*

Other Items discussed included the following:

#10 The Town of Vienna requests language added to the state code to specifically include "new sidewalk projects" as eligible for HB 2313 funding.

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Thirty percent of NVTA funds are available to "build" things; Vienna has started to get some of that funding for sidewalks, which was historically used to fund bus lines; With the loosening up of NVTA funds, may not need to be a top priority.

#4 Request to Amend State Code §15.2-1400(E) to permit localities to have May local elections.

General Assembly mandated that all elections must be in November. This Item will not gain traction, so don't place in top five priorities.

5 The Town of Vienna strongly opposes ending qualified immunity or making changes to sovereign immunity

This continues to be an important issue but will probably not gain any traction in 2025.

#18 Add taxing vaping products to the legislative agenda.

Most likely passed through authorities like the NVCTB (tobacco sales); Currently untaxed and growing source of revenue; Evolving area; Suggest reviewing Senator Seybold's legislation addressing broader issue of the effects of vaping in the community.

#15 The Town of Vienna requests the General Assembly to adopt legislation that allows localities to adopt an "Extended Producer Responsibility Program" to help achieve a goal of 100% recycling of packaging materials.

Approve of the intent but concerned that it could result in an increase in consumer prices.

#16 The Town of Vienna supports an amendment to Virginia State Code Section 15.2-107.1 relating to newspaper legal advertisement requirements.

There is an effort to get the General Assembly to develop statewide standards for other than advertising in a newspaper of general circulation. With the decline of print media in the urban areas, it would be a significant cost savings to Town's like Vienna;

Additional Items for consideration suggested by Council included:

- *Grey Market Machines.*
- *Consideration of health insurance coverage after retirement for local police officers. The Town currently has a supplemental plan for retired officers. The primary way that the State could reimburse police retirees would be through 599 funding. Town Attorney Briglia will explore options for additional support through 599.*

Town Manager Payton reminded Council that rankings have typically been available prior to the meeting with State Representatives on October 21, 2024. This allows for their reaction to specific Town priorities. Following this meeting, the Council sends their thoughts to the Town Attorney for the subsequent Public hearing scheduled

November 18, 2024. The top five priorities are then formalized. Council will submit their personal rankings to Town Manager Payton by October 7, 2024

With no additional discussion on this Item, Mayor Colbert called for a break at 8:00 PM.

Meeting resumed at 8:15 PM.

Council Member Brill asked for a moment of silence for those effected by the hurricanes across the south.

B. [24-4686](#)

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Vienna Annex Long-Term Use Study - Final Report

DARREN BARR, WAS NOT AUDIBLE THROUGHOUT

Mayor Colbert called on Leslie Herman, Director, Parks and Recreation to introduce the topic for discussion. Ms. Herman introduced Martin Kimmel (Kimmel/Bogrette Architects) and Darren Barr (Ballard*King and Associates) to present a summary of the project and results to date. Town Manager Payton reminded Council that the presentation tonight would include a concept design based upon input from Council. Should Council decide to move forward with the project, it will be subject to many future metamorphoses.

Comments from Council included the following:

- Plan includes two community/multipurpose rooms but only one weight room; Concern that the weight room may be too small to satisfy community need; Must remember that that this facility is for the entire community and all ages; Remind Council that the community center will continue to provide community/multipurpose space;
- Consider situating building further back from street; Currently at 25% setback to allow for consideration of greenspace use (farmers market, et.);
- Oak Mar was not included in comparisons because it includes a competition swimming pool which is not part of this current design;
- Consider issue of limiting memberships to guard against overcrowding; Must remember that the concept is based on accessibility; Membership should be available to anyone who wants one;
- Cost recovery is estimated to be approximately 75%, improving over time; Concerned about where the remaining 25% will come from; Meals tax supports capital/construction costs; Operation costs are funded by the general fund;
- Figures include a \$100,000/year set aside for eventual capital improvements;
- Revenue/Expenses includes well over \$1M for Staff; Staff will be funded by monies generated by the facility; Must consider this in light of difficulty funding additional Staff for the Town; The 2030 project opening date allows the Town time to address all staffing needs.

Mayor Colbert reminded Council that this presentation was designed to provide a general overview of what to expect, if the concept of an aquatics/fitness facility were to be pursued. Council agreed through verbal vote to move forward with continued exploration of this project.

Town Manager Payton noted that Council will consider the CIP on October 28, 2024. Based on the vote this evening, the CIP will include an aquatics/fitness facility and a sun setting 1% meals tax increase. A public hearing on the meals tax increase will be held November 18, 2024. December 9, 2024 the notice of intent to adopt will be posted and a vote will be held. (Must pass by a super majority-five out of the seven Council Members). Should the increase pass, the meals tax will increase by

1% as of January 1, 2025 for a period of ten years.

*Mayor Colbert called for a break at 9:47 PM.
Work Session resumed at 9:52 PM.*

C. [24-4688](#) 9:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Update to Town Council Priorities

Mayor Colbert invited comment regarding Town Council priorities. The Tree Ordinance (the top priority for 2024) was approved earlier this year. Town Council was asked to consider adding to the three remaining priorities. Among the suggestions was "Improved communication and engagement with residents".

Following discussion, it was agreed that continued exploration of Annex property use should become the fourth priority. Council granted that improved resident communication should be a top priority with all interaction and agreed that it should serve as a component of every item considered.

2. Meeting Adjournment

With no additional discussion, Mayor Colbert concluded the work session at 9:54 PM.

DRAFT