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Regular Council Meeting
May 11, 2026

The Appomattox Town Council held a regular Council meeting on Monday, May 11, 2026, in Appomattox, Virginia with Mayor Richard Conner, presiding.

Members present: Mayor Richard Conner, 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: Vice-Mayor Timothy W. Garrett

Others: Carlton Duck, Alive Media; Dianne Tanner, Deputy Town Clerk; and Michael Campbell, Town Manager, Dr. Zamora Crawford Olin, Town Economic Development Authority Chairperson.

Mayor Richard Conner called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

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

Approval of the Agenda:

Mayor Richard Conner asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda.

On a motion by Council Member James Boyce, Sr., seconded by Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle, the Council voted to accept the agenda as written, with a voice vote called and all members present voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Richard Conner: I would like to welcome everybody. Glad to see you out here today. We're glad to see the movement towards the future of leadership in our communities. Please give us the spirit to overcome all the challenges we have and make this a better community for everyone to come and live.

Proclamation:

Mayor Richard Conner read the Proclamation declaring the week of May 17, 2026, through May 23, 2026, as National Public Works Week in the Town of Appomattox.

Schedule Public Appearances:

Rob Bullington, Director of Communications for the Virginia Municipal League made an appearance to recognize the accomplishment of Appomattox Middle School student Elijah Zug as the VML Region 4 winner of the "If I Were Mayor" essay contest. Mr. Bullington presented

the winner with his certificate and gift card prize. A photo was also taken with Mayor Conner and Elijah Zug.

Mr. Bullington also relayed to Council that the new Council Handbook would be published soon and the VML would be delivering hard copies for Town Council and the Town Manager.

Unfinished Business:

Mayor Richard Conner announced the first item of unfinished business, adoption of a Resolution containing amendments to the FY 2025-2026 Town of Appomattox Budget. A motion was made by Councilmember Mary Lou Spiggle to adopt the Resolution containing the amendments to the FY2025-2026 Town of Appomattox Budget, seconded by Councilmember McKinley Cardwell, and a ROLL CALL VOTE was called: Cardwell-yes; Spiggle-yes; Boyce-yes; Hensley-yes; and Ulmer-yes; Motion carried 5-0. A copy of the Resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

Mayor Richard Conner announced the second item of unfinished business, Town Council approval of the redrafted Town of Appomattox Employee Handbook. A motion was made by Councilmember McKinley Cardwell to approve the redrafted Town of Appomattox Employee Handbook, seconded by Councilmember Mary Lou Spiggle, and a voice vote was called with all Councilmembers voting aye, the motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Richard Conner announced the opening of the public hearing for the advertised/proposed increase to the Town of Appomattox real property tax rate. There were no citizens appearing for public comment and the public meeting was closed by Mayor Conner.

Mayor Richard Conner announced the opening of the public hearing for a proposed Ordinance codifying the advertised/proposed increases to the Town of Appomattox Business, Professional, Occupational, and License tax rates. There were no citizens appearing for public comment and the public meeting was closed by Mayor Conner.

Mayor Richard Conner announced the opening of the public hearing regarding adoption of the advertised proposed water and sewer rate changes to the Town of Appomattox Water and Sewer Policy. There were no citizens appearing for public comment and the public meeting was closed by Mayor Conner.

Mayor Richard Conner announced the opening of the public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2027 Town of Appomattox Budget. There were no citizens appearing for public comment and the public meeting was closed by Mayor Conner.

New Business:

Mayor Richard Conner read to the record the first item listed under new business the setting of a Special Town Council meeting on May 18, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. A motion for approval of setting a Special Town Council meeting on May 18, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. was made by Council Member

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Danielle Ulmer, seconded by Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle, and a voice vote was called with all members present voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Richard Conner read to the record the second item listed under new business, consideration and approval to amend the By-Laws of the Rose Project Board and redistribution of supervision of the Rose Project Board to fall under the Town of Appomattox Economic Development Authority. A motion was made by Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle for amendment to the By-Laws of the Rose Project Board and redistribution of the Rose Project Board to fall under the supervision of the Town of Appomattox Economic Development Authority, seconded by Council Member Jack Hensley, a voice vote was called with all members present voting aye. The motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Richard Conner read to the record the third item listed under new business, discussion of planning for the Town of Appomattox picnic. Council discussed: future Town picnics being scheduled in June to coincide with the founding of the Town of Appomattox; this year's picnic being held in Abbitt Park on August 1, 2026; the Town requesting that the Volunteer Fire Department being asked to assist like they did with the picnic for the Centennial picnic.

The Town Manager brought forth an item skipped over during new business, contained in a Council Action Form for the Town Manager's evaluation forms to be completed by the Town Council workshop meeting on May 26, 2026. A motion was made by Councilmember McKinley Cardwell for Town Council to complete and return the Town Manager evaluation forms to Dianne Tanner, the Town Deputy Clerk, by the May 26, 2026, Town Council workshop meeting, seconded by Councilmember Danielle Ulmer, a voice vote was called with all members present voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Citizen Comment:

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

Closed Session:

Proposed closed session items were read into the record by Mayor Richard Conner as follows: Closed session pursuant to Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(8), of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in this subdivision being construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

On a motion made by Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle, seconded by Council Member McKinley Cardwell, the Council voted to convene in a closed session by a ROLL CALL VOTE: Ulmer-yes; Hensley-yes; Spiggle-yes; Boyce-yes; Cardwell-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Proposed closed session items were read into the record by Mayor Richard Conner as follows:

Closed session pursuant to Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(6), of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for discussion and/or consideration of investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected.

On a motion made by Council Member McKinley Cardwell, seconded by Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle, the Council voted to convene in a closed session by a ROLL CALL VOTE: Cardwell-yes; Boyce-yes; Spiggle-yes; Hensley-yes; Ulmer-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

The Deputy Town Clerk, Dianne Tanner, read the certification that to the best of each member's knowledge, the only subjects just discussed or considered in the preceding closed meeting were those: (1) lawfully exempted from the Freedom of Information Act's open-meeting requirements and (2) properly identified in the motion that convened the closed meeting, pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711(A)8 for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in this subdivision being construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter. On motion by Council Member James J. Boyce, Sr., seconded by Council Member McKinley Cardwell, Council voted to approve the certification as stated by a ROLL CALL VOTE: Hensley-yes, Boyce-yes; Cardwell-yes; Spiggle-yes; Ulmer-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

The Deputy Town Clerk, Dianne Tanner, read the certification that to the best of each member's knowledge, the only subjects just discussed or considered in the preceding closed meeting were those: (1) lawfully exempted from the Freedom of Information Act's open-meeting requirements and (2) properly identified in the motion that convened the closed meeting, pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711(A)6 for the purpose of a discussion and/or consideration of investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected. On motion by Council Member McKinley Cardwell, seconded by Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle, Council voted to approve the certification as stated by a ROLL CALL VOTE: Boyce-yes, Hensley-yes; Cardwell-yes; Ulmer-yes; Spiggle-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Standing Committee Reports:

Councilmember McKinley Cardwell: No major update except for that Council For a Day will be trying to make everything so that it all flows successfully every single year without a pause, and we are submitting for the Innovation Award with the VML. We hope to win at least the youth section during the VML Norfolk conference in 2026.

Town Manager's Report:

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: A couple of things. Very excited about the direction our EDA is headed. Zamora has done a wonderful job with the Facebook page. It's...we have our meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening. I'm looking forward to it. There's a few things for us

to discuss, but obviously the Rose Project being one of them. I've also made sure that they are aware of and invited to attend our retreat. So I would expect at least some more to probably be there. Maybe more. I'll find...try to find out tomorrow, who may or may not attend. The other thing is some of you or all of you may be aware of the labor bills that have been going back and forth between the Governor and the ...and the State with unionization and the Labor Board and all that. So, it...there's...it's fairly...it's been a lot, but VML reached out to all of the CEOs ...member CEOs, me obviously me included, and has asked us to write a letter to the Governor. Which I intend to do. I'll probably do it tonight or tomorrow. It has to be done by May 13th. Yeah, I'll probably just do it tonight. But I put together this little thing I just wanted to read to you so you would kind of understand what's going on and I would get all my facts in. So, VML has asked local governments to contact the Governor regarding HB-1263 and SB-378, which would substantially expand public sector collective bargaining in Virginia. The Governor proposed amendments that would have delayed implementation for local governments until 2030 and softened some of the most significant provisions including replacing binding arbitration with advisory arbitration and leaving more procedural details to future state regulations. The General Assembly rejected these amendments and as a result the bills returned to the Governor in a stronger form that VML and VACO that's Virginia Association of Counties believe would reduce local control, create new administrative and legal obligations and impose a statewide labor relations framework on towns and cities, counties, school boards, and other public employees. It's about whether a small town with limited staff...limited HR capacity, a significant budget, utility pressures should be placed under a State created collective bargaining system which is what this would be. Such a system would affect personnel costs, management authority, budget flexibility, employee relations, legal expenses, Council's ability to make local staffing and service decisions. My ability to do my job would be greatly...could be greatly impacted. Because I think I have a pretty good read on this. I think I feel safe saying this because Council has not expressed support for unionized local government. VML's requested message is consistent with local control position. It asked the Governor to veto the bills and allow the issue to be revisited in a way that better protects local fiscal responsibility, management, flexibility, and small town capacity. I will tell you that if she does sign it, that's a whole another thing that we're gonna have to...it's going to be a big serious thing that we're going to have to address. Amy and I. It costs a lot of money and it would happen to all the local governments including the County. But it could disproportionately impact us because we have proper Public Works. I'd also add...and I went through this in Hopewell with the Police Department, I mean, obviously I wasn't responsible for the police department. I just worked with them. I worked with the Chief. We were on the Public Safety Team together with the Chief of Fire, Public Works, Fire, Police. Collective bargaining and unionization is available to local government employees. Now, this basically forces it through State mandate. So, um, VML issued a little, you know, kind of copy paste thing that I'll put my touch on and then I will send that to...they have a list. It's not just the Governor, but, you know, her Chief of Staff and so on and so forth. We'll see what happens. I'm hopeful that...I'm hopeful that things, you know, things have gone so poorly for him here recently with everybody in the State from the Democrats, from the Governor on down to Louise Lucas. That maybe she will veto it since it also...it will gravely affect the rise in behavioral health. Yes. Well, that was the topic of our discussion at the last meeting. It's going to touch everything. VML and VACO's concern is the fact that it's, you know, they ...I wouldn't have gotten a message if the bill had a cutout said this

does not apply to local government. So, that's all...I just would remind everyone if I...if I haven't...or maybe I haven't even told you. We ended up booking Venue 1848. We got a good deal, same price we were paying Appomattox Inn and Suites. They were just...they have a huge thing going on over that weekend...like a four-day event. We even looked at Elite Fitness. There's a spot there that's supposed to be pretty nice. Just making sure we're getting the best value we could for the taxpayers. And it was unavailable, but I'm very pleased that we're able to keep our business right here in downtown. That's...I think that's excellent. I haven't been in the space. I'm sure some of you have. Our Clerk has and the...between the pictures I've seen and the descriptions I've heard, it sounds like it's a very nice space. So, looking forward to that on May 30th.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: McKinley, did you go to the afterparty?

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: Yes, I did.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Was it over...wasn't it over there?

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: Yeah. Yeah. I've been there many times and I've had been to many events. Cornerstone uses it. They used it this year for the ring banquet and lots of people use it. And, just to make it record, Nancy Wilk and her husband Don did a huge amount of day of volunteer work when we did the Council For a Day thing. So the fact that we had all these options, I'm just glad that everything kind of unfolded the way it is and so I am happy to go back where the books reside and I think it's going to be a good meeting.

Mayor Richard Conner: Thank you sir. Council comment over. Thank you, ma'am.

Council Comments:

Mayor Richard Conner: Mr. Hensley?

Council Member Jack Hensley: No.

Mayor Richard Conner: Ms. Spiggle?

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: None.

Mayor Richard Conner: Mr. Boyce?

Council Member James J. Boyce, Jr.: No sir.

Mayor Richard Conner: Mr. Cardwell?

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: Everyone keeping doing a great job.

Mayor Richard Conner: Any other business to come before the Council at this time?

Adjournment:

On a motion by Council Member James J. Boyce, Sr., seconded by Council Member Jack Hensley, the Council voted to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Dianne Tanner
Deputy Town Clerk

Richard C. Conner
Mayor

**AN APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION OF THE APPOMATTOX TOWN
COUNCIL ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF APPOMATTOX, VA.**

SECTION I:

WHEREAS, that the Appomattox Town Council may amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Town Budget from time to time pursuant to Section 15.2-2507, Code of Virginia; and,

SECTION II:

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget was published on March 25, 2026, and April 1, 2026, in *The Farmville Herald*, Appomattox, Virginia, pursuant to Section 15.2-2507, Code of Virginia, and public hearing was subsequently held on the amended budget on Monday, April 13, 2026; and,

SECTION III:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Appomattox Town Council meeting in a Regular Council Meeting on May 11, 2026, does hereby approve the following Amendment to the General Fund Expenditures by Category for Fiscal Year 2025-2026;

GENERAL FUND; EXPENDITURES AMENDMENTS:

Council	23,891.00
Administrative Department	40,205.00
Professional	10,000.00
Police	21,563.00
Tourism	1,500.00
Public Works	25,250.00
Property Maint. & Construction	408,500.00
Zoning	(25,822.00)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE AMENDMENTS	505,087.00

SECTION IV:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Appomattox Town Council does hereby approve the following Amendment to the General Fund Revenues Fiscal Year 2025-2026;

GENERAL FUND REVENUE AMENDMENTS:

Aid to Police Department	2,161.00
Litter Grant	2,750.00
VA Housing Grant	400,000.00

Traffic Tickets	15,000.00
Use of undesignated reserve	85,176.00
TOTAL REVENUE AMENDMENTS	505,087.00

SECTION V:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Appomattox Town Council does hereby approve the following Amendment to the Water Fund Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2025-2026;

WATER FUND EXPENDITURE AMENDMENTS:

Water Department	210,875.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AMENDMENTS	210,875.00

SECTION VI:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Appomattox Town Council does hereby approve the following Amendment to the Water Fund Revenue estimates for Fiscal Year 2025-2026;

WATER FUND REVENUES BY CATEGORY:

Water Fund Expenditure Amendments	210,875.00
TOTAL REVENUE AMENDMENTS	210,875.00

SECTION VII:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Appomattox Town Council does hereby approve the following Amendment to the Sewer Fund expenditure for Fiscal Year 2025-2026;

SEWER FUND EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY:

Sewer Fund Expenditure Amendments	560,875.00
TOTAL REVENUE AMENDMENTS	560,875.00

SECTION VIII:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Appomattox Town Council does hereby approve the following Amendment to the Sewer Fund Revenue for Fiscal Year 2025-2026;

SEWER FUND REVENUE BY CATEGORY:

Sewer Fund Revenue Amendments	560,875.00
TOTAL REVENUE AMENDMENTS	560,875.00

SECTION IX:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Appomattox Town Council does hereby approve the following Amendment to the ARPA Fund expenditure for Fiscal Year 2025-2026;

ARPA FUND EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY:

ARPA Fund Expenditure Amendments	460,833.00
TOTAL REVENUE AMENDMENTS	460,833.00

SECTION X:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Appomattox Town Council does hereby approve the following Amendment to the ARPA Fund Revenue for Fiscal Year 2025-2026;

ARPA FUND REVENUE BY CATEGORY:

ARPA Fund Revenue Amendments	460,833.00
TOTAL REVENUE AMENDMENTS	460,833.00

SECTION XX:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Town Council of Appomattox, Virginia that the Amendments to the Fiscal Year Budget for 2025-2026 is hereby adopted, effective May 11, 2026 and the monies necessary to fund it are hereby appropriated and shall be certified by the Clerk of Council and maintained as an archive document with the official minutes of the Town Council of Appomattox, Virginia.

Adopted this 11th day of May, 2026.

Attest:



Dianne Tanner, Deputy Town Clerk



Richard C. Conner, Mayor