

1 | **Appomattox Town Council**
Regular Council Meeting
April 13, 2026

The Appomattox Town Council held a Regular Council meeting on Monday, April 13, 2026, in the Town of Appomattox, Virginia, with 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; and Frank A. Wright, Esquire, Town Attorney.

Mayor Richard Conner called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

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

Mayor's Comments:

The Mayor, Richard Conner, gave a welcome to visitors.

Resolution in Memoriam:

Council member McKinley Cardwell read the Resolution in Memoriam recognizing the service of Clarence Lewis "Lewbo" McDearmon, Jr. for approval by Town Council. A Motion was made by Council Member McKinley Cardwell to approve the Resolution in Memoriam, seconded by Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle, and a voice vote was called with all Council members present voting aye. Motion carried: 6-0.

Proclamations:

The Mayor, Richard Conner, read into the record two Proclamations. The first Proclamation in celebration of Administrative Professionals' Week (April 19-25, 2026). The second Proclamation in celebration of Professional Municipal Clerks' Week (May 3-9, 2026).

Approval of Agenda:

The Mayor, Richard Conner, asked for a Motion to approve the Town Council Agenda as presented. A Motion was made by Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle, and a voice vote was called with all Council members present voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Scheduled Appearances:

There were no scheduled appearances.

Adoption of the Consent Agenda:

The Mayor, Richard Conner, read the rules for the Consent Agenda, and the item listed under the Consent Agenda the review and approval of the Minutes for the Town of Appomattox Regular Council Meeting of January 12, 2026. A Motion was made by Council member James Boyce, Sr. to review and approve the Minutes from the Town of Appomattox Regular Council Meeting of January 12, 2026, seconded by Councilmember Mary Lou Spiggle, and a voice vote was called with all Councilmembers present voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Unfinished Business:

The Mayor, Richard Conner, opened the public hearing for the purpose of receiving any public comment concerning the advertised amendments to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for the Town of Appomattox. There was no one present for comment and the mayor closed the public hearing. A Motion for approval of the advertised amendments to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for the Town of Appomattox was made by Council Member James Boyce, Sr., seconded by Council Member McKinley Cardwell, and a ROLL CALL vote was called: Boyce-aye, Cardwell-aye, Spiggle-aye, Garrett-aye, Hensley-aye, and Ulmer-aye. Motion carried 6-0. (See attached Affidavit of Publication for amendments).

New Business:

The Mayor, Richard Conner, read to the record the agenda item listed under new business, the finalization of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Town of Appomattox Budget based on the presentation at the April 13, 2026, Budget Work Session for statutory publication and public hearings necessary for adoption. A Motion was made by Council Member McKinley Cardwell by finalize the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Town of Appomattox Budget based on the April 13, 2026, Town Council Budget Work Session for publication and public hearing for adoption, seconded by Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle, and a ROLL CALL vote was called: Cardwell-aye, Boyce-Aye, Spiggle-aye, Garrett-aye, Hensley-aye, and Ulmer-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Standing Committee Reports:

Council Member McKinley Cardwell addressed Town Council with regard to the Council For a Day Program and announced by a unanimous consent of the Council For a Day Committee by a 7-0 vote, the following students were selected to participate: Kate Martin of Cornerstone Christian Academy (teacher: Kelly Peters) was selected to be Mayor; Julia Simpson of Appomattox Middle School (teacher: Gwendolyn Rigby) was selected to be Vice Mayor; Council Members selected were: Logan Terry of Appomattox Middle School (teacher: Krista Williams), Raven Torrence of Appomattox Middle School (teacher: Danielle Ulmer), Liza Woody of Appomattox Middle School (teacher: Gwendolyn Rigby), Oliva Almond of Appomattox Middle School (teacher: Chelsea Daniels), Remington Clusman a homeschooled student. Council Member Cardwell met with the selected students and delivered their selection

letters and necessary paperwork to participate in the Council For a Day Program. Council Member Cardwell congratulated the students and teacher and provided an invitation for Town Council to participate on April 23, 2026, as part of the program.

Citizen Comment:

There were no citizens present for comment.

Town Manager's Report:

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Yes, sir. A few things. We have an Economic Development meeting tomorrow. Which we will be discussing the Economic Development Incentive Policy. I know I have made some suggestions and edits. Our Chair has made quite a few suggestions and edits. I'm looking forward to that discussion. Also, I will be asking the EDA to take on the ROSE Project. What that will mean is...um, if they are willing, they will make a request through vote for Council to hand over the ROSE Project to the EDA. I hope that goes well and I hope everybody's on board because I think that is a perfect segue for our Economic Development members, associate members, authority members, department, to reach out to our local businesses that are just, you know, in the county for sponsorship, especially since some of our areas with the ROSE Project are actually quite expensive to maintain. So, it should be a good initiation. The last thing...

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: As Chairman of the ROSE Project, I praise that idea. I think it's a wonderful idea.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: So, yeah, hopefully they will take it on and request Council to turn it over. The last thing is something that I had put off for a multitude of reasons. We had discussed, you know, between the Master Utility Plan and this and the other, but it...you know, I realized that we...I can't...I shouldn't have put it off and I don't want to put it off any longer, especially now with Councilmember Ulmer here with us as well. You know, we have some different faces, and so I would ask you tonight, because I rarely get to speak to all of you, obviously, usually only at the meetings. As it should be. I would like to do a retreat with Kim Payne. He has agreed to do a retreat. He's offered...now this is my suggestion because I, you know, most of you work. That it'd be on a Saturday. And that is totally fine with him and with me and, of course...unfortunately, Dianne, I don't think I asked you. I am sorry.

Deputy Town Clerk: It's good.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: But I hope it's your preference... all to your all preference so that you don't have to use any time off. And he had available the 23rd or the 30th of May. So, I understand if you can't commit at this particular moment if you don't know what your schedule looks like, but if you would please let me know as soon as possible, that would be wonderful. Because I think it would be great for us all to get back and....um... for this retreat to we're not going to worry so much, you know, about strategic plan or any of that, like I did when I first

came aboard because, you know, we found out that we didn't know what we didn't know, right? It's kind of changed things, and so we can work on that after we get our Master Utility Plan.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Is it going to be at the Appomattox Inn and Suites?

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: That would be mine...I mean, we can do it anywhere that you all would prefer, but the easiest thing is to deal with Evan and Dana at the Inn and Suites in the conference room there. And this would be more...this...this would be a great opportunity for learning for me, for all of you, for Kim to dive into, you know, the meat and potatoes of the Council/Manager form of government and our responsibilities to our residents and to each other. So, I hope that...I hope we can make one of those two dates work. If not, I can get back with him and see what is available later.

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: What were those dates?

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: I'm sorry. May 23rd or May 30th.

Mayor Richard Conner: May 23rd is the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and May 30th is the Saturday after that.

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: The 30th is good for me. The 23rd is bad.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: If the 30th is more appropriate, I am totally fine.

Council Member James Boyce, Sr.: I am good either day. As long as it's not hunting season.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: I'm good.

Council Member Jack Hensley: I work every Saturday. Every Saturday. I work six days a week.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: So that day would not work for you. I mean, what day would work for you?

Council Member Jack Hensley: Well, if I work six days a week that wouldn't work, right?

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: So, you exactly...so you're saying you wouldn't be able to attend it.

Council Member Jack Hensley: I don't know. Right now, is a busy season so I can't really say for sure if I can take either one of those days. I just don't know yet.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: And also, could we invite our EDA Chair and Vice Chair?

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Absolutely.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Yeah. And, I mean, if the other EDA members who would like to come.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Yeah. And the other EDA members who would like to come beneficial for them.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: I definitely see value for that even if it's not for the they don't have to spend the whole entire time there. But

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Right.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: I mean, this is...

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Actually, it would be open to the public.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: It's...yeah, it's a public meeting and so anybody, you know, um I will likely have some staff attend if they're willing and able um just because it'd be beneficial to...

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Like Dianne?

Council Member Danielle Ulmer: May 30th, I'm supposed to be camping. That's supposed to be the day I'm heading out to set up camp. But um if you guys decide on the 30th, then I'll set up on the 31st.

Mayor Richard Conner: The last day of school is the 22nd.

Council Member Danielle Ulmer: Uh for teachers, no, we have to go back Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday after the holiday.

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: That's just mean.

Council Member Danielle Ulmer: It is mean. And then make us come back on July 31st. Yeah.

Mayor Richard Conner: Okay. So, uh I think on consensus we're at the 30th is the least... conflicting.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Conflicting?

Mayor Richard Conner: Thank you. Thank you, Mary Lou. I do appreciate the word. That's the least conflicting of the two. So, if we could go ahead with the 30th and yeah, please do your best to work it out if you can.

Council Member Danielle Ulmer: What would the time schedule be, sir?

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Well, so there'll be some work between now and then to determine... like Kim and I will work together on what the retreat is going to look like. Usually when he does one, uh, I would say it's probably a five or six hour event.

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: Um, we would try to do it early in the morning?

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Yeah, I mean, I would imagine that nobody wants to show up at 10:00. You know, I would think that I would think that we would be looking probably again, I'd have to check with him uh in his travel, but uh I would I would guess, you know, 9 to 3 would probably...

Council Member Danielle Ulmer: Oh, well then that's going to work perfect for me because I'm not supposed to set up before 4:00. So, right. So, that's fine.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: And again, I will work through all these details with Kim. He just that's the date he had available. And again, I shot for a Saturday for the sake of all of you that are at work.

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: Well, let's book them and put the safety deposit on it.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Um, what?

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: Safety deposit.

Mayor Richard Conner: Banker's joke.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Councilor Hensley, if you find that another date works better for you a little further out that we can, you know, I I know it's so difficult for you to determine, please let me know and I can just see if we can do something there. But otherwise, I think we'll in the meantime, we'll try to move forward for May 30th.

Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett: What's your slow time? When it starts slowing down if we waited a month or so?

Council Member Jack Hensley: Winter. Wintertime.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: The bugs are out now.

Mayor Richard Conner: You get to schedule it for next January.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: We'll do another one by then.

Mayor Richard Conner: Yeah.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: And typically, um...

Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett: We all need to be there. I mean, it's it just that's what...it'd be good...

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Typically, at our retreats, but I mean, it's not etched in stone. When we say 9 to 3, sometimes we get through earlier. If we do, we'll dismiss.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: And there's...

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: We probably prioritize certain parts earlier.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: There's also there will be an agenda, I mean Kim is the consummate professional. So, you all know most of you know from having worked with him before. So, um, if even... if it comes down to being able to attend a portion or something. I mean that's something maybe we could look at.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: This is a lot of paperwork here.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: That's, and that's all I.. unless anyone has any questions for me? Uh, just about anything in general you're welcome to ask. Do my best to answer.

Mayor Richard Conner: All right. Thank you, sir. Council comment. Ms. Ulmer?

Council Member Danielle Ulmer: No, sir.

Mayor Richard Conner: Mr. Hensley?

Council Member Jack Hensley: No, sir.

Mayor Richard Conner: Mr. Cardwell?

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: I hate to take up y'all's time, but I just want to put on the record um that, you know, it's not often we get to have shooting stars in our town, but I think about the people who may have not been public servants in a certain capacity, but have been public servants in many other capacities. And so, I just want to make a part of this public record that I just want to thank God and really, you know, for the life of Sandra Landry. Mark and Sandra came to Appomattox in 1999, and they served at a Liberty Baptist Church. But not only that, but they served a lot of children over the summer. I know that Rebecca was a product of that. I know that I was. And, I just want to, you know, I think about the words that were sung at the end of her service. It was a song that came out of 1982, and it was called "Make Me a Servant" and it goes: "Make me a servant humble and meek. Lord, let me lift up those who are weak, and may the prayer of my heart always be make me a servant. Make me a servant. Make me a servant today." So, I encourage our community as always to be servants and us as well.

Mayor Richard Conner: Thank you, Mr. Boyce.

Council Member James Boyce, Sr.: Yeah, I concur with uh Mckenley on that. Ms. Landry touched a lot of people, a lot of kids. I know every one of our six at one time or the other was engaged with her doing different things through the homeschool co-op and she will sorely be missed.

Mayor Richard Conner: And Mr. Garrett?

Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett: I just...April the 12th through the 18th is National Telecommunicators Appreciation Week. I don't know what the process is to get a proclamation, but I think we ought to do want to observe for our 911 dispatchers we have here at the public safety department. If we could get them one and show them how much we appreciate them.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: And just...not to interrupt council comment, but if anything ever comes up that any of you feel is appropriate for a proclamation or resolution, all you have to do is...you can reach out to me or you can reach out directly to Dianne. And, we'll do the leg work. We'll do the CAF. We'll get everything put together and make sure that we get it on an agenda so that we can we can honor those that should be honored.

Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett: I'd also like to do one for Ms. Landry, if you could spearhead that work with them to do a proclamation on her.

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: Yes.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Absolutely. Just if you would mind taking some time with me at some point to get some...I get my information straight, and we'll do one.

Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett: I think we need to any of these proclamations do if we could get them framed.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Yes.

Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett: Cause they're less likely... if they go out here framed they'll be hung on the wall hopefully.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Yeah. And that and that is our intention. I was letting the McDearmons know that we did and... we did it...took it quite a while because of the print shop and the framer and all that, but we did do the same thing for uh Mr. Jamerson's memorial.

Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett: Right. Thank y'all.

Mayor Richard Conner: All right. And Ms. Spiggle?

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Sandra Landry was a big part of Cornerstone Christian Academy. My daughter-in-law that teaches there, Cynthia Spiegel, was very close with her. She did an excellent job with all of the students and they had held the music what is it called?

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: Music camp.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Music camp at Cornerstone every year. And it was it for homeschool or anyone. It wasn't just for Cornerstone. And it was so successful and the kids just were delighted with it. She and... I asked actually asked her I said, "Do you think that will continue?" No one is as fabuloso as she... as Sandra Landry. And she really loved the kids. And it showed... it showed. What did you say at the beginning that she was a shining star?

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: Yeah. You don't get as many shooting stars that pass through the town of Appomattox like her.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Absolutely.

Mayor Richard Conner: Thank you, Ms. Spiggle. Does anyone else have any business to come for the Town Council of Appomattox at this time?

Adjournment:

On a Motion by Vice Mayor Timothy Garrett, seconded by Council Member Jack Hensley, 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

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