



Town of Vienna

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

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Conference Session

Monday, April 18, 2022

7:30 PM

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

1. Regular Business

Council: Council Member Chuck Anderson; Council Member Ray Brill Jr.; Council Member Nisha Patel; Council Member Steve Potter; Council Member Ed Somers; Council Member Howard J. Springsteen and Mayor Linda Colbert.

Staff: Mercury Peyton, Town Manager; Shelley Kozlowski, Deputy Town Clerk; Steve Briglia, Town Attorney; Marion Serfass, Director, Finance; Michelle Pagano-Dierkes, Finance; Dan Janickey, Deputy Chief of Police; Karen Thayer, Communications and Marketing Manager; Amy jo Hendrix, Recreation Program Supervisor; Jeremy Edwards, Park Maintenance Supervisor; Natalie Monkou, Manager, Economic Development; Mike D'Orazio, Assistant Director Planning and Zoning; Kelly O'Brien, Acting Deputy Director, Planning and Zoning; Leslie Herman, Director, Parks and Recreation; Christina Kaplin, Chairman, Conservation and Sustainability Commission; Christine Horner, Water Quality Engineer.

A. [22-3059](#)

Discuss Leaf Collection and Mulch Program Alternatives

Mayor Linda Colbert opened the Conference Session at 7:30 PM. She called on Mike Gallagher, Director, Public Works, to present Item 22-3059 Leaf Collection and Mulch Program Alternatives, for consideration. Following a brief history of the Item he reiterated the three options for consideration this evening:

Option 1. Continue with the current program.

Option 2. Short Haul Option - eliminates leaf mulch and continues to use Beulah Road site for short term leaf storage.

a. Under this scenario collected leaves would be hauled to the Beulah Road site as currently practiced; however, there would be no leaf grinding and no delivery of leaf mulch. Once all collections are completed, the leaves would then be hauled from the Beulah Road site to the disposal facility (Loudoun Compost)

Option 3. Long Haul Option - eliminates leaf mulch and eliminates the use of the Beulah Road site.

a. Under this scenario collected leaves would be hauled directly to the disposal facility (Loudoun Compost) and eliminate the use of the Beulah Road site for leaf operations and eliminate leaf mulch delivery.

b. Loudoun Compost is in Chantilly, VA (eleven miles from town) meaning a longer round trip for each collection truck than going to the Beulah Road site. To maintain the current collection rate up to an additional two trucks are needed during the heaviest peak collection weeks. We estimate that one additional truck would be needed for nine weeks, and two trucks for four weeks. These would be contracted (rented) which includes the driver requiring no additional staff.

Mayor Colbert opened the floor to comments from Council. The following provides a summary of the discussion:

- *Transportation costs - most significant component, missing from calculations;*

Current figures based on 5-year-old Fairfax County figures;

- *Consider how each option benefits the Community;*
- *Many presented figures lack consistency; Fuel calculations must be based on type of haul and current fuel costs;*
- *Beulah Rd. property (eight acres) currently used for mulching should be utilized for public benefit;*
- *Beulah Rd. site cannot continue long term; must set phase out date;*
- *Beulah Rd site was never designated as a park; history confirms that eight acres was acquired in land swap, TOV has yet to determine a particular use;*
- *Steady decline in leaf collection, grinding numbers and resident usage;*
- *Difficult to justify giving away mulch;*
- *Costs and benefits exist for each of the three options;*
- *Consider development of public information program (encourage composting, consider butterfly program);*
- *Budgetary costs outweigh environmental costs; residents must bear costs of living in the community for the benefits derived from living in that community;*
- *Critical to finalize this decision sooner rather than later.*

Suggested additional Options to Consider:

Utilize Long Haul option for one-half of the collected leaves (ride Fairfax County Contract to capture economies of scale), grind additional half at the Beulah Rd. site and sell or give to residents; selling mulch would assist in determining true demand;

Utilize Long Haul option for one-half of the collected leaves, collect second half and store at Beulah Rd. site until Town Staff can gradually collect and haul to Loudon site.

Action Item:

Town Manager to research above suggested options. Item added to May 2, 2022 agenda for final consideration. Alternative date, May 9, 2022.

Discussion break 8:55 PM.

Discussion resumed 9:05 PM.

B. [22-3046](#)

Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget Conference Session #3

Mayor Colbert recognized Marion Serfass, Director, Finance to present Item 22-3064 Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget Conference Session #3 for consideration.

The balanced 2022-23 general fund budget includes a \$240,000 reserve for unfunded priorities. Directors previously provided a list of desired unfunded items which have been reviewed and ranked by the budget committee (BCOM).

Staff were called on to present their requests. Significantly, Council voiced opposition to permanent staff requests as part of the unfunded priority discussion. Historically position requests have been a component of unfunded priorities as a means to alert

Council of a need and may remain on the request list for several years. This practice has continued for several budget rotations. Maintaining this practice addresses recent Council concern regarding position creep, balancing new hires against other departmental needs. To add position requests to the baseline budget and attempting to balance around that with necessary departmental needs is problematic and could throw the budget out of balance.

While the unfunded priorities list grew out of past council's desire to address this

issue, present Council has voiced opposition to the process. With this in mind, the budgeting process will be reworked for coming years. The 2022-23 budget however will need to move forward as before and unfunded priorities will need to be addressed. Town Manager Payton and Director Serfass will jointly compile a list of Council's funding preferences gleaned from the list presented by Department heads. This list will be forwarded to Council for further consideration.

The following provides a summary of Council questions and concerns:

- Request for more parks maintenance overtime is defined as a service request – the larger the budgeted figure, the greater the service to the Town;
- Suggest reducing requests from Economic Development;
- Flag request from Public Works will be funded from ARPA and removed from unfunded priorities;
- Suggest additional computerization of Planning and Zoning permits;
- Consider raising permit fees to expedite process-use money to fund additional staff position to accomplish this;
- Compensation Study should be in the baseline budget; move current request out of ARPA;
- Recommend budget line item for Boards and Commissions to cover various incidental costs;
- Consider moving storm water management item out of unfunded priorities; add discussion to May 9, 2022 agenda.

C. [22-3042](#)

Discuss Making Massage Therapy a Conditional Use Instead of a By-Right Use

Mayor Colbert recognized Mike D'Orazio, Deputy Director, Planning and Zoning, to present Item 22-3042 Discuss Making Massage Therapy a Conditional Use Instead of a By-Right Use for Council consideration.

Massage therapy, aside from being regulated by the zoning ordinance, is also regulated under Chapter 22 of the Town Code. Chapter 22 regulates the permit and license requirements and procedures for obtaining and renewing a massage therapy license. Deputy D'Orazio called on Council Member Brill to present a draft rewrite of the Code to require a conditional use permit for the massage therapy use, which would require review by the Planning Commission and approval by the Board of Zoning Appeals. The purpose for this proposed rewrite grew out of anecdotal awareness that the Town of Vienna has become recognized as friendly to massage parlors due to the lax governing code. It is hoped that the draft legislation presented for review will make Vienna an unattractive location for opening illicit massage establishments.

Dan Janickey, Deputy Chief of Police, provided further insight explaining that there are currently numerous massage businesses in the Town. Of these there is evidence that a handful are involved in illegal activity. While various agencies at the State, County and local levels are tasked with policing these businesses, it is unclear which agency is actually doing so. Locally, this falls on the departments of Planning and Zoning, Economic Development and Finance. The Police department has created a task force to review the process for code compliance and monitoring with a goal of tightening the licensing regulations.

Mayor Colbert noted that the current draft has yet to be vetted by the Town Attorney. Further discussion of this proposal will be postponed until this step has been completed.

2. Meeting Adjournment

Mayor Colbert concluded the Conference Session at 11:15 PM.

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