



Town of Vienna

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

Meeting Minutes Town Council Meeting

Monday, April 4, 2016

8:00 PM

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

Regular Council Meeting

Invocation: Reverend Corky Eddins, Christ Church Vienna

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

Present: 7 - Council Member Linda Colbert, Council Member Edythe Frankel Kelleher, Council Member Pasha Majdi, Mayor Laurie DiRocco, Council Member Howard J. Springsteen, Council Member Carey Sienicki and Council Member Tara L. Voigt

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2016, the Work Session minutes of February 8, 2016, March 14, 2016 and March 19, 2016.

It was moved to approve all the minutes as corrected.

A motion was made by Council Member Kelleher, seconded by Council Member Sienicki, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Kelleher, Council Member Majdi, Mayor DiRocco, Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Sienicki and Council Member Voigt

3. Receipt of petitions and communications from the Public

Mr. Mark Smith, 216 Tapawingo Road, SE addressed Council on behalf of himself, his neighbors and the almost 50 people that signed the petition that he presented to Council. They are asking the Town Council to amend the Town Code to provide public notice before the Board of Architectural Review makes decisions about their neighborhoods. Specifically, they are asking them to amend the code so that there is prior public notice before the BAR has a hearing on commercial properties adjacent to or across the street from residential properties. The genesis of this request stems from a commercial development in their neighborhood. There have been multiple BAR hearings and there has been zero public notification. They found out about the last hearing by accident and they would like to have some input into those hearings and decisions. Mr. Briglia, Town Attorney, stated that the meetings are advertised but he thinks the question is whether notices are sent out and boards put up like they do for zoning applications. Chapter 4 states that any party desiring to be heard in support or opposition shall be heard at the hearing of the BAR but he doesn't think its the same notice as in a re-zoning. Currently under the code there are no requirements for notices to be sent. Mayor DiRocco stated that when something is going in a surrounding neighborhood is to send letters to all the surrounding neighbors. Mr. Smith stated that has not worked, he lives directly across the street

and he did not receive any notice. What they are asking for is the yellow signs that go up when there is a zoning change code. He went to the Zoning Department after he found out about the hearing, and said there was no public notice and where was the yellow signs and they told him that was for a zoning change and the Town code does not require such notice for BAR. Mayor DiRocco stated that they will bring this to a Work Session or Regular Meeting to discuss changing the code. Mr. Briglia stated that the Town Manager can direct the Zoning Department to send out letters and post the property without a code change. In the future if Council wants to establish a formal policy they will have to change the code but short term this will work. Mr. Smith stated they are asking for a change in the code because there have been several hearings that have been held with no notice given and they are concerned about going forward. They have been told that the property in question has a liquor license on it and they are concerned. They have concerns about a variety of aspects with this property, some of which fall squarely in the domain of the BAR. All they are asking is that there be public notice given before the BAR makes decisions. Mayor DiRocco stated that for this property they will put signage up to notify them of BAR hearings. A code change goes through a process because any time they change the code they like to get input from everyone. Mr. Smith confirmed that in the meantime they will direct the Town Manager to put the yellow signs up as they work on a potential change to the Town Code.

Local Boy Scouts from Troop 1539 introduced themselves to Council. They are working on their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge.

4. Reports/Presentations

A. Recognition of 2015 Solarize Vienna Program for Eco-Efficient Homes.

Ms. Susan Stillman, Chairman of the Community Enhancement Commission along with Ms. Leslie Herman, Director of Parks & Recreation and Mayor DiRocco, recognized homeowners as "Eco-Efficient Homes through the 2015 Solarize Vienna Program. They presented each homeowner with a Certificate of Recognition.

B. Proclamation honoring Kathy Georgen.

Councilmember Carey Sienicki presented a Proclamation honoring Kathy Georgen for her work in establishing the Vienna Business Association.

It was moved to approve the Proclamation honoring Kathy Georgen

**A motion was made by Council Member Sienicki that the Proclamation be approved.
The motion carried by the following vote:**

Aye: 7 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Kelleher, Council Member Majdi, Mayor DiRocco, Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Sienicki and Council Member Voigt

C. Proclamation for Local Government Education Week.

Councilmember Voigt presented a Proclamation declaring April 3rd through April 9th as Local Government Education Week.

It was moved to approve the Proclamation.

**A motion was made by Council Member Voigt that the Proclamation be approved.
The motion carried by the following vote:**

Aye: 7 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Kelleher, Council Member Majdi, Mayor DiRocco, Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Sienicki and Council Member Voigt

D. Proclamation for Volunteer Recognition Day.

Mayor DiRocco presented a Proclamation proclaiming April 12, 2016 as Volunteer Recognition Day.

It was moved to approve the proclamation.

A motion was made by Mayor DiRocco that the Proclamation be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Kelleher, Council Member Majdi, Mayor DiRocco, Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Sienicki and Council Member Voigt

A. Report and Inquiries of Council Members

Councilmember Colbert thanked DPW for going out and fixing a problem with water run-off that occurred at the Curran's home on 203 McHenry Street. She asked if the guidelines for storm water run-off for houses, should pertain to the whole property. It seems that homeowners should not have to call the town on those kind of issues, the town should be pro-active. She does know if the builder is responsible for this or if the town should do something. Mr. Johnson stated that the town does do a full stormwater review for public and private property. In this case John Jay Sergeant, the engineer that reviews the plans, felt that there was not going to be a lot of water run-off to the neighbors because it is just at the crest of the hill, but when the work was all finished there was more than calculated and that is why they had to go in retroactively. He is sorry that people were inconvenienced but they did do the review Councilmember Colbert is asking for.

Councilmember Springsteen thanked DPW for getting the sidewalks painted on Church Street and Old Courthouse.

Councilmember Springsteen also mentioned that there are still complaints about the pedestrian crosswalk on Maple Ave. He asked if they could put more signs up to tell people what that crosswalk is. Councilmember Kelleher stated that someone that uses the crosswalk witnesses all the time that people just don't know what to do and drive through the red light. She thought putting a sign up above that says "stop on red signal" might work instead of bollards. Mr. Johnson stated they will put up another sign to make it more obvious that you need to stop.

Councilmember Springsteen also asked Mr. Johnson for an update on the lights on Maple Avenue. Mr. Johnson stated that they converted from the temporary electric service to the permanent electric service and have started to work on replacing the bricks. They are working on it hot and heavy.

Councilmember Springsteen also asked Mr. Johnson for an update on Follin Lane. Mr. Johnson stated that they are still on schedule to pour concrete.

Councilmember Sienicki thanked Historic Vienna, the American Legion and Parks & Recreation for doing a wonderful job with the Book Sale. It helped everyone clean out their bookshelves to make room for new ones.

B. Report of the Town Manager

No report

C. Report of the Mayor

Mayor DiRocco reported that everyone is invited to attend the Mayor's Volunteer Reception, Tuesday, April 12th, in the Flame room of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

D. Proposals for Additional Items to the Agenda

None

E. Closed Session

It was moved that the members of the Vienna Town Council be polled to affirm that during the Closed Session convened on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, the Town Council met for purposes of discussion and briefing on security procedures and security of Town Hall and other Town facilities.

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.

Motion: Councilmember Springsteen

Second: Councilmember Sienicki

Abstained: Councilmember Colbert, Councilmember Kelleher, Councilmember Majdi, Councilmember Sienicki

Motion Carried

It was moved that the members of the Vienna Town Council be polled to affirm that during the Closed Session of Wednesday, March 16, the Town Council met for purposes of discussion of personnel matters, specifically the interviewing of individuals for consideration of appointment and/or re-appointment to Town Boards and Commissions.

It was further move that the members of the Vienna Town Council be polled to affirm that during the Closed Session convened this date, Monday, April 4, 2016, the Town Council met for purposes of discussion of personnel matters, specifically consideration and discussion of individuals to be appointment and /or re-appointment to Town Boards and Commissions.

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

And it was further moved that the Closed Session be continued to Monday, April 18, 2016 at 7:15 p.m. in accordance with Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711A(1), for purposes of discussion of personnel matters, specifically the interviewing of individuals for consideration of appointment and /or re-appointment to Town Boards and Commissions.

Motion: Councilmember Kelleher

Second: Councilmember Majdi

Carried Unanimously

It was moved that the following individuals be re-appointed to the Bicycle Advisory Committee for a one-year term of office, said term to begin on April 30, 2016 and end April 30, 2017: Jonathan Rak and Dan Mielke.

and

It was further moved that the following individuals be re-appointed and/or re-appointed to the Bicycle Advisory Committee for a two-year term of office, said term to begin on April 30, 2016 and end April 30, 2018: Scott Allison, Tim Fricker and Charlie Strunk.

and

It was further moved that the following individuals be re-appointed to the Pedestrian Advisory Committee for a two-year term of office, said term to begin on April 30, 2016 and end April 30, 2018: Catherine Hardman and Donna Smith.

Motion: Councilmember Kelleher

Second: Councilmember Springsteen

Carried Unanimously

E. Closed Session

Aye: 3 - Mayor DiRocco, Council Member Springsteen and Council Member Voigt

Abstain: 4 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Kelleher, Council Member Majdi and Council Member Sienicki

5. Public Hearings

Mayor DiRocco called the Public Hearing to order at 8:42 p.m. The Clerk called the roll and all members of Council were present.

Ms. Karen Spence, Finance Director, explained that this public hearing is for the Fiscal Year 16-17 Water and Sewer rates. Two years ago a water rate study was completed in house in order to maintain the financial health of our fund.

A. Public Hearing for FY2016-2017 Water and Sewer Rates

Mayor DiRocco called the Public Hearing to order at 8:42 p.m. The Town Clerk called the role and all members of Council were present.

Ms. Karen Spence, Finance Director, explained that this public hearing is for the Fiscal Year 16-17 Water and Sewer rates. Two years ago a Water and Sewer Rate Study was completed in order to maintain the financial health of the fund; fairly balance consumption and revenue and ensure that rates cover full cost of operations and debt service and also financing capital projects, underscoring Council's initiative of conservation by incorporating an incentivized rate structure. This has been successful. Last year they did review and they were able to keep the rates at the same. This year in order to continue to maintain the financial health they do need to adjust the rates and this is as they were expecting to have some sort of rate adjustment every other year as needed. This will ensure coverage of full cost of operations and debt-service funding. The rates advertised include the 66 cents per 1,000 gallon increase to cover our unmet needs that were identified during their proposed budget up to and including #5 item but not including the #6 item which was

the FTE.

A public hearing is scheduled to provide Town residents with an opportunity to voice comments concerning the water and sewer rates.

Councilmember Springsteen asked what the increase would translate to per households average bill. Ms. Spence stated that she had the rate comparisons and provided them to Council. The rates are looking at an increase of the 66 cents that was discussed at the Work Session. It gives a 7% increase on the water and a 5.7% increase on the sewer charge. There is no change to the service fee and doing a computation on a bill on 16,000 gallons, which is an average consumption for the residents of Vienna per quarter, and that takes it to \$192.12. Ms. Spence further explained that the listing of surrounding jurisdictions, which is in order of expenditure or the most expensive jurisdiction being on top and the least on the bottom. She stated to please remember we have several jurisdictions in there that are increasing their water rates. For example Fairfax County, which is going into effect shortly, Prince William going into effect in 17 and she understands that Herndon is looking at increases as well.

Councilmember Springsteen stated that basically it is a 7% increase that we only do this every two years, Ms. Spence stated that was correct. Councilmember Springsteen also stated that the 7% identifies things that the new Superintendent suggested for capital infrastructure, Ms. Spence stated absolutely. From that list it was everything except for the very bottom ones so it included the unmet need of asphalt for road repairs to bring them up to VDOT standards, the water meters, the training, the replacement and repair of parts, the asphalt and cold mix for road repairs after fixing water mains and landfill fills to dispose of the un-salvageable parts. It does not include and FTE.

Mayor DiRocco asked if the list was in order of importance. Ms. Spence stated absolutely.

Councilmember Majdi stated that the Town has had 77 water main breaks over the past two years and they are investing in items that will help them maintain and provide better service. He thinks this is a necessary expenditure and is glad they are doing it.

Mr. Payton asked Ms. Spence what the 66 cent increase translates to for the water user as far as an increase on the quarterly bill. Ms. Spence stated she will have to add that up but it was 5.60 on the initial part so it is almost approximately twice that. Mr. Payton stated that it would be \$10 or \$11 per quarter increase. Ms. Spence agreed.

Mr. Payton also stated that they have instances in Town in which a water user may have a leak or a water break that causes their bill to spike. They typically may have a bill of \$400 or \$500 and then the bill may go to 4, 5 or \$6000 because of a break in the line on their property. The question is does the town want to continue the policy they currently have or do they want to go to a policy like Fairfax Water does. He asked Ms. Spence to explain what it is the town currently does. Ms. Spence stated that currently when there is a very large leak the town will either notice an extraordinarily high bill or a resident will call and then it is normally their procedure to request the resident to bring in some sort of proof that the leak has been fixed and once they know that the leak has been fixed they take whatever the average bill is and look at the overage. The overage is then split 50/50, 50% of the liability comes back to the Town and 50% goes to the customer. That has been their

procedure and that is for any of the leaks that are outside of the home between the meter and the home. Mayor DiRocco asked if that was for breaks on private property. Ms. Spence stated that was correct. Mayor DiRocco asked what happened when it is on the town property. Ms. Spence stated then the town covers it 100%. This is only talking about leaks that occur after the water meter, anything before the water meter, any of the main water lines or anything that happens in the streets, is all the towns obligation and they take care of it. Mr. Payton stated that going along with that, someone may have a bill of \$5,000 or \$6,000 and then they may ultimately ask them to pay a portion of that and that is the current practice. Ms. Spence confirmed that is the current practice. She stated that she was asked by Councilmember Springsteen to provide information on the number of leaks the town has had and the number of adjustments per year and how much money. Ms. Spence put three years of information together, for 2013 they had 197 leak adjustments at approximately \$30,000 credit that was given back to the persons who were using water for those leak adjustments and reminded them that it was approximately twice that amount was the overage so half of that went back to the customer and half of it the town took on.

She stated that the average is 219 leaks adjustments with an approximate credit of \$28,000. She further stated that just about \$30,000 per year is the amount that the town gives for leak adjustments. If they were to give 100% credit which is what Fairfax Water does, not necessarily all jurisdictions in our area, that would equal about 6 cents on \$30,000 per year per 1000 gallons. If the town was to give 100% of that credit then that would increase everyones rate by about 6 cents per 1000 gallons. Councilmember Springsteen stated that he appreciates that but he looks at Fairfax Water because they are the major producer in the area and he thinks in the most recent situation where a customer was hit with about an \$8,000 bill, which was negotiated down, we should try and benchmark with Fairfax Water. He knows we try to match our rates with Fairfax and we increase our rates so we are competitive but a situation like that when you get hit with an \$8,000 bill is a real problem. He stated that it takes you a whole quarter to figure out if you have a leak so he is just wondering if they should have a Work Session to look at this. He thinks they need to see what the competition is doing. Ms. Spence mentioned that when Fairfax Water gives their leak adjustments, its only done once every 5 years and then only one quarterly billing is adjusted at a time and we do not limit ours. Mr. Payton stated that he is a little concerned that if we match Fairfax Water with a policy we may at times be more generous than they are. Mayor DiRocco stated that the town should look at different jurisdictions if they are going to compare to Fairfax Water. They should look at the Town of Herndon, Town of Leesburg and others. She would like to see how they compare to a number jurisdictions. Councilmember Kelleher stated that contrary to what Councilmember Springsteen said when he talked about a competitor, they are not a competitor, we have a monopoly, they have a monopoly and Fairfax Water is a huge, huge organization and has lots of economies of scale that the Town of Vienna does not have. She has been saying for years and year that the town should be working their way out of the water business. The town is not producing any of our own water, they are just buying it and re-selling it and this is another small example of how a large system with a big economy of scale can do these kinds of things that a small system like the towns cannot really afford to do. Councilmember Kelleher stated that the City of Falls Church is now with Fairfax Water so that one is gone as well as the City of Fairfax. The only ones left are the Town of Herndon and Arlington, a lot of them have consolidated in with Fairfax Water. Councilmember Sienicki asked if this is something we want to defer. Mayor DiRocco stated this is something we should have a Work Session on to discuss. Councilmember Sienicki just wanted to know if they had time to table this until they put it on a Work Session. Councilmember Springsteen stated that his concern is these people that were hit with an \$8,000 bill and even though it was reduced to

\$1500, it is still a sizable bill. He thinks in this situation the \$8,000 probably represents a third of what we ate last year, this was a significant cost. You look at all the other ones and he doesn't think many people had an \$8,000 bill. Councilmember Sienicki stated that she had a water break last year and fortunately it wasn't as bad because it was a slow leak. She understands the pain of having to deal with it and is sympathetic to what goes on. She wanted to know for purposes of today if they were going to defer this. Mayor DiRocco stated that this is something they should discuss because she thinks there are other ways to handle this. She thinks they should look at all of what Fairfax Water does because there is other areas where the town is more generous than they are and the Town Manager will be able to point to some of those. Also the town has advertised this rate and this is the highest rate so if they want to they can go lower. Mr. Payton stated that there is a Budget Work Session scheduled for April 11th and is suggesting that they discuss this then. Mayor DiRocco stated that the town has advertised a 66 cent increase which is something to be thoughtful of. It is a sizable increase for everyone and it is what they have to work with. She does think they should have a discussion at the Work Session. They will move forward with the 66 cents and discuss further at the Work Session.

It was moved to close the Public Hearing at 9:07 p.m.

*Motion: Councilmember Voigt
Second: Councilmember Sienicki
Carried Unanimously*

It was further moved that the Town Clerk be directed to advertise Notice of Intent to Adopt water and sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 at the May 23, 2016, Council meeting, to incorporate the rates that were published for the Notice of Public Hearing on April 4, 2016 following Town Council's consideration.

*Motion: Councilmember Voigt
Second: Councilmember Sienicki
Motion passed 6-1*

This item passed as shown above.

Aye: 6 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Majdi, Mayor DiRocco, Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Sienicki and Council Member Voigt

Nay: 1 - Council Member Kelleher

B. Public Hearing on FY 2016-2017 Proposed Budget.

Mayor DiRocco called the Public Hearing to order at 9:10 p.m. The Town Clerk called the role and all members of Council were present.

Ms. Karen Spence explained this is the second Public Hearing following the budget process. This is for the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 16/17 proposed budget. This is the Town Manager's proposed budget and was presented to Council during the Budget Work Sessions of March 14th and March 19th. The Town Managers Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 has been presented to the Mayor, Town Council, and residents. The Proposed Budget has been reviewed by Town Council during Work Sessions on March 14 and March 19. This April 4 public hearing is held so that Town of Vienna residents may provide public input.

The Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-17 Town of Vienna Budget totals \$33,787,590 that

includes the General Fund, Debt Service Fund, Water and Sewer fund as well as the Stormwater fund.

The Proposed Budget is based upon a Real Estate Tax Rate of \$0.2250 per \$100 valuation; Bank Net Capital at \$0.80 per \$100 valuation, and Utility Tax for residential uses at a rate of 20% of the first \$15 and for commercial uses at a rate of 15% of the first \$300.

Councilmember Springsteen stated that he knew they discussed the rate and the Work Session and confirmed that the current rate that they want to advertise is \$0.2250.

Ms. Spence stated that it is what the proposed budget is developed with.

Councilmember Springsteen thinks they should have some options and asked if they went to \$0.2331 how much additional income would it give them. Ms. Spence stated that the \$0.2331 per 100 valuation, that is the effective tax rate, would give them an additional \$350,000 above what they currently have in the budget. Councilmember Springsteen stated that he is not advocating a tax increase but it would give them some flexibility and to get input from the public on the things they want to do or don't. His concern is he gets comments regarding the Freeman Store bridge and all the unmet needs. He would personally like to advertise a slightly higher rate to have the flexibility for discussion. Ms. Spence stated that would certainly give them some flexibility. At the end of the of the budget work sessions they had approximately \$58,000 that they had not been allocated to any line in particular. They certainly had a very long list of unmet needs beyond that and there was no contingency included in the budget. Councilmember Springsteen asked what the difference would be between the higher and lower rate for a typical homeowner per year. Ms. Spence provided a chart to Council explaining the valuations and the rates. Most of the properties fall between \$500,000 and \$700,000 that is approximately 3100 of the 5400 properties that fall within that range. In the \$600,000 to \$700,000 range the average bill at this point in time was approximately \$1461, at the \$0.2250 that would take it to \$1482, a \$21 increase. If they went to the \$0.2231 it would take it to \$1535 which would be an increase of \$74 per year.

Councilmember Sienicki asked if by adopting this budget does it set the tax rate so they can't adjust it. Mr. Briglia stated that they would be setting the dollar amount of what they will spend and the itemization of the dollar amounts and to get to that there are a number of factors. Councilmember Sienicki stated that basically, if nothing else changed other than the tax rate, they would not be able to adjust in any way and if they went ahead and adopted the budget to be advertised then they couldn't change the tax rate without adjusting the revenue. Mr. Briglia stated that was correct.

Mr. Payton asked if at the point when Council is considering the adoption of the budget on May 23rd, can the Town Council adopt something different. Mr. Briglia stated that if they wanted to propose adopting a higher budget then it would have to be a subject of a motion. If there is a motion approve a budget, that sets the top dollar amount. Unless they want to advertise another public hearing then they are limited. There are advertising requirements. Council can discuss among themselves and decide to raise the number in the budget but it would have to be advertised. If it is more than \$33,787,590 then it would have to be advertised, if it goes down they don't.

Councilmember Kelleher stated it sounds like this gets them back to the same situation as the water rate adjustment where we would be re-advertising and another round of public hearings and it has not been their practice, unlike other localities, the Mayor takes an informal pole at the work session and they decide what they want

to advertise at. If Council wants to change their minds at this point should someone make a motion to what tax rate to advertise and put it to a vote so they know what they are looking at. Mayor DiRocco asked if anyone has changed their mind, if no one has changed their mind then they don't need to vote.

Councilmember Sienicki is afraid that there are many items on the unmet needs that are essential and they are essential to many citizens and for the workings of the Town, and by advertising this rate Council is not allowing the public to come forward and giving them any input by just accepting this rate. If Council sets it now and someone comes forward to talk about the tax rate, they are tying themselves in by setting it. Mayor DiRocco stated she appreciates what she is saying but that was part of the discussion they had at the last work session and this is a public hearing.

Reverend Craig Burns, 301 Center St. North addressed Council and asked if this was addressing the income side or the whole budget process. Mayor DiRocco stated it was about the whole budget. Reverend Burns stated he did sit through the work sessions and he did enjoy the process of learning the hard work that Council goes through for the budget. He proposed that a study be done to see if Vienna is ready for a Skate Park. He has been asked by his skate friends for years about this. Even the smallest communities in Virginia have some kind of a skate park so he is asking for either a formal or informal study. The second thing he proposed is a feasibility study for multiple size and multiple use parking garages. In connecting with his friends in the business community, the number one complaint is there is limited parking and the businesses are being hurt. He is not recommending that they do a parking garage but to get some citizen input and figure out a way that they can have more multi purpose parking garages in the community. He has had some push back from people saying they don't want to become like Arlington where they have all these big parking garages and take away the small town feel. He thinks they have to look at every space of dirt and ground, County property, school property, regional park authority property, town property and local businesses. They need to get the community involved to see if we want a parking garage. Do we want to continue these current parking lot wars that are currently in Vienna. He doesn't think we want to keep being numb to that, especially with the snow this year where it took a problem and made it a critical issue. There is a parking issue in the business community and he is asking for some level of a feasibility study for multiple use parking garages. The third thing is he thinks they need to elevate walking to the same level as driving when it comes to snow removal. He knows there was some added to the budget for more snow blowing equipment and employees but when the emergency people are saying to stay off the roads unless it is an emergency you would still like the option to get around town. He is encourage Council to add more snow blowers to this and elevate the status so people can get into the town if need be. He also recommends that they also add bike lanes or better walking for any new street improvements. At one of the work sessions it was brought up that the stipend's that are given to the Mayor and Council has not increased since a certain time frame and it was also brought up that when a member of Council goes to a networking event, they have to foot that bill. A concern that he has heard and one of the reasons he is running for Town Council, is he is hearing that more and more citizens are not being heard and he is proposing that they need to add to the budget, more to the reimbursable expenses so that the Town Council can do more of this and diffusing more of frustration in our community. The reason he would encourage it to be a reimbursable expense is because it just sets us up for a problem if it becomes an economic issue to not attend and event. He thinks it is wise for an organization to always pay for the key player to go to an event because that way they are not being influence, they are the influencer. He would like to see an accountable, reimbursable, program at a certain amount to help the Town Council network with

our community. He would also like to propose that what ever cost of living adjustment is given to the Town employees, that it be added to the stipend. He feels like it is necessary that they look at incremental increases and if in fact all of the Town Council stipend's that they are given has been locked in at a certain rate for a long time, that whatever cost of living is given to the employees should be added to that stipend. It puts a person in awkward position and he believes that Town Council ought to be at most events, paying their own way, connecting with the community and hearing what going on. On the income side, he thinks the Town has a great opportunity to increase the traffic to our restaurants and to our businesses. He likes the one big banner they have but he thinks they ought to do more banners and start promoting a rush hour incentive to stop in town and eat. He also thinks they should do more for the businesses and do more advertising for them so that this tremendous amount of drive thru traffic does not become liability and instead becomes a benefit. On the far extreme side to increase income, it was suggested to him that the town put in a toll road at every entrance to the town, give town citizens a free pass and make everyone else pay for it. He is not saying he is for that but he told the resident he would pass it on.

Mr. Douglas Noble, 626 Welles Street, SE addressed Council and asked them to clarify a couple of things to make sure of where they landed in the budget between the work session and now. First, there has been some discussion between the Planning Commission, Town staff and Town Council with regards to a design Charette for the community that would focus on the center of town and Maple Avenue and whether or not that amount ended up in the budget. Mayor DiRocco stated yes, it did end up in the budget and there are three different options of different types of discussions and two of the three can be funded with the money that is allocated within the current budget. Mr. Noble strongly encourages that continue moving forward and to the degree that the conversation in the scoping of that design charette can include things like park one shared parking and those other aspects of the Maple Avenue corridor. A second point Mr. Noble made was that during the work session there was discussion of adding an additional budget for pavement markings in the Public Works budget and asked if that happened. Mayor DiRocco stated yes, it was doubled, going from \$20,000 to \$40,000 and is incorporated into the budget. The reason he mentioned it is that the Director of Public Works has been very good about getting a lot of projects in so there is a lot of capital improvement projects going on, but one of the things is that over time the newly constructed assets need to managed through maintenance. One of the pieces to the puzzle is the traffic calming work that the town has been doing and if they don't maintain the paving markings that are associated with that, on a recurrent basis, they will have kind of a rolling challenge with it going forward. He really appreciates that they have done that going forward. Another thing he mentioned that he is not even sure can be done as part of the regular program in Information technology area, but he thinks they need to take a hard look at what they are doing both in terms of the technology we are building in now but in that 2-5 and 5-7 year range because things are changing so dynamically in information technology that the town needs to have a good looking forward plan and also incorporating different elements of a span of civic engagement using information technology. There is a lot of stuff that is going these days with the smart phones in which we are probably not at the leading edge of that curve. We don't need to be on the leading edge but we should at least be on the current edge of that. There is a lot of stuff that we are doing but he thinks there is a next place that we should be and should start looking at now. Lastly he mentioned something that has come up with a number of people he has talked to is your retaining local business owners in the context of the different development things that are going on with Maple Avenue, Church St., etc. and he would encourage Council to have a work session to look at different incentives and tax revenue expense type programs that

will encourage local ownership of businesses and allowing folks who would potentially have leasing opportunities in different owned properties in Vienna and be able to retain those businesses. It is not a zoning thing, it is an economics thing and he thinks they need to take a look at it in that context.

Mayor DiRocco asked if any Councilmembers have changed their mind on where they stand with the tax rate.

Councilmember Sienicki mentioned that the two people that just spoke Pastor Burns and Mr. Noble are both running for Town Council and they have done their research and homework. She thinks that they both brought up excellent points and if they do not raise the tax rate they are basically not doing incentives that help out promoting businesses. They are also not adding additional snow removal equipment, they are not moving forward with technology and they are not doing things that were in the unmet needs that were a priority from town staff. There were several items that town staff felt the need to prioritize above all the other unmet needs that were in the budget. Things that they were looking at such as the ADA ramps and lifts and things like that are not going to be budgeted. Things that are just part of maintenance are not going to be budgeted. Right now they were tight on the budget because they reduced it by half a million dollars on what they were appropriating in their budget before because they added some things that are an additional cost. Everyone knows if you go to the grocery store one year the next year chances are your budget is going to have to increase just because of cost additions. Basically, they are asking staff to do the same amount for less and it gets tight. She appreciates all the work that town staff does and she really feels if they do not at least open the window for discussion on April 11th, to include these additional items, then they are shutting the door on some very important things that were addressed by the people that have been doing their homework and could potentially be on Council this next year. She would like to voice her strong concern about being too tight in the budget and before they actually set the tax rate they need to really look hard at all the unmet needs and if they pass the budget without doing that they are going to have to carve out a very tight budget to try and carve out these things that town staff has really prioritized and it is a significant chunk of change. She appreciates everybody's budget, she lives on a budget, and she is not trying to be frivolous she is looking at what the town offers and what they have done over the past year. The town had the 125th Anniversary last year where there were a lot of activities and this year they have an opening of a new Community Center and Town staff is doing a lot of work to get this town looking great for them and she thinks Council has to support them so they get what they need.

Councilmember Majdi asked Ms. Spence that with the tax rate of \$.0225 per \$100 valuation for FY16/17 what is the increase in revenue from FY15/16. Ms. Spence stated it was about \$460,000. They have had decreases in other areas which has brought that down but that includes the appreciate values and the construction.

Councilmember Colbert mentioned that they need to keep in mind that the residents are paying more in taxes here since their assessments have gone up. She was out walking and knocking on doors and spoke with a couple residents that are concerned about how expensive it is to live in Vienna and their tax bills. She certainly knows that there are a lot of unmet needs that she would like to fund too and they did discuss at the work session some creative ways to fund these. Knowing that tax bills are already going up she wants to keep the tax rate the same.

Councilmember Kelleher agreed with Councilmember Colbert. She knows the real estate assessments have gone up in town and even with keeping the rate the same

they are looking at increases. If your house is \$600,000 it is \$21 per year, if your house is \$900,000 it is \$30 but that is in addition to the Fairfax County increase and that is just for an assessment increase on an existing home. With the County you will get the assessment increase plus another 4 cents. She knows there is a lot of unmet needs and there will always be unmet needs no matter how high the budget is but they have to live within what our citizens can pay rather than looking at it from how much do we want to spend so what do we need to make are tax rate. They need to look at what is appropriate and practical for the citizens to spend and then what can we spend within that.

Councilmember Springsteen stated that he would at least like to advertise a slightly higher rate to give them the flexibility to look at the list. He hears the horror stories with the Freeman Store where we went from \$20,000 to \$90,000 for a bridge and the elevator/lift back on the Bowman Store and would like to have some flexibility. If we advertised a slightly lower rate then they have locked themselves in and then can't look at anything. He is inclined not support a higher rate but would at least like the option to advertise slightly higher to give them the flexibility to discuss some things.

Councilmember Majidi stated that he thinks there have been some perfectly reasonable points made on the diaries and wanted to clarify that on capital expenses they are not obligated for the next 6 or 7 years and they can make decisions to invest in a parking garage if the opportunity arises. He also stated that with the situations like the busted bridge at Freeman Store, he thinks they should at least consider the possibility of a bond anticipation note to finance these things in the short term when they are in actuality tied up with capital expenditures. He thinks it would be a worthwhile thing to consider.

Councilmember Voigt voiced her support with Councilmember Springsteen and Sienicki because she agrees with their point that at the end of the day they may not have to adopt a different tax rate than what the budget is based on but the fact is that if they advertise with no increase they can't even let the citizens talk about anything that is on the unmet needs. If they wanted to come up and have an opinion about it, if they wanted to come up and say "hey I noticed on your unmet needs, in the top five, is more snow removal equipment I would be in favor of raising taxes and paying \$50 more per year if it meant we had additional snow removal equipment." Whether at the end of the day or not she votes for it or not, she would like to see what the citizens have to say first. She thinks if they advertise for the tax rate they currently have, they have no options to look at anything different.

Mayor DiRocco stated that she appreciates everyone's comments because everyone is being very thoughtful and trying to think of what is in the best interest of the town and the citizens. She stated that the Town Manager put a budget together that was based off of \$.2250, which is our current tax rate, and she knows he came forward with what he thinks is the best way to move forward. She does think that they have to be cognizant of the fact that the residents not only pay the Town of Vienna taxes but Fairfax County taxes and they know they are going to be hit with an increase in those taxes. They also need to look at the needs of our community and our citizens and she believes with a \$460,000 increase they can fund the things they need to. Is it everything on the list, no. Are they going to have to make some hard decisions, yes. Are they going to have to look at the capital improvements over the next couple of years, yes. Are they going to think about how they can fund different items and what is their priorities, yes and as Councilmember Kelleher stated, we have these decisions every year. Every year there are more unmet needs than they can fund and they need to make the hard decisions as to what they are going to fund with keeping in mind the tax rate the same at \$.2250.

It was moved to close the public hearing at 9:49 p.m.

Motion: Councilmember Kelleher

Second: Councilmember Voigt

Carried Unanimously

It was further moved that the Town Clerk be directed to advertise Notice of Intent to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget advertised in the notice for this Public Hearing, at the Council meeting on May 23, 2016, following Town Council's consideration of the Real Estate Tax Rate.

Motion: Councilmember Kelleher

Second: Councilmember Majdi

Motion passed 4-3

This item passed as shown above.

Aye: 4 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Kelleher, Council Member Majdi and Mayor DiRocco

Nay: 3 - Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Sienicki and Council Member Voigt

6. Regular Business

A. Request to Defer the April 18 Public Hearing on the FY17 Real Estate Tax Rate to May 9

It was moved to defer the public hearing on the FY17 real estate tax rate from April 18, 2016 to May 9, 2016, and it was further moved to direct the Town Clerk to advertise the Public Hearing in accordance with state law.

A motion was made by Council Member Kelleher, seconded by Council Member Colbert, that the Action Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Kelleher, Council Member Majdi, Mayor DiRocco, Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Sienicki and Council Member Voigt

B. Adoption of Restated Agreement for ICMA-RC 401(a) Governmental Money Purchase Plan

It was moved to adopt the Restated Agreement for ICMA-RC 401(a) Governmental Money Purchase Plan and authorize the Town Manager to execute the Adoption Agreement with the ICMA Retirement Corporation and other documents required to put the resolution into effect.

A motion was made by Council Member Springsteen, seconded by Council Member Voigt, that the Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Kelleher, Council Member Majdi, Mayor DiRocco, Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Sienicki and Council Member Voigt

C. FY2013 Revenue-Sharing Grant Extension.

It was moved to approve the attached Programmatic Project Administration

Agreement Extension Addendum and authorize the Town Manager to execute.

A motion was made by Council Member Voigt, seconded by Council Member Majdi, that the Action Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Kelleher, Council Member Majdi, Mayor DiRocco, Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Sienicki and Council Member Voigt

D. Request to approve additional FY16 spending with HD Supply.

It was moved to approve an additional expenditure of \$71,000 with HD Supply from account listed above.

A motion was made by Council Member Springsteen, seconded by Council Member Voigt, that the Action Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Kelleher, Council Member Majdi, Mayor DiRocco, Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Sienicki and Council Member Voigt

E. Approval of Arrowood Parc water main emergency repair

It was moved to approve payment to Sagres Construction Corporation, IFB 16-10, in the amount of \$28,739.15 from account number above for emergency water main repairs at Arrowood Parc Apartments.

A motion was made by Council Member Sienicki, seconded by Council Member Majdi, that the Action Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Kelleher, Council Member Majdi, Mayor DiRocco, Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Sienicki and Council Member Voigt

F. Set alley vacation Public Hearing 102 Ayr Hill Avenue NW.

It was moved to set a Public Hearing to consider vacation of the public alley adjacent to 102 Ayr Hill Avenue NW at the April 18, 2016 Town Council meeting and instruct the Town Clerk to advertise a notice of a Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Council Member Voigt, seconded by Council Member Kelleher, that the Action Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Kelleher, Council Member Majdi, Mayor DiRocco, Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Sienicki and Council Member Voigt

G. Request Approval of Instructor/Contractors For Parks And Recreation Classes Through June 30, 2016 In Excess Of \$20,000 Per Terms And Conditions of RFP 15-01.

It was moved to approve Parks and Recreation instructor contracts in amounts not to exceed \$13,380 for First Serve Tennis, \$9,000 for Vienna Woods Studios, \$15,000 for UK Elite Soccer, and \$15,000 for MVP Sports for classes and camps through June 30, 2016. Funds are to come from account number 17150-43308.

A motion was made by Council Member Sienicki, seconded by Council Member Majdi, that the Action Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Kelleher, Council Member Majdi, Mayor DiRocco, Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Sienicki and Council Member Voigt

H. Request approval of Vienna Community Center renovation and expansion contingency fund payment to Keller Brothers.

It was moved to approve payment to Keller Brothers, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$68,238 for work completed on the Vienna Community Center project, IFB 16-04, account listed above.

A motion was made by Council Member Voigt, seconded by Council Member Majdi, that the Action Item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Kelleher, Council Member Majdi, Mayor DiRocco, Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Sienicki and Council Member Voigt

7. Meeting Adjournment

It was moved to adjour the meeting at 10:06 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member Edythe Frankel Kelleher, seconded by Council Member Pasha Majdi, that this be approved.. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council Member Colbert, Council Member Kelleher, Council Member Majdi, Mayor DiRocco, Council Member Springsteen, Council Member Sienicki and Council Member Voigt

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