



Town of Vienna

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Town Council Meeting

Monday, August 25, 2025

7:30 PM

Charles Robinson Jr. Town Hall, 127
Center St. South

Invocation: Jay Miller, Baha'i Community of the Town of Vienna

Mayor Colbert called on Jay Miller, Baha'i Community of the Town of Vienna, to provide the evening's invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Present: 7 - Sandra Allen, Chuck Anderson, Roy Baldwin, Ray Brill Jr., Jessica Ramakis, Howard J. Springsteen and Linda Colbert

1. Roll Call

2. Acceptance of the Minutes:

- A. [25-5208](#) Acceptance of the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2025 and the Work Session Minutes of July 7, 2025.

The Regular Council Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2025 and the Work Session Minutes of July 7, 2025 were accepted as presented.

3. Receipt of petitions and communications from the Public that are not on the Agenda. (Limited to 3 minutes per issue and no formal action can be taken this evening)

Mayor Colbert opened the floor for comment from the public.

Maryam Dadkah, 609 Alma St. SE

I'd like to thank Councilmember Jessica Ramakis for joining our last invasive removal at Wildwood Park and witnessing our efforts. Despite all our hard work to bring as many volunteers as possible removing as many invasives as we can, in rain and shine, mud and drought, planting native plants and shrubs, caging and caring for them, deer management is still a concern. They open the cages with their antlers breaking the branches, rub the trunks of uncaged trees and spread the invasive species and disease. Thank you for the vote to change Town Code regarding deer management to sharpshooting. I also appreciate the Town of Vienna Police department efforts with counting deer car collisions in the past year. I encourage continuation of the effort so we can have a better understanding of efficiency of the new approach. It is needless to say that sharpshooting is a great start, but according to the Fairfax County 2024/25 deer management harvest total, it was only 8.83% of the total harvest. At the same time on average, deer can have two fawn each year. So next year we are dealing with double the numbers. That being said, we need to learn from Fairfax County and consider archery on private land as another approach. The same report indicated that archery was the times more effective than sharpshooting in Fairfax County. It was the most effective method (91.17%). Virginia Title 4 Conservation and Natural Resources indicated that it is lawful to hunt deer during the special urban archery season from September through October. I'm here to request conservation for private land archery in the Town of Vienna as a more

effective way of managing the deer population. Please find the 2024 deer harvest report, Title 4 legislation and the Department of Wildlife Resources Urban Archery Deer Season attached along with this request. Thank you for your time.

Jason Lucas, 205 Barry St.

I was trying to make a right turn out of my neighborhood from 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM and was ticketed for this on July 29. I've used this street for three years and have never been ticketed. I was wondering if there is any way to remove the sign at Echols St. and Follin Ln. SE. I've noticed that every street that turns onto Follin Ln. has the same restriction. Signage also indicated that drivers are not allowed to turn off Follin Ln. from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM and 4:00 PM-6:00 PM. I work in school fulltime so I always have different commuting hours. I am wondering if there is a way I can leave my neighborhood without receiving a ticket.

Avril Garland 917 Hillcrest Dr.

I would like to thank Council Member Ramakis for helping with the invasive plant management. Regarding Southside Park, once the wisteria is removed, the woods look very nice but there is nothing left. The entire understory of the woods is gone. So deer control is desperately needed because we are going to lose our entire bird habitat. Birds depend on the understory. I hope urban archery is considered as it has been shown to be safe in Fairfax County.

Penny Oszak, 221 Nutley St., NW

I would like to ask the Town of Vienna to consider the possibility of bringing a referendum to the Town voters for the aquatics center. I believe that would be one way to get a potentially valid survey or counting of who wants this or not, especially once we know the costs. I don't know what this would take but it's something I'd like the Town to consider as they move forward. Thank you.

4. Reports/Presentations

A. Report and Inquiries of Council Members

Council Member Allen noted the upcoming elections, urging residents to make their voices heard.

Council Member Baldwin emphasized the special election to carry on the work of Congressman Connelly.

Council Member Brill warned senior citizens against a new scam called the Phantom Hacker.

Council Member Ramakis thanked Maryam Dadka and Avril Garland for the work they do to help residents understand the interconnectedness between invasive species and deer management. She also remarked on the presence of school crossing guards at the local schools.

Council Member Anderson reported on the success of Vienna 250, most especially the kickoff event of the Mobile museum. He also indicated that the threat of a casino in Fairfax County still exists and that the efforts to block it will continue.

B. Report of the Town Manager

Town Manager Payton indicated that, due to technical issues, the September issue of the Vienna Voice will be delayed. Additionally, Town Council meeting agenda items

are now reported in Vienna Happenings with the intent to make the public aware in advance of each meeting.

C. Report of the Mayor

Mayor Colbert thanked the Department of Parks and Recreation for the excellent summer events. She further remarked on the number of new business openings in the Town. A plaque has recently been installed at 124 Courthouse Rd., NW, to commemorate the donation of sidewalks by the late Charles and Maud Robinson. A historical marker is to be installed at Louise Archer Elementary School later this fall.

D. Proposals for Additional Items to the Agenda

E. Closed Session Report

It was moved that the members of the Vienna Town Council be polled to affirm that a closed session was held on Monday August 25, 2025 at 6:30 PM, in accordance with State Code 2.2-3711 a(3), disposition of real property.

And it was further moved that the certification resolution be adopted in accordance with State Statutes and that the Town Clerk is authorized to execute the certification resolution.

And it was further moved that the Closed Session be continued to Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 5:30 PM in accordance with State Code 2.2-3711 a(1), personnel, for consideration of personnel matters, specifically the interview process for the position of Town Clerk.

And it was further moved that the Closed Session be continued to Monday, September 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM in accordance with State Code 2.2-3711 a(1), personnel, for consideration of personnel matters, specifically the discussion of appointment and/or reappointment to Town Boards and Commissions, as well as after the regular meeting, in accordance with State Code citation 2.2-3711 (7) & (8).

Motion, Council Member Ramakis; second, Council Member Springsteen
Motion carried unanimously.

approve

Aye: 7 - Allen, Anderson, Baldwin, Brill, Ramakis, Springsteen and Colbert

5. Consent Agenda

A motion was made to accept the consent agenda, Items A and B, as presented.
Motion, Council Member Springsteen; second, Council Member Ramakis. Motion carried unanimously.

approve

Aye: 7 - Allen, Anderson, Baldwin, Brill, Ramakis, Springsteen and Colbert

A. [25-5204](#)

Approval to Publish a List of Delinquent Real Estate Tax Payments as of August 25, 2025

approved on the Consent Agenda

B. [25-5220](#)

Changing the November 10 Meeting to a Town Council Meeting and the

November 17 Meeting to a Work Session
approved on the Consent Agenda

6. Regular Business

A. [25-5205](#) Set a Public Hearing on 2025-26 Supplemental Appropriations (Fiscal Year 2024-2025 End of Year Update)

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

A motion was made to set a public hearing to discuss fiscal year 2025-26 supplemental general fund budget appropriations for Oct. 6, 2025.

Motion, Council Member Anderson; second, Council Member Springsteen. Motion carried unanimously.

approved

Aye: 7 - Allen, Anderson, Baldwin, Brill, Ramakis, Springsteen and Colbert

B. [25-5206](#) Amendment to Town Code Chapter 6, Section 6-33 Levy, to Increase the Meals Tax Rate from 3% to 4%

A motion was made to approve the proposed language to increase the tax rate on Town meal taxes as defined in Chapter 6, Article 4, Section 6-33 of the Town of Vienna Town Code to a rate of four percent effective January 1, 2026, as identified on PROPOSED ORDINANCE DRAFT 1/PROPOSED ORDINANCE DRAFT 2.

Motion, Council Member Brill; second, Council Member Baldwin.

An amendment was offered as follows:

It was moved to amend the motion to end the tax rate of 4% on December 31, 2035 and resume a tax rate of 3% beginning on January 1, 2036.

Motion, Council Member Ramakis; second, Council Member Baldwin.

Mayor Colbert opened the floor for discussion on the amendment. The following includes a summary of comments:

- *Public discussion included a sunset in the meals tax increase; Increase presented to public as a temporary measure;*
- *Fiscal responsibility and rigorous evaluation of budget is a priority; Sunset clause will place helpful pressure on Town to ask tough questions about tradeoffs;*
- *Council must be consistent with message to residents; Concern that Council has misled residents;*
- *Since first consideration of sunset, financial landscape has changed;*
- *Fairfax County has added a 4% meals tax; The Vienna increase will represent an equalizing of the tax rate;*
- *The final Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies need for \$25,000,000 in next ten years to sustain Town parks;*
- *Given the current budget, a tax increase is the only responsible way to pay for development of the annex site;*
- *Without the increase, site development will potentially be delayed for years;*
- *Meals tax increase is a good means for raising funds; It's not a real estate tax;*
- *A sunset clause will box in the Town even as needs continue to grow;*

- *Important to remember that Council can raise or lower the tax rate at any time in the future.*

With no further discussion, Mayor Colbert called for a vote on the amendment. The amendment failed in a 4-3 vote with Mayor Colbert, Councilmember Ramakis, and Councilmember Baldwin being the ayes.

Mayor Colbert opened the floor for discussion on the main motion. Comments included the following:

- *Maintaining a 3% meals tax will not allow the Town to meet its future needs;*
- *Not willing to accept that the majority of residents are content to leave annex property vacant;*
- *Challenge all to determine what to remove from future budgets in order to fund development of this property;*
- *Funds will be needed in future years to maintain the high quality of services currently enjoyed.*

With no additional discussion, Mayor Colbert called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed in a 6-1 vote.

Mayor Colbert called for a recess at 8:30 PM. Council meeting resumed at 8:40 PM.

Mayor Colbert recognized a Boy Scout present for tonight's meeting.
approved

Aye: 6 - Anderson, Baldwin, Brill, Ramakis, Springsteen and Colbert

Nay: 1 - Allen

C. [25-5202](#)

Town Council decision to proceed into the full design stage of the Church Street and East Street, NE, roundabout project

Mayor Colbert called on Brad Baer, Director, Public Works, to present the Item for Council discussion.

A motion was made to terminate the Church Street and East Street, NE, roundabout design contract and cancel the project.

Motion, Council Member Brill; second, Council Member Springsteen.

Mayor Colbert opened the floor for discussion.

The following includes a summary of comments;

- *Termination of the project would save approximately \$140,000 for the Town;*
- *If terminated, the money saved would be available for use on other transportation projects;*
- *Sufficient incremental safety increases would not be realized;*
- *Inclusion of traffic circle would be important safety improvement for Town.*

With no further discussion, Mayor Colbert called for a vote on the motion on the floor.

Motion passed in a 6-1 vote.

approved

Aye: 6 - Allen, Anderson, Baldwin, Brill, Ramakis and Springsteen

Nay: 1 - Colbert

D. [25-5209](#)

Strategic Plan: Review of Board/Commission Input and Potential Adoption

Mayor Colbert recognized David Levy, Director, Planning and Zoning for presentation of the Item.

Director Levy noted that the next steps will include publication of the document in visual form as well as to initiate the process of Staff implementation assessment. The goal is to move to a process of routine Council review for accurate reflection of Councils beliefs.

A motion was made to defer the Item for discussion at the Town Council meeting of September 8, 2025.

*Motion, Council Member Springsteen; second, Council Member Baldwin.
Motion carried unanimously.*

*Council will submit any additional comments to Staff by Friday, September 5, 2025 for inclusion in September 8, 2025 discussion.
postponed*

Aye: 7 - Allen, Anderson, Baldwin, Brill, Ramakis, Springsteen and Colbert

7. Meeting Adjournment

*With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Colbert called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM.
Motion, Council Member Brill; second, Council Member Baldwin.*

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.