



**REGULAR MEETING OF STAUNTON CITY COUNCIL  
Thursday, March 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  
Corrie R. Park  
Blake N. Shepherd  
Alice L. Woods

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Leslie Beauregard, City Manager  
Amanda DiMeo, Acting Assistant 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 Councilor Park.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Edwards congratulated the School Board, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. McCray for the recent School Transportation Hub grand opening. She also thanked all bus drivers and maintenance staff for providing safe transportation for Staunton students.

She also thanked residents for reaching out to her to express their concerns and ideas about the upcoming budget process.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Councilor Overholtzer said that he was excited and thankful that the Staunton Farmers’ Market would be moving to West Beverley Street at the new Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courthouse for the 2026 calendar year as repairs proceed at the Wharf.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**A. Consent Agenda (Note: A copy of all Ordinances and Resolutions approved on the Consent Agenda shall appear at the conclusion of these minutes.)**

**A.1. Approval of Minutes  
Work Session and Regular Meeting of March 12, 2026**

**A.2. Consideration of Resolution to Dissolve the City of Staunton Cable Commission**

**A.3. Consideration of Resolution Approving City Council Summer Meeting Schedule for 2026**

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 Park moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

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

**B. Presentation of Proposed FY 2027 Budget**

The City Manager and Jessie Moyers, the City's Chief Financial Officer, presented details of the FY 2027 Proposed Budget to City Council including: . This presentation was the official kick off to a series of public hearings and work sessions that will result in the scheduled consideration to adopt the FY 2027 Operating and Capital Budget on April 23, 2026.

City Council was presented with the budget document, and all materials are posted on the City's website at <https://www.ci.staunton.va.us/departments/finance/city-budget> .

The City Manager also presented the following schedule for the Council's consideration and adoption of the FY 2027 Operating and Capital Budget:

#### FY 2027 Work Session and Public Hearing Schedule

March 26 Presentation of the FY 2027 Proposed Budget – 7:00 p.m.

April 2 Special Meeting - Budget Work Session – 5:00 p.m.

April 9 Budget Work Session (Joint with City Schools followed by City Only)– 5:00 p.m.  
Public Hearing of FY 2027 Proposed Budget and Fee Increases – 7:00 p.m.

April 16 Special Meeting - Budget Work Session – 7:00 p.m. (Following Planning Commission Meeting)

The City Manager stated that the budget does not propose any increases in the real estate, personal property, meals, or lodging tax rates. It does propose increasing the tax on a pack of cigarettes from thirty cents to forty cents resulting in a projected revenue increase of approximately \$90,000.00.

The City Manager noted that there would be a 7.7% increase in local funding to the school division if the proposed budget is adopted.

Ms. Moyers noted that one significant decrease in expenditures for the City and the Middle River Regional Jail is that the Virginia Retirement System is lowering its required defined benefit rate contribution from the City to 14.54%. Previously, the contribution rate was 16.77%.

The City Manager and Chief Financial Officer's entire presentation can be found at:

<https://www.ci.staunton.va.us/home/showpublisheddocument/13655/639101468350000000>

Councilor Overholtzer asked for clarification about the unfunded hazardous duty multiplier.

Ms. Moyers explained that it was a local option. While it would increase retirement benefits for employees of the fire and police departments as well as the Sheriff's Office, it would result in a higher annual cost for the City.

Mayor Edwards asked if a future Council could reverse a decision for the City to approve the hazardous duty multiplier.

Ms. Moyers responded that once the City agreed to provide the hazardous duty multiplier, the decisions would be revocable by a future Council.

Mayor Edwards asked for more details about the unfunded library computer request.

Ms. Moyers stated that the computers were nearing five years old, and that is close to their replacement date.

Mayor Edwards asked about the \$900,000.00 debt sinking fund transfer.

Ms. Moyers stated that there is a debt service fund balance used for that payment. The balance is scheduled to exhaust on the same year that the Staunton Crossing debt is scheduled to be retired.

Councilor Shepherd noted that even if the proposed utility fee increases are enacted that the City would still have lower rates than surrounding localities.

Mayor Edwards asked what the average fee increases would be for a Staunton household.

The City Manager stated that it is in her budget message which states that the average water fund fee increase would be \$15.84, \$28.80 for the sewer fund increase, and \$41.88 for the environmental fund fee increase.

Councilor Overholtzer complimented the budget for being more inclusive of capital expenditures rather than relying on potential carryover funding.

Councilor Campbell asked if the City should eliminate the parking fund.

Ms. Moyers said that unless operational changes are made, the parking fund would eventually be eliminated and the expenditures would be incorporated into the general budget.

Councilor Campbell asked that staff provide more information about landfill finances and expenditures at a future budget work session.

The City Manager said she would do so.

The City Manager also highlighted that the Fiscal Year 2026 budget received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association.

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

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

The Farmers' Market will begin on April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courthouse. Forty vendors are expected at this year's Farmers' Market.

The Public Works Department will conduct its heavy trash collection from April 6 to April 17. Residents are asked to have all heavy trash items at the curb no later than 6:30 a.m. on April 6. Once crews pass through a neighborhood for heavy trash items, they will not return to that neighborhood.

The Public Works Department will conduct its bulky brush collection beginning on April 20. Residents are asked to have all bulk brush at the curb no later than 6:30 a.m. on April 20.

The Public Works Department will have a tire disposal event at Gypsy Hill Park Football Stadium on April 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be a Flood Resiliency Plan community listening session on April 15 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the second floor meeting room of the Staunton Public Library.

### **MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC**

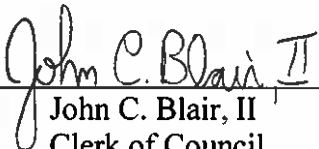
Mayor Edwards read the following statement:

“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.”

No individuals offered public comment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

  
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John C. Blair, II  
Clerk of Council

**RESOLUTION DISSOLVING  
CABLE COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, in 1988, the Staunton City Council created the Staunton Cable Commission; and

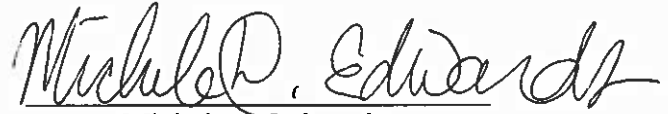
**WHEREAS**, subsequent state and federal legal and regulatory changes have greatly diminished the ability for localities to negotiate cable and other telecommunications franchises; and

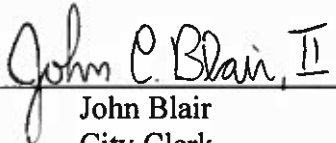
**WHEREAS**, the Staunton City Council conducted a Work Session on March 12, 2026 to discuss the potential dissolution of the Staunton Cable Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, these recitals are an integral part of this Resolution.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Staunton City Council hereby abolishes and dissolves the Staunton Cable Commission.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Staunton City Council thanks the current members of the Staunton Cable Commission for their service to the City of Staunton.

  
Michele D. Edwards,  
Mayor

ATTEST:   
John Blair  
City Clerk

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STAUNTON  
ESTABLISHING DATES FOR  
REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STAUNTON  
FOR THE PERIOD OF  
JUNE, 2026 THROUGH  
DECEMBER, 2026**

**RECITALS**

A. Section 6 of Chapter II of the Charter of the City of Staunton provides that regular meetings of the Council must occur at least once per month and that Council meet at such times as prescribed by ordinance or resolution;

B. Section 2.10.070 of the Staunton City Code provides that Council will hold regular meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at such hour as it may designate and at any other time to which it may be regularly adjourned or postponed;

C. For the months of June and July 2026, City Council has determined that it will not meet on the second Thursday, and for the months of November and December 2026, City Council has determined that it will not meet on the fourth Thursday due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, respectively, which Council recognizes as holidays observed by the City;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia, that:

1. Regular meetings of the Council shall be held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month for the period of June, 2026 through December, 2026, at City Hall, 116 West Beverley Street, Staunton, Virginia, at 7:00 p.m. or at such earlier or other time or place as may be designated by the published agenda for any meeting or session of Council, except Council shall only meet on the fourth Thursday of June and July, 2026, and only meet on the second Thursday of November and December, 2026

2. In the event the Mayor, or the Vice-Mayor, if the Mayor is unable to act, finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members of the Council to attend a regular meeting, such regular meeting shall be continued to the next Monday. Such finding and declaration shall be communicated to the members of the Council and the media as promptly as possible. And to the fullest extent permitted by law, all hearings and other matters previously advertised shall be conducted at the continued meeting and no further advertisement is required.

Adopted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

ATTEST: John C. Blair, II  
John Blair, Clerk of Council

Michele D. Edwards  
Michele D. Edwards, Mayor



City Council  
 WORK SESSION  
 Rita S. Wilson City Council Chambers  
 March 26, 2026  
 5:15 p.m.

Council Members present: Mayor Edwards, Vice Mayor Arrowood, and Councilors Campbell, Overholtzer, Park, Shepherd, and Woods.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**2. Demonstration of Capital Projects Interactive Map**

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

In collaboration with GIS Coordinator, Jessica Wright, the city has developed an interactive Capital Projects Map to provide a visual dashboard of Staunton’s infrastructure investments. This tool tracks projects through planning, construction, and completion phases based on the Capital Improvement Plan. Residents can filter data by construction year, department, and project type to access specific details, including project costs, timelines, and direct contact information.

The launch of this platform directly supports the city’s core value of fostering community engagement. By providing residents with timely, accurate, and meaningful information about city capital projects, this modern digital platform fulfills a priority in City Council’s Staunton Plan under the strategic goal area of An Informed and Engaged Community.

Mr. Knight then offered a demonstration of the Interactive Map by using the Staunton Steam Laundry Sanitary Sewer Project as an example.

Councilor Woods then stated she enjoyed seeing funding sources as part of the Interactive Map.

Vice-Mayor Arrowood then asked if it might be possible to get in more detail about specific funding sources such as VDOT smart scale funding. He pointed out that some might see the cost of the Edgewood sidewalk project and believe that the City is spending \$5 million when most of that funding is not local funding.

Councilor Overholtzer asked if the paving schedule could be added to the Interactive Map.

Mr. Knight said he thought that could be accomplished.

Councilor Campbell asked if there might be one master Excel file that could be updated automatically.

Mr. Knight said he would work with Jessica Wright on that issue.

Councilor Campbell complimented the project.

Mr. Knight concluded by thanking Jessica Wright for all of her work on the project.

### **3. Discussion and Input on the Conceptual Site Plan for Remainder of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Site**

Rodney Rhodes, Community Development Director, presented the following information:

Background: At the March 12, 2026 Work Session, staff presented to City Council a very preliminary conceptual plan for the remainder of the former Chestnut Hills shopping center site adjacent to the newly opened JDR District Courthouse on West Beverley Street.

During the work session, City Council provided initial feedback on the concept plan. At this time, staff needs a consensus and concrete direction from City Council before we engage Moseley Architects to create a Master Plan. Some of the feedback staff heard at the work session on March 12th includes the following (staff comments are in italics):

1. Land Use, Site Optimization & City Needs

- Does the current concept represent the highest and best use of the property, particularly given its relationship to the courthouse? This presents an opportunity to reassess long term civic needs.
- Redevelopment of Former Building Footprints: The areas where buildings were previously demolished may offer opportunities for new structures that support city operations or community uses. (Developing this area would impact the trails, stormwater facilities, and possibly the flexible open space – the most logical place to relocate an enlarged bioretention facility.)
- Preservation of Beverley Street Frontage: The frontage along Beverley Street is a valuable civic asset and should be maximized and preserved for public facing uses.

## 2. Access, Circulation, Pedestrian Infrastructure and Neighborhood Connectivity

- Secondary Exit to Beverley Street: Determine whether this exit should be retained, modified, or repurposed under future site configurations. (Originally the eastern entrance was considered as an access for court personnel; however, this was not pursued. Therefore, it could be repurposed to provide additional green space along Beverley Street.)
- Access to Beverley Court and Adjacent Neighborhoods: There is interest in exploring additional pedestrian access points. (Any new connections would require acquisition of easements.)
- Potential Sidewalk Connection via Stella Mia’s- Investigate whether a pedestrian easement or cooperative agreement could be pursued to improve sidewalk continuity and reduce pedestrian/vehicle conflict. Sidewalks should be located along the western edge of the access road rather than routed through parking areas to enhance safety, ADA compliance, and overall walkability. (In the past, Stella Mia’s was not receptive to providing a pedestrian easement through their property and Columbia Gas now has an easement along the western side of the access road.)
- The possibility of developing the front section of the paper alley should be reviewed to determine whether it could provide additional usable space.
- Safe Routes to School (Grubert Project)- Is there an opportunity to integrate sidewalk enhancements that would strengthen pedestrian safety and connectivity. (The concept plan ties into the existing Safe Routes to School crosswalk; however, additional improvements should be considered at this intersection.)

## 3. Open Space & Environmental Considerations

- Hillside Area- Due to steep grades, this portion of the site is best suited for passive open space rather than development.
- A flexible open area that can support events, gatherings, and seasonal programming is strongly supported. Drive through aisles may not be needed around the flexible open space.

- Permeable Parking Surfaces- While costly, incorporating permeable materials in the parking lot would support stormwater management goals and reduce heat island effects.

#### 4. Parking Requirements & Courthouse Coordination

- Assessment of parking demand and code requirements is needed to determine the appropriate number of spaces. (A parking assessment will be completed once a determination is made on future uses of the site. Any parking plan for the site will need to include the availability of 100 spaces for Stella Mia's, as required by deed restrictions.)
- Evaluate proposed ideas/changes with Courthouse stakeholders for potential conflicts regarding functions, security, access, deliveries, and emergency response.

#### 5. Transit Considerations

- Courthouse Bus Stop - account for a future eastbound stop on West Beverley Street, including space for a bench, shelter, and ADA compliant boarding area. (While the new Bus Stop on the north side of Beverley Street should be sufficient to handle to current demand, ridership should be monitored to determine when/if a new and improved bus stop is warranted.)

As was reviewed at the March 12th Work Session, the development of a Master Plan for the entire Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courthouse site was included in the scope of services with Moseley Architects as they developed plans for the new courthouse. The plan would provide a vision of what the entire Chestnut Hills site could look like and funding for the plan was secured through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). However, due to the time constraints placed on constructing the new courthouse, the development of the Master Plan was not undertaken at the time that Moseley Architects developed the courthouse plans. The city now intends to pursue a Master Plan for the site, utilizing the existing ARPA funds; however, the plan needs to be completed by December 2026.

Mr. Rhodes centered the discussion around the first two questions concerning land use and the redevelopment of the former building footprints.

Councilor Overholtzer asked what the total square footage of the former building pads is.

Mr. Rhodes stated 47,652 square feet.

Mayor Edwards asked about existing space need studies and their application, if any, to the site.

The City Manager responded that while space need studies for the Police and Fire Departments have been completed, it does not appear that the site could accommodate either entity.

Councilor Campbell asked if the City needed a detention pond or could it use underground storage.

Mr. Rhodes stated that while underground stormwater detention methods are good for quantity, they are not good for quality measures of stormwater.

Councilor Park asked about potentially undergrounding the trail feature. Councilor Shepherd pointed to a similar concept concerning parking at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Councilor Campbell stated that he really liked the concept of Generations Park in Bridgewater as a possible concept for the portion of the site near West Beverley Street.

Councilor Woods stated that she liked the potential shard space use.

Councilor Overholtzer states that the use of permeable pavers would decrease the space needed for a stormwater detention pond.

After more discussion, the Council came to a consensus to preserve approximately half of the former building pad sites for potential redevelopment into court service functions. The Council urged the use of permeable pavers. It also asked to preserve as much space as possible for shared space indoor and outdoor uses.

Councilor Overholtzer asked about next steps.

Mr. Rhodes stated that he would bring Council’s thoughts back to Moseley, the design firm working on the master plan. He noted that the funds for the master plan have to be expended before the conclusion of the calendar year.

Mayor Edwards asked if the plan would come back before Council prior to its completion. The City Manager said she would bring a draft of the plan to Council before the end of the calendar year, when the plan must be finalized.

**4. Closed Meeting for the Performance of the City Manager and Discussion of a Public Contract**

Councilor Campbell moved to enter a closed meeting for (i) the discussion of the performance of the Staunton City Manager pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1); and (ii) the discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds for fluoride infrastructure where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(29).

The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Arrowood and carried as follows:

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


The Council reconvened after the closed meeting.

Councilor Campbell moved that Council reconvene in an open meeting and certify to the best of each member’s knowledge that only lawfully exempted public business matters were discussed and that only public business matters as identified in the closed meeting motion were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting.

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

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

The March 26, 2026 Staunton City Council Work Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

  
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John Blair  
City Clerk