

Town of Vienna

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Work Session

Monday, February 8, 2016	7:30 PM	Charles A. Robinson, Jr. Town Hall, 127 Center Street, South
Work Session		

1. Regular Business

Present: Mayor Laurie A. DiRocco Council Member Linda J. Colbert Council Member Edythe Frankel Kelleher Council Member Carey J. Sienicki Council Member Howard J. Springsteen Council Member Tara L. Voigt

On speaker phone, from Boston, Massachusetts: Council Member Pasha M. Majdi

Also present: Mercury T. Payton, Town Manager Michael Gallagher, Deputy Director of Public Works Hyojung Garland, Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning Michael D'Orazio, Planner Patrick Mulhern, Director of Planning and Zoning Karen Spence, Director of Finance Marion Serfass, Deputy Finance Director Karen Covert, Finance Operations Manager Carol S. Waters, Deputy Town Clerk

A.

Draft Comprehensive Plan Review

Mercury Payton opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and acknowledged the Planning Commissioners, who had worked on the comprehensive plan with the Planning and Zoning Staff at previous meetings, and thanked them all for their hard work.

Patrick Mulhern, Director of Planning and Zoning, described the comprehensive plan as a twenty year, long range, aspirational plan. He reported doing a major revamping of the plan but emphasized that "the ink is wet" and all ideas in the draft were open to change. New sections and features had been added including economic development, a vision statement, a park and recreation chapter, an environment and sustainability chapter, as well as the implementation chapter. There was also a comparison of the 2010 Plan and the draft 2015 Plan, plus the current land-use plan for comparison with the proposed future land-use plan. Planner Michael D'Orazio was credited with codifying all of the input and creating the 178 page full color document "in-house."

The Mayor suggested going through the draft plan section by section, starting with the acknowledgements. Numerous comments, questions, recommendations and changes were talked over.

The proposed vision statement was: "The Town of Vienna will be a vibrant, environmentally conscious community with small town character, strong single family neighborhoods, and distinguished businesses and services." Per Council Member suggestion, a mention of safety was added into the vision statement.

Recommendations: Staff will incorporate Council's changes into the draft comprehensive plan. The Planning Commission will begin work on an updated version at their meeting on Wednesday, February 10. Council will conduct another work session in March and continue this discussion.

B. Midyear Financial Review for Fiscal Year 2016

Finance Director Karen Spence briefly summed up the previous fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2015. She reported that Vienna finished Fiscal Year 2015 very strong.

Ms. Spence outlined financial highlights to date in the current year (Fiscal Year 2016). She reviewed real estate and property values. In calculating the Town's bond rating, she noted, they look at the last three years; and when they see a slow, steady growth and increase in property values overall, it is a key factor for the Town's excellent bond rating.

The Finance Director went over a lot of the Mid-Year Financial Report, which can be viewed as an attachment to this work session's agenda. Council Members posed questions and Finance Department staff offered clarification.

Recommendations: No Council Action required.

2. Meeting Adjournment

The Town Council Work Session of February 8, 2016 adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Mayor Laurie A. DiRocco

Signed / Dated:_____

Attest:

Deputy Town Clerk

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