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Regular Council Meeting
March 9, 2026

The Appomattox Town Council held a Regular Council meeting on Monday, March 9, 2026, in the Town of Appomattox, Virginia with Vice-Mayor Timothy Garrett and Mayor Richard Conner, presiding.

Members present: Mayor Richard Conner, Vice-Mayor Timothy W. Garrett, Council Member James J. Boyce, Sr., Council Member Mary Lou G. Spiggle, Council Member Danielle Ulmer, Council Member McKinley Cardwell, and Council Member Jack Hensley.

Members absent: None.

Others: Carlton Duck, Alive Media; Dianne Tanner, Deputy Town Clerk; Michael Campbell, Town Manager; Robert S. Fowler, Town Director of Community Development and Planning, Dr. Zamora Crawford Olin, and Frank A. Wright, Esquire, Town Attorney.

Mayor Richard Conner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Reverend Duck led the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Richard Conner: Well, it finally feels like Spring. We have sprung forward and hopefully that spring will move our community forward.

Unfinished Business:

The mayor announced the item of unfinished business, the approval of the modifications to the Bylaws and Rules of Procedure for the Appomattox Town Council.

The Deputy Town Clerk, Dianne Tanner, reviewed the modifications contained in the Council Action Form. There were three modifications to Town Council Bylaws and Rules of Procedure: The Parliamentarian role was modified from the Town Attorney to the Deputy Town Clerk; the provision requiring the transmittal of approved minutes to the J. Robert Jamerson Library was struck, as the minutes are now available in a digital format; and a scrivener's error was corrected on page two.

Council Member McKinley Cardwell made a motion to approve the modifications to the Bylaws and Rules of Procedure for the Appomattox Town Council to encompass the modifications as stated by the Deputy Town Clerk, seconded by Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle, and a voice vote was called by the mayor with all Council members voting aye. The Motion carried 6-0.

New Business:

The mayor read to the record the first item listed under New Business, a public hearing on a proposed amendment to Chapter 28 "Subdivisions" of the Town Code, which amendment removes

certain minimum lot size requirements for lots served by public water and/or public sewer systems to avoid potential conflict with similar provisions in other portions of the Town Code. The public hearing was opened by the Mayor with Robert S. Fowler, Town Director of Community Development and Planning speaking regarding this item, stating this amendment to Town Code was to avoid potential conflict with other portions of the Town Code, and that the Town Planning Commission made a recommendation to amend after holding their public hearing. The public hearing was closed by the mayor. A Motion was made by Council Member James Boyce, Sr. to amend Chapter 28 "Subdivisions" of the Town Code to remove certain minimum lot size requirements served by public water and/or public sewer systems, seconded by Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett, and a voice vote was called, with all Council Members voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

The mayor read to the record the second item listed under New Business, a public hearing for the proposed amendment to the Town Code under Chapter 36 "Zoning", which amendment will add townhouses to the permitted uses in the R-3 General Residential District, subject to the provisions related to density, lot area, setbacks, and other requirements applicable to such townhouses. The public meeting was opened by the mayor with Robert S. Fowler, Town Community Development and Planning Director addressing Town Council. Mr. Fowler stated that the Town Code had no current provisions for townhomes, and that this modification to Town Code sought to address that issue, with the Town Planning Commission holding a public hearing where a local developer stepped forward at their public hearing to request the modification be made. The Town Planning Commission made their recommendation after their public hearing for Town Council to make the modification to Town Code to allow permitted uses in the R-3 to add townhouses. A Motion was made to amend the Town Code under Chapter 36 to add townhouses to the permitted uses in the R-3 General Residential District subject to the provisions related to density, lot area, setbacks, and other requirements applicable to townhouses was made by James Boyce, Sr., seconded by Council Member McKinley Cardwell, and a voice vote was called, with all Council Members voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

The mayor read to the record the third item listed under new business, the appearance by David A. Carter, Town Director of Utilities, to discuss the emergency repairs required at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Carter relayed to Town Council that there is currently emergency repairs needed to replace all the deteriorating pvc pipes housing the wires carrying the electrical supply to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and backup generator. The cost estimated to replace the electrical piping is \$177,000. After a discussion by Town Council, a Motion was made by Councilmember McKinley Cardwell to authorize the use of \$177,000 from the unassigned fund balance to make necessary repairs to replace the current PVC pipes and electrical wiring at the Town Wastewater Treatment Plant and place a temporary generator power sources to make the necessary repairs, seconded by Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett, and a ROLL CALL vote was called: Garrett-aye, Hensley-aye, Boyce-aye, Cardwell-aye, Ulmer-aye, and Spiggle-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

The mayor read to the record the fourth item listed under new business, the review and approval of the Town Manager's request for tuition reimbursement for doctoral coursework. The Town Manager, Michael Campbell, spoke to his request for tuition assistance in an amount generally consistent with in-state tuition rates a Virginia public universities for comparable doctoral-level

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coursework subject to annual budget availability and appropriation and then he answered questions by Town Council. Councilmember Mary Lou Spiggle made a Motion to approve the Town Manager's request for tuition reimbursement for doctoral coursework, seconded by Councilmember Danielle Ulmer, and a ROLL CALL vote was called: Spiggle-aye, Ulmer-aye, Cardwell-aye, Boyce-aye, Hensley-aye, and Garrett-no. Motion carried 5-1.

Standing Committee Reports:

Councilmember McKinley Cardwell relayed to Town Council the status of the Council For Day event, there was a public forum with all the eighth graders at the Appomattox Middle School and the interest there was incredibly palpable and the children are ready to go and it was great to see the reception he had at the forum and his excitement for the Council For a Day program. The program will be held here in the Appomattox Town Council Chamber on April 23, 2026.

Citizen Comment:

Mayor Richard Conner asked for any citizen comments. There were none.

Town Manager's Report:

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: The only thing that I have to add, off the top of my head, is I am still efforting towards getting a contract for the fireworks.

Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett: Yeah, I got it.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Okay, great.

Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett: I will forward it to you in a minute.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: I'll get that signed. I don't...I just am scared to death of being the reason why we don't have fireworks on the 3rd of July. So, aside from the fireworks, I think I just want to express the fact that I'm very proud of our staff. You know, I don't know if you noticed with our budget schedule, but I essentially moved up everything a month, and it was difficult. That's why people were working this afternoon here to make sure we had everything buttoned up. Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation to Council for approving my tuition reimbursement. I look forward to starting a program and letting you know exactly what that is and where it is at.

Council Comments:

Mayor Richard Conner: Ms. Ulmer?

Councilmember Danielle Ulmer: Yes, sir. I want to brag on Councilmember McKinley Cardwell because the organization that he's with this Mayor For a Day has been great. It's been efficient. The principal and the teachers...I unfortunately wasn't able to be there the day that he presented.

I was in Salem, but I heard compliments up and down about how engaging he was and how much the students liked it. I think it served well, McKinley, because even some of my students who aren't interested in anything scholastic, they're engaged and they're talking. We did a survey at the school through the Civics classes of all the possible problems that they could look into. I wrote those all on the board today. We discussed all of them and they came up with new ones themselves. And I just wanted to thank you too for inviting me on the committee. I'm glad to be a part of it.

Mayor Richard Conner: Mr. Hensley?

Councilmember Jack Hensley: I do not.

Mayor Richard Conner: Mr. Cardwell?

Councilmember McKinley Cardwell: I'm sorry. I do have to rocket it back to her now, just because of that. But, just from all the help of our committee members, there was a lot of stuff. I'm not great at grammar. I'm not good at putting certain things together. So, having that actual educators have been wonderful. She's basically built our rubric for this. So that's been absolutely wonderful. Then working at the middle school, like I didn't expect the numbers we were going to get until she started putting her foot down and talking with the administration and she even sent me a video of this massive bulletin board and basically, it's all about the Mayor For a Day essay. So, it even has Richard centered on it. Essentially all of our contact information on it and our faces, so it's just been really cool to see everything come together. So, it has not been the effort of just me but the effort of everybody and Danielle's really been a huge part of that.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Have they picked the Mayor and the Council people yet?

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: No. So, the deadline for that is March 23rd, and we have until April 2nd to make all of those choices. So, I've given myself a 48-hour window to go through an AI and plagiarism check for roughly...we're looking at an estimated 100 essays right now. And then it'll go to two graders who will give two individual scores which then I will bring back to my login tally of. So, we have 10 days to do all that process. Once we have that next meeting, which will be April 2nd, we will get down to the final seven and then after the final seven, we'll have two recommendations, one for mayor, one for vice mayor. That will go to Michael. And I forgot to tell you about this. I'm only giving you a 24-hour window to make your selection. I talked to some of these teachers and everything because we want to get this stuff down and we have to have the invitations out to these kids so that they can be prepared to come that evening to be celebrated and to have their mock meeting.

Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett: Good thing we don't have to do all of that to get elected.

Council Member Danielle Ulmer: And at the middle school we are going to be pushing a very high percentage of them to be turned into the State as well.

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Council Member McKinley Cardwell: Very good.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: I'm just so excited that you've been able to get students excited about civics and participating in local government activities and this will help them to understand what it's all about and coming up with all of these issues. I think it's a wonderful project.

Mayor Richard Conner: Thank you, McKinley. Mr. Boyce?

Council Member James Boyce, Sr.: I have nothing.

Mayor Richard Conner: Ms. Spiggle?

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Nothing.

Mayor Richard Conner: Mr. Garrett?

Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett: No, I'm good.

Mayor Richard Conner: Anyone have anything else to come before the Town Council at this time?

Adjournment:

On a Motion by Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett, seconded by Council Member McKinley Cardwell, the Council voted to adjourn at 8:45 p.m., with all members present voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Dianne Tanner
Deputy Town Clerk

Richard C. Conner
Mayor