



Town of Vienna

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

Meeting Minutes Town Council Meeting

Monday, March 23, 2026

6:45 PM

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

Invocation: Johnny Kurcina, Christ Church Vienna

Present: 6 - Council Member Chuck Anderson, Council Member Roy Baldwin, Council Member Doug Francis, Council Member Dann Nash, Council Member Howard J. Springsteen and Mayor Linda Colbert

Absent: 1 - Council Member Jessica Ramakis

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

1. Roll Call

The Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. Mayor Colbert, Council Member Nash, Council Member Francis, Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Baldwin, and Council Member Anderson were present. Council Member Ramakis was absent.

Mayor Colbert and the Town Council recognized the James Madison High School varsity ice hockey team for winning the Virginia state championship, highlighting it as an historic first for the program and a reflection of the team's hard work, community support, and strong leadership. Coach Steve Diamond thanked the Town Council for the recognition and credited the players, prior coaches, and program supporters for the team's success.

Present: 6 - Council Member Chuck Anderson, Council Member Roy Baldwin, Council Member Doug Francis, Council Member Dann Nash, Council Member Howard J. Springsteen and Mayor Linda Colbert

Absent: 1 - Council Member Jessica Ramakis

2. Acceptance of the Minutes:

The minutes were accepted unanimously.

- A. Acceptance Of Work Session Draft Minutes of February 9, 2026, and Draft Town Council meeting Minutes February 23 and March 2, 2026.

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)

Matt Difiore, 207 Owaiassa Ct. SE

"A number of things, Vienna Connect, formerly the service request system—I've asked about this a couple of times, and I still don't think I've gotten a response. Please provide the current documentation regarding how the system is supposed to work, including the program manager, the metrics associated with its use, how it is integrated into Town operations, and the guidance provided to staff regarding the

content of responses to the public, who approves those responses, and whether there is enough background to determine whether the reported item was accurate or appropriate and whether the response was good. Next comment—citizen petition comments and requests. I'm here tonight, and there's nothing written, that I know of, that says what we as citizens need to do. If I come up here and say I want dog catchers in the Town—I know we've got one—but is that something I have to state that I want a response to? Because I've been up here a number of times, and sometimes the responses are non-existent. For example, I think I was up here last month, on the 23rd of February, and I asked what was going to happen with my next topic about the website. So if there isn't a process or a policy—I know Town staff doesn't have a lot of extra hours—but if there's not one, there probably should be one, and if there shouldn't be one, then give me a reason why not. Next item—status of the Town's website. I think on the 23rd of February I requested a list of Town website updates. When it went live back in June or July, we were told it was a work in progress and that it would continue to be improved. I don't know what's been done. I haven't seen a lot. Maybe there are things under the hood that are not visible, but I'd like to know, and maybe others would too. I was also told in a response from the Town, I believe, that ARPA money was given to the Town for the website. If that happened, how much did we get, and what did we do with it? I don't think the website has a webmaster—if it does, who is it? If it doesn't, why not? What is the authoritative source of Town information? Is it the website? Is it Instagram or other social media feeds? There has to be one source—the “holy grail.” Ideally, there should only be one. I'm running over time, but I'm going to continue. What's the value of the Virginia Municipal League to the Town? I know the Town has members—Council Members, I think, are all members, and perhaps some Town staff are as well. How much does it cost annually for us to have that membership? Looking at the website, I tried to see whether there were any lessons learned. I would think that if it includes all municipalities in the state of Virginia, there would be things they learn and share. I didn't see that—maybe it's behind a paywall. If it is great, I'd like to know what's there. If it's not, why not? Finally—and this is not on your agenda for this meeting, but it is for the next meeting—the budget categories we have, if you look back historically, haven't really changed much. We're basically applying inflation, cost of living, etc. Maybe we're doing a few more miles of roads or sewers, but it's largely the same. In 2023, I recommended that the Town budget approximately \$1.5 million for new and emerging initiatives, research, or pilot programs. I also said it doesn't need to be spent—if it's not spent, it can carry over or be used elsewhere. It seems to me that there are things the Town could be doing with new technologies. For example, GIS—the Town has it, but as best I can tell, it's siloed. Finally, two items. You should broadcast the audio for these meetings, including work sessions for the Town Council and the Planning Commission. You already have someone from IT ensuring audio works, so putting it out publicly shouldn't be that expensive. Think about it. And finally, you're talking in the budget about adding a part-time PIO. Public information has been a problem since at least 2022 and before. You can't skimp on that—that is important. That's it. Thank you."

4. Reports/Presentations

A. Report and Inquiries of Council Members

Council Member Anderson announced the first event in a series of author-speaker book talks co-sponsored with Bard's Alley and Vienna 250. He provided details on the upcoming event, including the date, time, and location, and noted that the featured author will discuss a book on the Custis family and their role in American history. He also stated that additional events are planned throughout 2026.

Council Member Baldwin commented on the start of the spring season and opening day for local youth baseball. He made lighthearted remarks referencing professional baseball teams while expressing support for Vienna Little League and the upcoming season.

- B. Report of the Town Manager
- C. Report of the Mayor
- D. Proposals for Additional Items to the Agenda
- E. Closed Session Report

Council Member Baldwin made a motion, "I move that the members of the Vienna Town Council be polled to affirm that a Closed Session was held on Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in accordance with State Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), for consideration of personnel matters, specifically, the discussion of appointment and/or re-appointment to Town Boards and Commissions. This session was held 30 minutes earlier than originally stated in the March 2, 2026, Closed Session motion due to the addition of the March 16th Town Council work session, on account of inclement weather. And "I further move that the Certification Resolution be adopted in accordance with State Statutes, and that the Town Clerk is authorized to execute the Certification Resolution."

"And I further move that the Closed Session be continued to Monday, April 6, 2026, at 6:30 pm in accordance with State Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), for consideration of personnel matters, specifically, the discussion of appointment and/or re-appointment of Town Boards and Commissions." This motion was seconded by Council Member Nash and passed unanimously.

Council Member Baldwin made another motion, "I move to re-appoint Donna Smith to the Pedestrian Advisory Committee for a two-year term. Said term to be effective May 4, 2026 and expire May 4, 2028." And, "I move to re-appoint Lea Giovannello to the Conservation and Sustainability Commission for a two-year term. Said term to be retroactively effective March 19, 2026 and expire March 19, 2028.'" This motion was seconded by Council Member Nash and passed unanimously.

approve

Aye: 6 - Council Member Anderson, Council Member Baldwin, Council Member Francis, Council Member Nash, Council Member Springsteen and Mayor Colbert

Absent: 1 - Council Member Ramakis

5. Public Hearings

Following the approval of the closed session, Council Member Springsteen made a motion to move the public hearing to last on the agenda in order to fit the advertised time. Council Member Francis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

deferred

Aye: 6 - Council Member Anderson, Council Member Baldwin, Council Member Francis, Council Member Nash, Council Member Springsteen and Mayor Colbert

Absent: 1 - Council Member Ramakis

6. Consent Agenda (5 Minutes)

Council Member Springsteen made a motion to approve all the items on the consent agenda. Council Member Anderson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

approved on the Consent Agenda

Aye: 6 - Council Member Anderson, Council Member Baldwin, Council Member Francis, Council Member Nash, Council Member Springsteen and Mayor Colbert

Absent: 1 - Council Member Ramakis

- A.** Use of Right of Way and Telecommunication Facilities License Renewal by U.S. Federal Government
- B.** Request to Set a Public Hearing for April 6, 2026, regarding the FY2026-27 Proposed Operating Budget
- C.** Request to Set a Public Hearing for April 6, 2026, regarding the FY2026-27 Proposed Water and Sewer Rates
- D.** Request to Set a Public Hearing for April 27, 2026, regarding the FY2026-27 Proposed Real Estate Tax Rate

7. Regular Business (5 Minutes)

- A.** Intent To Adopt Zoning and Subdivision Code Updates

The Town Council considered proposed amendments to the Town's zoning and subdivision regulations, which had previously been reviewed and advertised following a public hearing. Staff presented the updated motion language, including clarification regarding the effective date of the amendments. Council Members discussed specific provisions, including lot coverage exclusions and language related to religious assembly uses. Questions were raised regarding interpretation and potential impacts of certain provisions, and staff provided clarification on intent and existing conditions. A potential text revision was identified but determined to require further review before inclusion.

The Town Council agreed to proceed with adoption of the proposed amendments as presented, without incorporating additional changes discussed during the meeting. Council Members noted that any further refinements could be addressed in future code updates.

approved

Aye: 6 - Council Member Anderson, Council Member Baldwin, Council Member Francis, Council Member Nash, Council Member Springsteen and Mayor Colbert

Absent: 1 - Council Member Ramakis

Public Hearing

Present: 6 - Council Member Chuck Anderson, Council Member Roy Baldwin, Council Member Doug Francis, Council Member Dann Nash, Council Member Howard J. Springsteen and Mayor Linda Colbert

Absent: 1 - Council Member Jessica Ramakis

A. Public Hearing on Request for Approval of Modifications of Site Plan Requirements Related to Lot Coverage (From 43% To 48.5% Proposed) for First Baptist Church of Vienna, located at 450 Orchard St., NW (10 Minutes)

The Town Council conducted a public hearing on a request to modify site plan requirements to increase lot coverage from 43 percent to 48.5 percent for the First Baptist Church of Vienna. Staff presented the request, explaining that the increase was due to prior additions including parking expansion, sheds, and a driveway, and that the request was intended to bring the property into compliance. Staff noted that the improvements had already been completed and that no additional expansion was proposed. Council Members asked questions regarding permitting, compliance history, and consistency with other institutional uses. The applicant provided additional context regarding community use of the site and prior coordination with neighboring facilities.

There were no residents present to provide public comment.

The Town Council discussed the request, including considerations related to lot coverage standards, community impact, and precedent. Council Members noted that similar institutional uses often exceed standard residential lot coverage and that no negative impacts had been identified. Discussion also included potential future review of zoning standards for such uses. Following the closing of the public hearing, the Town Council voted to approve the requested modification. Council Member Springsteen made the following motion, "I move to close the public hearing and approve the requested Modification of Requirements to permit lot coverage of 48.5 percent for the First Baptist Church of Vienna located at 450 Orchard Street NW, Tax Map Parcel 0383 02 0039." The motion was seconded by Council Member Baldwin and passed unanimously. No further action was required.

approved

Aye: 6 - Council Member Anderson, Council Member Baldwin, Council Member Francis, Council Member Nash, Council Member Springsteen and Mayor Colbert

Absent: 1 - Council Member Ramakis

8. Meeting Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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.