

Town Council Meeting

February 10, 2026

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on Tuesday, February 10, 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, Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Officer Steven Winslow and Fire Chief Frankie Tanner. Absent was Treasurer Diane Harding.

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Jones 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 declaring the property at 1607 Park Avenue to be blighted and adopting a spot blight abatement plan concerning such property. 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. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised in Information Items (b), Alvin Powell was absent and will be moved to next month's council meeting.

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 Mattox to accept the January 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

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

Officer Steven Winslow presented the Police Report. Officer Winslow advised they had a busy month in January with 310 calls, issued 42 traffic summons and four arrests. Officer Boshier is currently in the final stage of the FTO (Field Training Officer) program. He will soon begin working independently, while still having the support and assistance of other officers as needed. Officer Winslow stated due to snow and icy conditions, inoperable vehicles and clutter in residential yards was temporarily paused. There were no questions regarding the Police Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Frankie Tanner presented the Fire Department report. He advised they had a total of 119 responses for the month of January for Station 2 and Station 7. Chief Tanner advised the Annual VFR banquet was held Saturday, February 7th. There were no questions regarding the

Town Council Meeting

February 10, 2026

Financial Reports for January 2026. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to approve the Fire/Rescue Report as presented. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith asked about the Committee Reports. Councilmember Garrett with the Street Committee advised he and Councilmember Jones met and did not see an issue with removing all the tree's from the street. Councilmember Garrett advised they would like to put pots or planters instead with annuals. Town Manager Newton asked to look for pots that are narrower than what we have now, as it creates issues when opening car doors. Councilmember Jones stated councilmembers can choose what they like to put in place of the tree's. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to authorize removal of the tree's and investigate options or alternatives to use to cover the holes in the grates until such time they can be removed. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the Ordinance No. 26-01 declaring the property at 1607 Park Avenue blighted and authorize eminent domain. Motion carried.
- b) Mr. Newton provided council ordinances from several other towns on the open burn ordinance that was brought up at last month's meeting. Council will review and discuss at next month's meeting.
- c) Mr. Newton updated on the Community Events. The next Skate Night is scheduled for Friday, February 27, 2026. Mr. Pernell is lining up more over the next month or so.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton provided council a copy of the cash balance report as of today. Over the last couple of years, we've been struggling on the water side and have been in the red. When we sold 1220 Main Street those funds were deposited into this. We found an error in where some of our grant monies had been debited and have corrected that. Mr. Newton advised with the Finance Committee's approval last month we had about \$30,000 left in Fund 22 which was the Improvement Fund. Mr. Newton advised moving that over to Fund 20 at the close of business today we were only -\$15,000.00 and within the next couple of days we will be making another deposit.
- b) Mr. Newton discussed the Modest Creek Bridge project. The bridge was removed on January 22, 2026 and our bridge is already in the queue for production. We are hoping to have it back open by late summer. Mr. Newton advised he spoke with B&B Consultants and the survey should be completed by the end of February 2026.
- c) Mr. Newton advised the Main Street blighted property was scheduled to go to court tomorrow, Wednesday, February 11th but due to site conditions and needing a judge to visit the site, the attorney recommended a continuance. No new date has been set yet.

Town Council Meeting

February 10, 2026

- d) Mr. Newton discussed several month's ago and provided council a letter from Northside Gospel Church in regard to Marshall Avenue in front of the property. Mr. Newton provided an update on VDOT's progress and Mr. Dunn's survey for the church.
- e) Mr. Newton provided council a list of legislation bills that were introduced by General Assembly for FY2026. He went through and picked out what he thought was going to have the greatest impact on the town. Mr. Newton advised those items highlighted in red is their bill status as of today, February 10th. Some of them are done for the year while some are still in progress. There were 1,528 bills introduced this year on the House side, and 834 bills on the Senate side. Mr. Newton will keep council updated at next month's council meeting those that have passed.
- f) Mr. Newton discussed the recent snow and ice storm. We pulled out our portable fuel tanks and bought both gas and diesel fuel in case we needed it. We weathered the storm pretty well and only had one outage in town during the whole event. Mr. Newton did advise we had a significant leak at the east wastewater plant last Sunday night into Monday morning, February 1st. We had a one-inch line that froze near the grip machine and ran for about 14 hours. Most of you have heard about the frozen sprinkler system at the VES where we lost probably 10,000-15,000 gallons of water. Mr. Ashworth was notified Monday night of a vacant house on 10th Street that water was still on and found the basement was full of water and running across the yard. This has had a significant impact on the amount of time needed to fill the water tank. Fortunately, we've only had to shut-off four or five residents because of leaks.
- g) Mr. Newton updated on the wastewater plant. We are still working with DEQ on the leachate plan. Mr. Newton advised that because of some of our exceedances in 2025, we will be having a fine from DEQ. We are continuing to take leachate while adding caustic soda to increase pH and decrease ammonia. Meridian Waste is also looking at a pre-treatment process to help reduce the ammonia even more.
- h) Mr. Newton discussed the sewer jet we currently own and provided council photo's. We have had it for approximately 15 years and it no longer works. Mr. Newton met with Joe Johnson Equipment and received a quote of \$97,215.00 for a new sewer jetter. Currently when we need a jetter, we have to borrow from the Town of Kenbridge. Mr. Newton met with the Finance Committee and looked at different options. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Gill to purchase the new sewer jetter. Motion carried. Mr. Newton advised there was a 90-day delivery time and training with also be provided.
- i) Mr. Newton advised they got more of the new process instrumentation online at the water plant. The SCADA upgrade is scheduled to begin on Monday, February 23, 2026. Last month we started pulling water from Modest Creek and did not hear of any differences. Mr. Newton stated Nottoway Falls pumps about 450 gallons a minute while Modest Creek was pumping 650 gallons to the plant. One of the things we're going to be working on during the SCADA upgrade is getting Modest Creek back online.

Town Council Meeting

February 10, 2026

- j) Mr. Newton discussed the sedimentation basin project. The RFP for engineering services will close on February 20th. He has received two proposals and once we review and award the contract, the PER will begin shortly after and be completed sometime in mid-May.
- k) Mr. Newton discussed the Victoria High School. We just put a roof on it and in the last 60-days paid almost \$2,000.00 for propane fuel for two heaters running. Mr. Newton said we have paid a little over \$2,000.00 this year in property insurance and a little over \$400.00 in electrical costs. Mr. Newton recommended meeting with the Victoria High School Preservation Foundation to discuss future plans and to winterize the building.
- l) Mayor Smith advised the VFW Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 28th, starting at 5:00pm. Those who are interested in attending need to respond to him by Friday, February 27th.
- m) Mayor Smith commended Town Manager Rodney Newton and town employee's on doing a great job during the winter storm. He has received a lot of calls commenting on the town for the way their business district was cleaned and visibility of town crews continuously working.

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

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved March 10, 2026

Rodney Newton, Town Manager