

Town Council Meeting

March 10, 2026

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on Tuesday, March 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, Treasurer Diane Harding, Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Chief Camden Lawson and Fire Chief Frankie Tanner.

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Elam followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Town Manager Rodney Newton added Michael Akau, 1617 5th Street to Information Items 11(a). Alvin Powell was absent.

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 Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the February 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 February 2026. Motion carried.

Chief Camden Lawson presented the Police Report. Chief Lawson advised they had a busy month in February with 378 calls, 67 traffic summons and 11 arrests. Officer Boshier is working independently. while still having the support and assistance of other officers as needed. Chief Lawson stated they have followed up on a lot of town ordinances, sent letters and waiting on the time period to follow up. There were no questions regarding the Police Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame 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 86 responses for the month of February for Station 2 and Station 7. He also provided the Annual Report for FY25. Chief Tanner advised the Truck-n- Tractor Pull is scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2026. There were no questions regarding the Financial Reports for January 2026. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the Fire/Rescue Report as presented. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith asked about the Committee Reports. Councilmember Mattox with the Property Committee advised he and Councilmember Jones met with Town Manager Rodney Newton and went to the current police impound lot. The Property Committee found it to be less than desirable. It is very wet and have limited security there. Mr. Newton suggested a new location on town property off Twin Cemetery Road. They found the lot there would be room for both the impound lot and campground project for the Rails to Trails. With the proposed security fence and lighting this would be a great improvement. The Property Committee recommended council approve the proposed impound lot on town property off Twin Cemetery Road. The Property

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Committee along with Town Manager Rodney Newton also toured the old Victoria High School building and agreed they need to meet with the Victoria High School Preservation Foundation directors to discuss any future plans for the building. They have been in contact with the President of the Victoria High School Preservation Foundation and have finalized a meeting on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 2:00pm at the town office.

Informational Items:

- a) Citizen Michael Akau addressed council on some concerns with the town plumbing and transparency from the town office. Mr. Akau contacted the town office about a leak in his yard. He spoke with the utilities clerk on Monday, March 9th and she informed him we have had cold weather and had some damages to our water lines from the cold weather right now. Mr. Akau was upset because he called in about the leak last week but did not receive a call back from the town office. Mr. Kevin Ashworth replaced a gasket today and fixed the water leak. Mr. Akau mentioned the water prices have increased but feels he can't get proper service from the town. Mayor Smith advised Mr. Akau the Town Manager will be handling the town office issue.
- b) The Lunenburg Youth City Council provided a presentation and introduction. They are a premier leadership organization and formal advisory body based in Little Rock, VA. They are a dedicated assembly of the county's most promising young leaders serving a direct link between the rising generation and our local government. They address county issues and identify specific hurdles facing Lunenburg County. For example, improving local recreation, expanding digital access and enhancing public spaces. The Lunenburg Youth City Council would like the town to advocate for them with anticipation of a big community organization that partners with city council. Mayor Smith commended them and their parents for encouraging young people in making our community better.
- c) Mr. Wayne Hoover, President of the Victoria Fire & Rescue presented a proposal for all full-time EMS employee's with VF&R as town employee's. This would provide a benefit package with retirement through VRS (Virginia Retirement System). These employee's would be funded through the existing Town of Victoria appropriations and funds from the VF&R EMS cost recovery. This will not require additional funds from the Town of Victoria. Mr. Hoover has met with Town Manager Rodney Newton several times and discussed the transition to town employee's including administrative reimbursement to the town. Council agreed to table until next month's April council meeting.
- d) Mr. Newton discussed 1401 5th Street. This is one of the addresses he has been working on for property maintenance and blighted property. Mr. Newton met with Mr. John Osborne for discussion and Mr. Osborne offered to gift the property to the town. Mr. Newton recommended to council to pass the resolution presented to accept the Deed of Gift from Mr. John Osborne. Motion made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett. Motion carried. Mr. Newton will work on that tomorrow.
- e) Mr. Newton provided photos of the present impound lot we currently use at the old West Lagoon at Grove pump station. A lot of these are inoperable vehicles that we have pulled off yards. The police department is averaging at least two a week right now. This area is

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no longer suitable. Mr. Newton met with the Property Committee about constructing a new impound lot off Twin Cemetery Road. We will put a 6-foot chain-link fence, three strands of barbed wire on top with a 16-foot gate that is out of sight. We currently have electricity there and a security light is working with the ability to add more lighting. The cost of the fencing for the project will be \$8,600.00 for a 150'x 50' lot. Motion was made by Councilmember Gill and seconded by Councilmember Brame on construction at the new impound lot. Motion carried.

- f) Mr. Newton advised back in August 2025, we held a Public Hearing and council voted to transfer one-third ownership of the Industrial Park off of Old Court Street to the IDA. Attorney Rennie is in the process of doing the deed and we need authorization to sign the resolution. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to move forward with the transfer to the IDA. Motion carried.
- g) Mr. Pernell updated on the Community Events. Our previous Skate Night on Friday, February 27th was an amazing event. Attendance was strong and we had to stop letting people in by 7:00pm. Our next Skate Night is scheduled for March 27, 2026. Mr. Pernell mentioned the annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2026. The Klassy Diva's will be assisting again this year and those who would like to volunteer stuffing eggs can get with him.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton advised Saturday, April 18th at 9:00am we will be picking up trash. We will meet at the flagpole in the park. The LYCC volunteered to help pick up trash.
- b) Mr. Newton advised the FY27 Budget work session will be held on Monday, April 13, 2026 at 6:00pm.
- c) Mr. Newton discussed the water plant. Our SCADA upgrade is 90% complete. He will need a motion for a Public Hearing at the April council meeting so we can amend the water budget to account for the \$80,000.00 SERCAP grant that paid for the SCADA project. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to hold a Public Hearing at next month's council meeting to amend the water budget. Motion carried.
- d) Mr. Newton advised operators at the water plant have been struggling the last couple of weeks with dirty water. We have used Modest Creek multiple times and also now looking at redoing the filters out there. We will have to look at the cost of a contractor versus doing it ourselves. During the SCADA upgrade, they were able to get it back online and operators can control it from the plant now. Mr. Newton advised we received three proposals for the sedimentation basin project and B&B Consultants was awarded the contract. The preliminary engineering report is estimated at \$23,500.00 and an environmental review of \$6,500.00. He has submitted two funding applications to help with the PER of \$23,500.00.

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- e) Mr. Newton advised him and Mr. Grayson Townsend met with DEQ and have been presented with a consent order with a civil fine because of exceedance in our effluent discharges from treating leachate from the Lunenburg Landfill. The cost of the fine is \$75,424.00. Mr. Newton presented council two options if we continue receiving leachate. (1) we would have to, within 30 days, present them with a plan for hauling leachate. That plan would cost about \$10,000.00 to create. We would then be responsible for reporting monthly volumes of leachate, testing results and the amount of treatment applied. If we were to exceed limits 2-months in any six-month period and it's attributed to leachate, we would have to cease taking it. After meeting with DEQ, option (2) is a 50% discount, but with the discount we cease taking leachate. Mr. Newton and Mr. Townsend's recommendation is to take option (2). Basically, this is because of our ammonia level is too high and the exceedances for the discharge. Mr. Newton will be meeting with the Lunenburg Landfill tomorrow.
- f) Mr. Newton advised Mr. Ray Elliott, Animal Control Officer for Lunenburg County captured two cats, one of Lee Avenue and the other on 10th Street and Mr. Elliott had those neutered and released through the program he does.
- g) Mr. Newton discussed the Modest Creek Bridge project. The old bridge was removed and the excavation for the new footings has been completed by our town crew. A bid package should be going out for construction shortly. The bridge has been ordered.
- h) Mr. Newton updated on the Property Maintenance Notice Violations for the following properties:
- Main Street
 - 1607 Park Avenue
 - 709 Court Street
 - 1806 Main Street

There are several more properties he will be looking at over the coming weeks.

- i) Mr. Newton discussed the town pool. We used almost one million gallons of water last season in the months it was open. It takes 100,000 gallons to fill the pool and we use about 8,000-10,000 gallons a day to keep it full because of a leak. This takes the water operators an extra 30 minutes a day to fill the water tank. Mr. Newton discussed revenue expenditure and anticipated repairs for the upcoming season. Mr. Newton asked to table until the work session in April.
- j) Councilmember Mattox asked if the town was planning anything special for the 250th Anniversary of the United States.

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.

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Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved April 14, 2026

Rodney Newton, Town Manager