



**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 4th 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

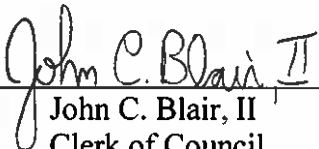
Mayor Edwards read the following statement:

“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.



John C. Blair, II
Clerk of Council

**RESOLUTION DISSOLVING
CABLE COMMISSION**

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

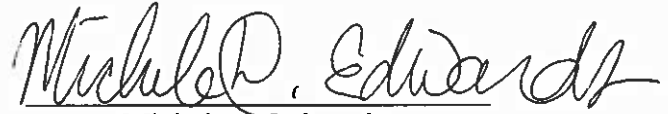
WHEREAS, subsequent state and federal legal and regulatory changes have greatly diminished the ability for localities to negotiate cable and other telecommunications franchises; and

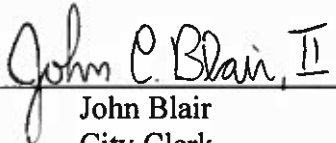
WHEREAS, the Staunton City Council conducted a Work Session on March 12, 2026 to discuss the potential dissolution of the Staunton Cable Commission; and

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 26th day of March, 2026.

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

Michele D. Edwards
Michele D. Edwards, Mayor