



**REGULAR MEETING OF STAUNTON CITY COUNCIL**  
**Thursday, February 26, 2026**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Rita S. Wilson Council Chambers**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Michele D. Edwards  
Vice Mayor Brad D. Arrowood  
Adam F. Campbell  
Jeff L. Overholtzer (Remote Participant)  
Blake N. Shepherd  
Alice L. Woods

**ABSENT:** Corrie R. Park

**ALSO PRESENT:** Leslie Beauregard, City Manager  
John Blair, City Attorney

**Mayor Edwards called the meeting to order:** Mayor Edwards called this meeting of Staunton City Council to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

The invocation/moment of silence was given by Mayor Edwards.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Edwards combined the invocation and the Mayor's Report to honor Rita S. Wilson during Black History Month.

Mayor Edwards noted Ms. Wilson's service on the Staunton City Council from 1991 to 2008 including her service as Vice-Mayor. She commented that Ms. Wilson enriched the City of Staunton's civic life.

She pointed out that Ms. Wilson's legacy lives on through her family, the Council Chambers, and the Rita S. Wilson Memorial Scholarship given through the Staunton Community Foundation.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Councilor Overholtzer mentioned that he participated in an Ida B. Wells panel discussion at Mary Baldwin University commemorating the Black Student Alliance’s thirty-year anniversary. He thanked the students for their courage and contributions to the Staunton community.

He also mentioned his attendance at a recent Building Bridges event concerning Habitat for Humanity. He praised the Executive Director, Brad Bryant, for his energy and engagement.

He also encouraged the public to be part of reimagining downtown and thanked Tracy Wile and her architecture students at the Staunton Augusta Art Center for a recent workshop concerning the topic.

Vice-Mayor Arrowood said that he attended the ceremonial groundbreaking of the Arcadia Project with Councilors Woods and Shepherd. He said it was great to see the project moving forward.

Councilor Woods made the following motions out of the Nominations Committee:

Reappoint Jason Clarke to the Library Advisory Board for a three-year term commencing March 1, 2026 and ending February 28, 2029.

Appoint Monica Quarles to the Recreation Advisory Committee for a three-year term commencing March 1, 2026 and ending February 28, 2029.

Appoint Kendrick Kier to the Planning Commission for a four-year term commencing March 1, 2026 and ending February 28, 2030.

Appoint Antwhon Suiter to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission to a term commencing March 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2026.

Appoint Helene Raven Bruno to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission to a term commencing March 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027.

The motion did not require a second, and carried as follows:

Ms. Woods	aye	Ms. Park	Absent
Mr. Shepherd	aye	Vice Mayor Arrowood	aye
Mr. Campbell	aye	Mayor Edwards	aye
Mr. Overholtzer	aye		

**REGULAR MEETING**

**A. Consent Agenda**

**A.1. Approval of Minutes**

**Work Session and Regular Meeting of February 12, 2026**

**A.2. Consideration of Application to the Virginia Tourism Corporation Destination Marketing Organization Marketing Grant**

**A.3. Consideration of Updated Cooperation Agreement Between the Staunton Redevelopment and Housing Authority and the City of Staunton**

Mayor Edwards made the following statement:

“Per Procedure Memorandum No. 14, it is the policy of City Council to have routine, non-controversial items placed on a Consent Agenda. All items on the Consent Agenda will be voted on in one motion. If separate discussion of an item is requested by any member of Council, that item shall be removed and considered separately at the end of the regular meeting agenda.”

Mayor Edwards asked if any Councilmembers desired to remove any item from the Consent Agenda to be placed on the regular meeting agenda for separate consideration.

Councilor Campbell moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Woods and carried as follows:

Ms. Woods	aye	Ms. Park	Absent
Mr. Shepherd	aye	Vice Mayor Arrowood	aye
Mr. Campbell	aye	Mayor Edwards	aye
Mr. Overholtzer	aye		

**B. Public Hearing for Ordinance to Amend the FY2026 Budget Ordinance for the City of Staunton by Adding Budget Amendment Number Two**

Jessie Moyers, Chief Financial Officer, presented the following information:

The second budget amendment for fiscal year 2026 has been prepared for review and discussion. The total budget amendment equals \$24,200,424. This budget amendment does require a public hearing, which was properly advertised on February 18, 2026 in the News Leader. Discussion and the public hearing are scheduled for February 26, 2026 and consideration of the ordinance is scheduled for the March 12, 2026 City Council meeting.

City Budget Amendment— \$20,611,027

1. General Fund amendment of \$9,959,834
  - \$9,203,386 – Appropriate Prior Year Fund Balance
  - \$34,310 – Appropriate Recovered Costs

- \$114,700 – Appropriate Opioid Settlement Funds
  - \$607,438 – Appropriate Grants and Contributions
2. Grants Fund amendment of \$28,197
    - \$8,499 – Appropriate First Responders Wellness grant
    - \$7,708 – Appropriate PSAP Equipment grant
    - \$11,990 – Appropriate DCJS grant
  3. Capital Improvement Fund amendment of \$9,120,758
    - \$4,594,788 – Appropriate Transfers from City General Fund
    - \$25 – Appropriate Recovered Cost
    - \$750,000 – Appropriate Interest Revenue
    - \$3,775,945 – Appropriate Grant Revenue
  4. Bond Fund amendment of \$361,393
    - \$361,393 – Appropriate Interest Earned
  5. Blue Ridge Court Services amendment of \$(10,600)
    - \$(10,600) – Adjust Grant Revenue
  6. Water Fund amendment of \$1,151,145
    - \$1,151,145 – Appropriate Proceeds from Bond Issuance
  7. Environmental Fund amendment of \$300
    - \$300 – Adjust DEQ Grant Revenue

School Budget Amendment—\$3,589,397

1. Education Fund amendment of \$1,880,680
  - \$3,469 – Appropriate Insurance Proceeds
  - \$712,694 – Appropriate Prior Year Fund Balance
  - \$1,164,517 – Appropriate Grant Revenue
2. School SOP Fund amendment of \$31,376
  - \$31,376 – Appropriate Grant Revenue
3. School Cafeteria Fund amendment of \$77,760
  - \$63,658 – Appropriate Prior Year Fund Balance
  - \$14,102 – Appropriate Transfer from Education Fund
4. School Textbook Fund amendment of \$958,584
  - \$958,584 – Appropriate Prior Year Fund Balance
5. School CIP Fund amendment of \$640,997
  - \$245,997 – Appropriate Grant Revenue
  - \$225,000 – Appropriate Transfer from Education Fund
  - \$170,000 – Appropriate Transfer from City CIP Fund

Councilor Woods asked if the park and ride lights are in addition to the solar lights already mounted? Ms. Moyers said they were additional lights.

Mayor Edwards inquired if there will be enough funds for a healthy fire vehicle replacement fund. Ms. Moyers replied that there were enough funds to order the next vehicle in January 2027. She noted that delivery is usually two to three years from the order date.

Mayor Edwards stated the following:

“In a moment, I will open the Public Hearing. It is a time that Council sets aside to hear from citizens and others about a specific topic.

We ask that you please give your name, your address, and then keep your remarks at five minutes or less. When you reach the five-minute time limit, I will let you know that your time limit has expired.

For our Zoom participants, please raise your hand now if you wish to speak on this particular matter. If you raise your hand during this Public Hearing, you will also be able to raise your hand during this Council meeting for other Public Hearings and Matters from the Public. Please keep your comments to five minutes. Once everyone who wishes to speak has had an opportunity, I will then close the Public Hearing.

I will now open the Public Hearing, so if you wish to speak, please approach the podium. We will alternate between individuals physically present and those that have their hands raised via the Zoom platform.”

The public hearing was opened.

Aaron Barmer inquired about the 599-line item for \$43,758 and the \$25,000 line-item U.S. Marshalls Task Force and wanted more details about those items.

Ms. Moyers replied that the state allocates the 599 funds and increased Staunton’s allocation after the budget was adopted. She did not have information about the U.S. Marshalls line item and stated that she would get back to Mr. Barmer with further information concerning his request.

### **C. Discussion of Proposed FY 2027 – FY 2031 Capital Improvement Plan**

Chief Finance Officer, Jessie Moyers, introduced the proposed FY 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for all City funds and the School CIP Fund. The School Board reviewed the School CIP at their January 2026 meeting and adopted the plan at their February 2026 school board meeting.

The Planning Commission conducted a public hearing and adopted the proposed CIP at their February 19, 2026 meeting. A work session to further review the CIP will be held on April 2, 2026. A public hearing on both the operating and capital budget will occur on April 9, 2026. Final consideration of the CIP is scheduled for City Council on April 23, 2026.

Ms. Moyers presented information about new reserves including an Infrastructure Repairs and Improvement Fund as well as the Environmental Sustainability and Resilience Fund.

She also highlighted new projects for Fiscal Year 2027 including the Reimagine Booker T. Washington School project, the New Hope Road sewer pump station, and the Richmond Avenue water line replacement.

Councilor Shepherd asked if any money from the Water or Sewer Funds are being used for the Wharf tunnel repairs. City Engineer, Lyle Hartt, replied that money from those funds was not being used for the repairs.

Councilor Campbell asked if the Green Hills Industrial Park basin retrofit is about converting a dry project into a wet project. Ms. Moyers stated that it would convert an existing dry basin into wet ponds for sediment.

Councilor Overholtzer asked if the City had looked at issuing additional debt for large projects such as a new fire station or new police station. Ms. Moyers and the City Manager replied that with the current debt for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and the high school that they are not currently looking at issuing more debt for large projects.

Councilor Overholtzer asked if the City is pursuing grants for the North River waterline project. Ms. Moyers stated that the City is starting a study and that study will look at potential grants for the project.

Councilor Campbell asked when the City was going out to bid for the design of the Uniontown utilities. Ms. Moyers said that she believes that project will go out to bid this fiscal year.

Mayor Edwards concluded by noting that the survey results indicated that residents wanted better infrastructure. She noted that many of the major capital projects are unfunded and that they don't come cheap.

### **MATTERS FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

Ms. Beauregard presented updates and information on the following items:

There will be a Comprehensive Plan stakeholder meeting for Staunton's deaf residents on March 4, 2026 on the second floor of the Staunton Public Library between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m.

### **MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Edwards read the following statement:

"This part of City Council's agenda is entitled matters from the public. It is a time that Council sets aside to hear from citizens and others about a wide variety of subjects. A copy of the Staunton City Council's 'Matters from the Public' rules is available in paper form at the Clerk's desk and online at the City of Staunton webpage. You are asked to familiarize yourself with those rules before

commenting. Please come to the podium or raise your hand, identify yourself, and complete your remarks within five minutes.”

Mark Hopp spoke against mass surveillance techniques. He noted that many agencies did not comply with state mandates concerning automatic license plate readers. He also noted that over 800 individuals have signed a petition to remove Flock cameras in Harrisonburg. He stated that data centers are causing harm to the environment and one of the main drivers of data center construction is mass surveillance.

Aaron Barner encouraged residents to watch the documentary “Threads of History: A Conversation With A Community” on Professor Allan Moye. He said the documentary is moving. He also stated that it focuses on Staunton elders, some of whom are no longer with us. He stated that the film provided insight into Rita S. Wilson. He criticized the sitting executive and his cronies for the unending brutality and inequality visited upon African Americans and other people of color.

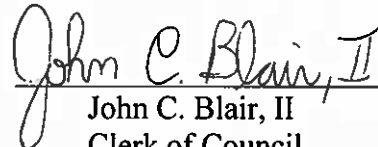
Karen Ress pointed out her concern for the community survey’s results regarding economic insecurity and child care. She also suggested a potential opt-in option for curbside recycling. Finally, she suggested that electric vehicles be considered as replacement vehicles for the City fleet.

Barbara Lee thanked Mayor Edwards for recognizing Rita Wilson.

Emma Kirby proposed the City operating a cooling and warming shelter for its residents.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

  
John C. Blair, II  
Clerk of Council



City Council  
 WORK SESSION  
 Rita S. Wilson City Council Chambers  
 February 26, 2026  
 5:30 p.m.

Council Members present: Mayor Edwards, Vice Mayor Arrowood, and Councilors Campbell, Overholtzer (remote participant), Shepherd, and Woods.

Council Member absent: Park.

Mayor Edwards called this meeting of Staunton City Council to order.

Councilor Overholtzer requested to remotely participate in the work session and regular meeting from his personal residence at 309 Rainbow Drive in Staunton, Virginia.

Councilor Woods moved that Councilor Overholtzer be permitted to remotely participate in the work session and regular meeting.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Campbell and carried as follows:

Ms. Woods	aye	Vice Mayor Arrowood	aye
Mr. Campbell	aye	Mayor Edwards	aye
Mr. Shepherd	aye		

**1. Consideration of Work Session and Regular Meeting Agendas**

Consistent with Procedural Memorandum No. 3, the agendas were presented for Council consideration.

Councilor Woods moved to approve the work session and regular meeting agendas as presented.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Shepherd and carried as follows:

Ms. Park	Absent	Mr. Shepherd	aye
Mr. Overholtzer	aye	Vice Mayor Arrowood	aye
Ms. Woods	aye	Mayor Edwards	aye
Mr. Campbell	aye		

## **2. Review of City Council Procedure Memoranda**

John Blair, City Attorney, presented the following information:

In 2025, City Council amended Staunton City Code Section 2.10.105. Prior to this amendment, the Staunton City Council approved its Memoranda of Procedure at its organizational meeting.

During the February 2025 Retreat, City Council agreed with staff that it could be awkward to have a Councilmember vote at their first meeting on unfamiliar procedural rules. Therefore, Council amended the code section to require the City Council to review the procedures on an annual basis at any time of the calendar year.

Councilor Campbell asked about the special meeting provision in Memorandum 16 and inquired about how it could be altered to avoid staff preparing for a meeting for which a quorum would not be present. Mr. Blair explained that the Staunton City Charter contains the language contained in the Memorandum and that it could not be altered without a City Charter amendment.

Mayor Edwards reminded her colleagues of the language in Memorandum 17 before any invocation. The City Manager stated that the language would be added to the DAIS agendas in the future.

Mr. Blair stated that the Procedures would be on the Council’s Consent Agenda at its March 12, 2026 meeting.

## **3. Presentation and Discussion of Results from 2025 National Community Survey**

Josh Knight, Engagement and Communications Manager, presented the following information:

The City of Staunton partnered with Polco to conduct the biennial National Community Survey (NCS). This statistically valid, randomized survey measures quality of life and resident satisfaction with government services, including the economy, mobility, community design, utilities, safety, and the natural environment.

This is the second time the City has conducted this survey through Polco. The first survey was in early 2024. Having two years of results now allows the City to establish trend data and gain deeper insights into shifting resident satisfaction.

To ensure a representative sample, 3,000 randomly selected households received a mailed invitation with a link to complete the survey online. A paper version of the survey was also mailed to the same households to ensure accessibility. All responses are completely confidential and anonymous.

To ensure every resident had a voice, the City also hosted an open, community-wide online version in late October. Both the community-wide survey and the randomly sampled, statistically significant survey remained open until Nov. 11.

The City's management team and department directors have reviewed the survey results and provided feedback on the data. A summary presentation of the survey results, incorporating departmental insights, was provided during the work session.

Mayor Edwards thanked Mr. Knight for the presentation. She stated that she was happy to see the good results, but also glad for the data that highlighted areas that needed improvement so that the Council could target those areas.

Councilor Campbell urged staff not to focus on the open data, but to keep an eye on its trend and any discrepancies between it and the random sample survey.

Vice-Mayor Arrowood commented that maybe a better dissemination of recycling messaging concerning the availability of a single location drop-off could improve the recycling finding.

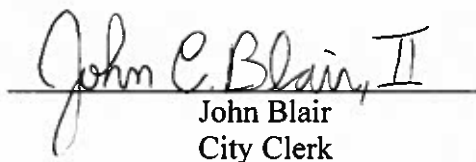
The City Manager stated that recycling education is now part of the Council's strategic plan and that a single location drop-off point allows the City to better adapt to changing market conditions for recycling material demand.

Councilor Woods complimented the City's recent messaging on what materials could be recycled.

Councilor Shepherd stated that there is a perception problem with the infrastructure finding. He stated that Columbia Gas' work on Churchville Avenue may be perceived as a problem with city infrastructure, when it has nothing to do with the city. The City Manager agreed.

Councilor Overholtzer complimented the survey. However, he pointed out that the questions were closed ended and did not permit comments. He suggested that a focus group or representative ad hoc group be formed to gather suggestions on how to improve recycling in the city.

The February 12, 2026 Staunton City Council Work Session adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

  
John Blair  
City Clerk