

## Town Council Meeting

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January 13, 2026

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on Tuesday, January 13, 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 Brame followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Councilmember Gill asked to speak about burning barrels. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Gill as item (d) under Information Items. Mayor Smith asked to speak about the tree in front of the town office. Mayor Smith was added as item (e) under Information Items.

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 Brame to accept the December 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to accept the Treasurer's Report for December 2025. Motion carried.

Chief Camden Lawson presented the Police Report. Chief Lawson advised they had a busy month in December with 270 calls, issued 78 traffic summons and seven arrests. Overall, for FY2025 they handled a total of 3,487 calls for service, served 98 misdemeanor warrants and 18 felony warrants, handled 13 direct indictments from the grand jury, executed six TDO's (Temporary Detention Orders) and issued 486 traffic summons. Chief Lawson welcomed Officer Hunner Boshier. Officer Boshier graduated from the police academy in December 2025 and has begun the FTO (Field Training Officer) process. Chief Lawson stated Officer Boshier is performing well and adapting quickly. He must complete a minimum of 100 FTO hours prior to being released for solo patrol. 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. Chief Tanner provided both November and December reports due to his absence last month. He stated they had a total of 110 responses for the month of December for Station 2 and Station 7. Chief Tanner provided the annual 2025 report with a total of 1,426 calls combined fire and EMS calls. Chief Tanner updated on Truck 2. They are installing new lights, tires and reassembling new turbo. Once they finish up and do the aero testing, Chief Tanner expects to have the truck sometime in February 2026. Chief Tanner also provided council their new Election of Officers for 2026. There were no questions regarding the Financial Reports for November 2025 and December 2025. Motion

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was made by Councilmember Gill and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Fire/Rescue Report as presented. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith asked about the Committee Reports. Councilmember Mattox with the Park and Recreational Committee advised he and Councilmember Elam met with Mr. Joel King, a new resident in the Town of Victoria, who is an artist. Mr. King volunteered to paint a mural on the back of the old yard building in the park. Councilmember Mattox advised the town will take care of patching a few cracks in the back of the building and purchase the paint for the mural. Several mural mockups were provided. The Park and Recreational Committee chose the 25 locomotive. That train is more historically accurate for what came through the town. Mr. King recommended putting a varnish on it as this will make it last longer and protect it from the weather. This mural is expected to add visual interest to the park for residents and visitors. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Jones to move forward with purchasing the paint and supplies needed to repair the building for the mural. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith provided council the current Committee Assignments and asked if anyone would like to explore a different committee or make changes.

### Informational Items:

- a) Mr. Newton asked council's consideration reappointing Mrs. Linda Walker to the Victoria Planning Commission. This will be a four-year term retroactive to March 9, 2025 through March 9, 2029. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to reappoint Mrs. Linda Walker to the Victoria Planning Commission. Motion carried.
- b) Mr. Newton discussed Blighted Property at 1607 Park Avenue. This was the house that burned in March 2024 and property notice violations have been sent with no response. Mr. Newton requested to schedule a Public Hearing for the February council meeting to adopt a spot blight ordinance for this property. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to schedule a Public Hearing at the February council meeting for Blighted Property. Motion carried.
- c) Mr. William Pernell updated on the Community Events. All Skate Nights have been scheduled through July 2026. The next Skate Night will be held on February 27, 2026. Mr. Pernell advised the Food Truck Rodeos have been scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. Mr. Pernell discussed the annual DMV Transaction Report for 2025. The town office experienced a high volume of transactions with 195 original titles processed, 1,044 title transfers, 1,071 original registrations, 3,209 registration renewals, 734 registration surrenders and 899 vehicles marked as sold. In addition, the DMV Select collected \$138,353.49 in sales tax with a total gross collections of \$471,933.17 with a gross collection return to the town totaling \$21,236.99. Mayor Smith thanked the office staff for their work.
- d) Councilmember Gill discussed burning rubbish on the street. There is a house on the corner of Court Street and Mecklenburg Avenue that seems to constantly have a burn barrel. It smokes up the whole neighborhood and didn't know if we could look at our

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town ordinance. Mr. Newton advised we probably need to send to our attorney, Mr. Reenie to review. Meanwhile, Chief Lawson and the Victoria PD will keep check on this. Councilmember Jones has had some complaints about smoke in the area.

- e) Mayor Smith talked about the tree in front of the town office. It blocks the message board and several citizens have also mentioned it. Mayor Smith asked council about removing the tree in front of the town office and doesn't know what the other trees look like in town. Chief Lawson advised the tree in front of the PD is split in the middle. Mayor Smith advised the Street Committee to discuss some idea's and develop a plan to possibly remove all of them. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to remove the tree in front of the town office and the Street Committee to bring back a plan or idea's for the remaining trees. Motion carried.

### Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton updated on the water plant. Things are continuing to improve until Sunday after the rain on Saturday. Mr. Newton advised it has put the river in a state that none of the operators have seen before. We attempted to make water today but could not so they are pumping from Modest Creek now. It is much cleaner than the river and appeared to be much more stable. Mr. Newton advised they are planning to run most of the night to get caught up.
- b) Mr. Newton discussed the Asset Management Plan from last month. Ms. Tamara Anderson from Thompson and Litton was here on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> taking pictures at both the raw water input, pump houses along with the water filtration plant. Ms. Anderson is working with the grant that we got to help populate our asset management system.
- c) Mr. Newton met with Sam Carroll with B&B Consultants on the sedimentation basin project. He provided a slide showing a connection for future expansion on the old drawings and has verified its location. This is a savings grace for us on this project because it appears now that we will be able to build to the backside of the plant while the two basins we have now in operation, they will be able to tie into it. Mr. Newton requested permission to post a Request for Proposals for engineering services on the Virginia Procurement System so he can apply for a VDH grant to help pay for the preliminary engineering report. He stated we can apply for a grant up to \$45,000. The VDH construction grants has been pushed back and are due by August 7, 2026. Along with that, Mr. Newton would like permission to contact the forester we have been using for the town to cut the seven acres that we just bought and any other trees around the water plant to help with leaves in the basins. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Gill to contact the forester to cut the property. Motion carried.
- d) Mr. Newton advised the finish water check valve was rebuilt by the water plant staff at a cost of \$2,700. The new valve cost over \$9,000. Also, the check valve on the raw pump #1 at The Falls failed and needs to be rebuilt. The raw pump #2 had already failed, so that

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was rebuilt at a cost of \$350.00. Mr. Newton advised we will need to rebuild every three to five years to save a pump from going down. He also discussed chemical costs and said operators are doing their best to be efficient. Mr. Newton provided council costs from 2012 until present showing what FY26 is projected based on what we have spent the first six months. Mr. Newton stated things are getting more efficient and looking better at the water plant.

- e) Mr. Newton provided a slide of Fowlkes Road, Bragg Road and the center of Route 607. We have a manhole that is part of a 12-inch sewer line that serves the residents of High Street, Rod Avenue and most everything on the right side of Court Street going out of town. Town crews found last week a section of pipe that is leaking. This is a project we are going to have to look at in the next three to five years because this pipe is exposed and because of the terrain. Mr. Newton provided a photo of a support beam that has fallen into the creek as well as a 15-ft right of way that has never been maintained. Mr. Newton is going to meet with the landowners before they start going in and clearing this out. This is a 12" ductile iron line so it cannot be put back in PVC or SDR35 as we do in the ground. We will probably have to get some engineering help with the support going across the creek. Unfortunately, a lot of manholes have been covered. We found the plans for this project so now we have a better idea of where we need to look. They will begin working on the right-of-ways soon after talking with the landowners.
- f) Mr. Newton discussed the Modest Creek Bridge project. The road to the spillway has been closed and gates up, locked with signs and demolition of the bridge is planned to start next week.
- g) Mr. Newton was notified that Mecklenburg Avenue will be paved from Court Street to the town limit sign sometime in 2026. He will get with utility to see if we need any work done on that before paving gets done.
- h) Mr. Newton advised General Assembly goes into session tomorrow, Wednesday, January 14, 2026. He will review and get some bills together that may be of interest along with a list so council can take a look at.
- i) Mr. Newton discussed the dog ordinance that was sent to our attorney, Mr. Rennie. We had some things with state code dealing with dangerous and vicious dogs that we were not in compliance with the state. Mr. Rennie has reviewed and sent back a draft. Mr. Newton and Chief Lawon met with the County Administrator and Animal Control Officer for review and have a lot more questions. He will bring the draft to council once they are resolved.
- j) Mr. Newton advised at the Board of Supervisor's meeting last Thursday, January 8, 2026 it was brought up that state code has changed on solar facilities. Now the smaller solar facilities, the 5 mg and under that have been exempt from a lot are now required to participate in the solar revenue sharing. We will need to update our ordinance so we will be able to get money from that.

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

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

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Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

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Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved February 10, 2026

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Rodney Newton, Town Manager