

Town Council Meeting

April 14, 2026

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, in the Town Municipal building with the Honorable Allen D. Smith, Mayor, presiding: Councilmember's in attendance were Ronald Mattox, Johnnie Brame, James G. Elam, Jr., Christopher Garrett, Sandra Jones, and Chris Gill. Also attending were Town Manager Rodney Newton, Treasurer Diane Harding, Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, and Chief Camden Lawson. Fire Chief Frankie Tanner was absent.

Mayor Smith called the meeting of the Town Council to order.

The invocation was given by Mayor Smith followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to go into Public Hearing regarding Victoria Fire and Rescue VSFP Grant amendment of the FY26 Budget. Motion carried.

There were no comments.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to come out of Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Ms. Kathy Kirby asked to speak about the Victoria High School. Mayor Smith added Ms. Kirby to Information Items as (h).

Mayor Smith asked if there were any Conflicts of Interest on matters being discussed on the agenda. There were none.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the March 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2026. Motion carried.

Chief Camden Lawson presented the Police Report. Chief Lawson advised they had 421 calls, 86 traffic summons and 8 arrests. Chief Lawson proposed to council consideration of increasing the current impound lot fee for daily storage from \$10.00 per day to \$30.00 per day. The current administrative fee of \$100.00 per vehicle and towing fee's will remain the same. Motion was made by Councilmember Garrett and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the increase impound fee to \$30.00 per day. Motion carried. There were no questions regarding the Police Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Frankie Tanner was absent due to a fire call. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised Lanco paving was scheduled to start working on the parking lot tomorrow.

Mayor Smith asked about the Committee Reports. Councilmember Mattox with the Property Committee advised he and Councilmember Jones met with the Victoria High School Preservation Foundation back in March. The Victoria High School Preservation Foundation was offered the building. Ms. Kathy Kirby is here tonight and will address council on their decision.

Informational Items:

- a) Citizen Alvin Powell discussed the noise ordinance. Mr. Powell spoke with Chief Lawson about concerns of loud music about three weeks ago. The PD is currently working on the issue and things have gotten better. Mr. Powell also mention he and some others have been riding the trail and picking up trash, however, there are some larger items that need to be picked up. Mr. Newton advised Mr. Powell that this will be addressed later in the meeting.
- b) Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the Victoria Fire and Rescue VSFP Grant amendment of the FY26 Budget. Motion carried.

- c) Motion was made by Councilmember Gill and seconded by Councilmember Brame for the VF&R request/proposal discussed at last month's council meeting for all full-time EMS employee's as town employee's pending the county's budget approval and funding. Motion carried.
- d) Mr. Newton discussed parking near the former Victoria Drug. There are currently two handicap parking spaces adjacent to the property. One is on Main Street and the second is on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Clark Boyd, the new owner of the property requested the handicap space on 7<sup>th</sup> Street revert back to a normal parking space and a loading zone designation at the side doors. Motion was made by Councilmember Garrett and seconded by Councilmember Gill to approve Mr. Boyd's request regarding parking around the property. Motion carried. Mr. Newton also mentioned all the 30-minute parking signs will be coming down as well.
- e) Mr. Newton discussed a new manufactured housing code change. This years General Assembly passed an amendment to state VA Code §15.2-2290 Uniform Regulations for Manufactured Housing. It states, "localities shall not adopt or enforce any zoning, land-use, or development regulation that treats manufactured homes differently or more restrictive than a single-family site-built dwelling allowing in the same zoning district." Town Attorney, Mr. Reenie has reviewed the state VA Code §15.2-2290 as well as our town zoning ordinance. We will need to look at the town zoning ordinances and make changes before the July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 effective date. Mayor Smith appointed Councilmember Garrett and Councilmember Gill to look into this.
- f) Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to hold a Public Hearing at next month's council meeting for the FY27 Budget as well as proposed increases in real estate and meal taxes. Motion carried.
- g) Mr. Pernell updated on the Community Events. We had another amazing Skate Night on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. We also held our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> and would like to send a special thank you to Councilmember Jones and her friends for their help with stuffing the eggs, Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Newton and Councilmember Gill. Also, the Klassy Diva's Social Club for their help facilitating the event. Mr. Pernell advised we will have our first Music in the Park Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> featuring Gary Wayne & The Twisted Rails along with Yetta's Soulfood food truck on site. We will also be hosting our annual Spring Clean-Up Day at the Victoria Railroad Park Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00am. The next Skate Night is scheduled for Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> with the help of the Lunenburg Youth City Council (LYCC) and plan to offer additional activities throughout the event.
- h) Ms. Kathy Kirby with the Victoria High School Preservation Foundation discussed the Victoria High School. They met with the Property Committee, Councilmember Mattox and Councilmember Jones a few weeks ago about the future of the building. The Property Committee offered the building to the Preservation Foundation. Mr. Kirby along with members Jonathan Clarke and Robert Pulliam were present and discussed the ownership of the high school and it's possibilities. Due to the economy and age of their present members, they declined the offer. The building needs a lot of maintenance. Mayor Smith discussed the long-term goal going forward to maintain it and being ADA Compliant. Ms. Kirby advised they cannot afford to maintain the building. Mayor Smith recommended the Property Committee continue working with members of the Victoria High School Preservation Foundation to possibly find grants or ways to make money to help restore the building.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton discussed the water plant sedimentation basin project. He has resubmitted the design grant to see if we can get funding. He will keep council updated. Mr. Newton discussed the aging of the plant and the concrete issues with the basins crumbling and leaking. The filters are old and not working to full capacity. We had an engineer from the Office of Drinking Water out of Danville here last week and he stated our plant is worn out. Mr. Newton advised B&B Consultants will be here Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> to give us some guidance to get the filters back operating to give us time to get the basin project

completed and filters rebuilt. Due to the recent violation, letters will be sent to all town water customers.

- b) Mr. Newton advised the retail sale of marijuana passed both houses of the General Assembly. However, the Governor sent it back to the General Assembly with some recommendations. One main thing for localities is we have little say in it other than a retail marijuana shop cannot be located within a 1,000 feet of a school, or daycare center. This is pretty much our Main Street area out to Timmy's Grocery, the vape shop then 1<sup>st</sup> Street falls between those. Mr. Newton mentioned something to consider is each locality shall by ordinance levy an additional tax on the sale on top of the sales tax. This will be another ordinance we will have to look at. Mr. Newton will continue to research.
- c) Mr. Newton advised the house at 1401 5<sup>th</sup> Street is gone. The buildings around it belong to different owners and he is working with them.
- d) The impound lot that council approved last month is almost complete. Most of the fencing is done and then we will be putting lights around it. A sign will be posted on the lot with the operation rates that council approved tonight.
- e) Mr. Newton discussed the dog attack that happened on the trail this past Saturday. Mr. Dick Griffin was riding his bike on the trail near the Lunenburg Medical Center. This property is owned by the Roanoke Rails-to-Trails and runs almost to the airport. The incident happened in the county, not in the park or in town. Mr. Ray Elliott, Animal Control Officer has picked up one the dogs and is in his possession now.
- f) Mr. Newton updated on Northside Gospel Chapel. Mr. Rick Dunn has finished his survey and through his research, the property still belongs to Northside Gospel Chapel. We are currently waiting on VDOT to make a decision regarding the 40' road frontage.
- g) Mr. Newton asked for town council approval on the following fund transfers:
  - Transfer Fund 27 (Trail Fund) to the Park Fund 56 in the amount of \$545.02 and close out Fund 27.
  - Transfer from the Park Fund 56 \$978.09 to the Campground Fund 54 to close out Fund 54.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to transfer the funds to close out Fund 27(Trail Fund) and Fund 54 (Campground Fund). Motion carried.

- h) Mr. Newton discussed the town pool. Mr. Newton discussed revenue expenditure and anticipated repairs for the upcoming season at last month's meeting. After council discussion, pool rates needed to be looked at. Motion was made by Councilmember Gill and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to increase the Family Membership Pass (4 persons) from \$275.00 to \$350.00 effective May 2026. Motion carried. The single person pass will remain at \$150.00 and daily pass at \$10.00.
- i) Mr. Newton advised we will be getting a new sewer jetter around mid-May so we no longer have to borrow Kenbridge's jetter.
- j) Mr. Newton advised we will be doing community clean-up starting at 9:00am. We will be cleaning the area along the sidewalk by Food Lion and some on the trail. The Kindness Matters Club at Central High School is planning to do clean-up along Twin Cemetery Road on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Then they will work on the trail that Mr. Powell spoke of on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- k) Mr. Newton advised we will be doing semi-annual hydrant flushing on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- l) Mr. Newton advised he will be at a Virginia Rural Water Association (VRWA) conference in Roanoke, VA Monday through Wednesday of next week taking classes.

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Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to adjourn the meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting.

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Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

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Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved May 12, 2026

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Rodney Newton, Town Manager