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Regular Council Meeting
December 15, 2025

The Appomattox Town Council held a Regular Council meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Appomattox Municipal Building, 210 Linden Street, Appomattox, Virginia with Vice Mayor Timothy W. Garrett, 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 Nathan Simpson, 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, Director of Community Development and Planning; Frank A. Wright, Esquire, Town Attorney.

Vice Mayor Timothy W. Garrett 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.

The Vice Mayor, Timothy W. Garrett, turned the meeting over to the Mayor, Richard Conner.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Richard Conner: Welcome to a joyous season of Christmas. We'll miss those that have been here delivering great ideas and great follow-through. Appreciate all that today. We needed that on this Council and I hope we continue to get that from the rest of the Council. But everybody have a joyous season. Everybody be safe. Uh, we need to do this again next year. Thank you all.

Schedule Public Appearances:

Mayor Richard Conner asked if there were any scheduled public appearances. There were none.

Approval of the Agenda:

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

On a motion by Council Member Nathan Simpson, seconded by Council Member McKinley Cardwell, the Council voted to accept the agenda as written. All members present voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Adoption of the Consent Agenda:

Mayor Richard Conner read the rules for the Consent Agenda and the adoption of the Council Meeting Minutes for November 10, 2025, regular Town Council meeting to the record.

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On a motion by Council Member McKinley Cardwell, seconded by Vice Mayor Timothy W. Garrett, the Council voted to approve the Council Meeting Minutes for the November 10, 2025, regular Town Council meeting. All members voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Unfinished Business:

Mayor Richard Conner announced the first item of unfinished business, the announcement of the names of all people being proposed for the interim appointment to the vacancy on Town Council.

The Deputy Town Clerk, Dianne Tanner, respectfully requested to address Town Council with the name of the applicant. Ms. Tanner read to the record that the only application received for the appointment to the interim council member position on Town Council was the application submitted by Danielle R. Ulmer.

Mayor Richard Conner announced the second item of unfinished business, Council approval of the Master Utilities Plan.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell, addressed Council on the handout he provided directly to Council from the subcontractor, CHA, which provides the preliminary broad scope and not to exceed fee of the Master Utilities Plan. Mr. Campbell indicated that there will be one more version provided by CHA before he can execute it by signature, based on Council's approval. Mr. Campbell also indicated that the dates and the not to exceed amount of \$284,000 provided in the preliminary handout will not change, and if, for some reason, there is overrun he would be back before Council for additional approval.

After Council addressed their inquiries to the Town Manager, Council Member Nathan Simpson made a motion to accept the proposal as presented, including \$284,000 allocated towards the Master Utilities Plan project, with a second by Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle, and a ROLL CALL VOTE was called: Boyce-yes; Cardwell-yes; Garrett-yes; Hensley-yes; Simpson-yes; Spiggle-yes. Motion carried 6-0.

New Business:

The Mayor, Richard Conner, read to the record the item listed under New Business, consideration and approval of a one-time (post tax) employee Christmas bonus of \$500 for each full-time employee and \$250 for each part-time employee for Town employees who are employed with the Town of Appomattox on or before November 30, 2025. A motion for approval was made by Council Member James J. Boyce, Sr., seconded by Council Member McKinley Cardwell, and a ROLL CALL VOTE was called: Boyce-yes; Cardwell-yes; Garrett-yes; Hensley-yes; Simpson-yes; Spiggle-yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell, conveyed staff's appreciation and relayed the plan to Council to transmit the Christmas bonus at the Christmas get together on December 18, 2025.

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Standing Committee Reports:

Council Member McKinley Cardwell provided Council with an update on the committee for the Council for A Day project. Mr. Cardwell told Council that the committee had its first meeting on December 2, 2025, with the committee details being finalized and with future committee meetings being scheduled for planning for Council for A Day.

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)(1) for the purpose of assignment, appointment, promotion, and performance or resignation of a specific officer, appointee, or employee of any public body; and a closed session pursuant to Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. On a motion made by Council Member McKinley Cardwell, seconded by Council Member Nathan Simpson, the Council voted to convene in a closed session by a ROLL CALL VOTE: Hensley-yes; Boyce-yes; Garrett-yes; Cardwell-yes; Simpson-yes; Spiggle-yes. Motion carried 6-0.

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)(1) and 2.2-3711(A)(7). On motion by Council Member James J. Boyce, Sr., seconded by Council Member Jack Hensley, Council voted to approve the certification as stated by a ROLL CALL VOTE: Hensley-yes, Boyce-yes; Garrett-yes; Cardwell-yes; Simpson-yes; Spiggle-yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Town Manager's Report:

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: So, just as a, um, I guess a heads up I find out exactly what's going on. Apparently, um, we are seeing some changes possibly with the fireworks deal and....and....and, uh, Jonathan Garrett and the fire department's handling, um, of the fireworks. Uh, July 4th falls on a Saturday this year. There's been some concern about the ability to even obtain a contractor or someone...uh, or the fireworks themselves, for a display at least on July 4th. Um, and also, there's been some concerns about the extreme cost increase associated with fireworks. So, I intend to speak with Jonathan, hopefully in the next day or two and try to get my head wrapped around the issue. Um, but I think it's...I think that the way it's headed, and in my understanding is...is that, uh, they would be looking for the Town to maybe take a more

active role in actually putting on the show or we would maybe have to make a decision that we're not going to have one.

Mayor Richard Conner: Yeah. Historically, we've done that not on the 4th of July. So...so, the 3rd, the 5th? I'm not sure how we would work that out.

Vice Mayor Timothy W. Garrett: On the 250th anniversary, there will be...you're going to find nobody.

Mayor Richard Conner: True.

Vice Mayor Timothy W. Garrett: Nobody's going to be...

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: This is a good point. Yes.

Vice Mayor Timothy W. Garrett: That's the whole issue.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Yeah. So, um, it...it will likely be difficult and expensive ten days before July 4th.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: You could do a drone show. Those have become more popular.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Yes.

Vice Mayor Timothy W. Garrett: That's what Liberty wants to do...

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: You may know that we had a waterline break on Harold Street today. That was taken care of, um, basically as of close of business, they got that buttoned up. Uh, the road's still a little dirty, but I think they are going to get that taken care of. Um, I have not received any complaints regarding leaf pickup, or anything of the sort. I would say that if anybody is...if...if you all are receiving some complaints on leaves, please let me know. Um, you know, I...that's...I'm the person that should be coming to, uh, and who it should be addressed to so that I'm addressing it with staff. Or at least can provide an explanation as to why we are where we are. Um, I wanted to say that as far as our inquiries with VDOT, they have kicked our questions over to district traffic, which is normal. It's just part of the process in dealing with VDOT. Um, I don't...I couldn't begin to tell you how long it'll take before we get any answers. Um, I don't know where they're at on their...their, uh, priorities, the list of priorities that they have. Uh, but the answer's that traffic, district traffic gives the residency will pretty much dictate what the residency says to us. Um, I would...I hope everyone is pleased the Christmas decorations at this point. Um, Public Works basically went above and beyond, uh, to make sure that we had plenty of things out. Um, especially working...trying to work around the weather. They've been working pretty consistently with VDOT, and still, uh, doing their...their main jobs during business hours. And they also did a good job cleaning up our facilities to make sure that we could open. So, I appreciate their efforts. And the last thing we have is, uh....so

you know that we had \$100,000 approved from SERCAP for the Confederate Boulevard project. Just giving you an update. Um, the survey work for that is going to be \$50,000. Um, so we are going to talk to them about possibly...about them possibly awarding more money for the PE phase of this project. And, we're also going to set up, uh, a meeting with their staff to discuss additional grants. One of the services that SERCAP can offer, or will offer, is assistance with things like USDA grants. Um, they will help you fill them out. They have contacts. Um, and also, I think that...um, they may have some insights into some things that we haven't considered. Uh, we had the SERCAP I think fifty thousand dollars we got for the groundwater study with CHA. So they've just been very, very helpful. Um, so I want to say thank you to SERCAP. And then, lastly, um...just as a point so that everyone...the public understands the process. Uh, Council has announced the candidate, um, the applicant for the Council seat. So the Town has to wait seven days in order to vote to either appoint that person or someone else or whatever they decide to do. And, so, that vote should take place at the January meeting. And that's all I have.

Deputy Town Clerk, Dianne Tanner: One item.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Ma'am?

Deputy Town Clerk, Dianne Tanner: You asked that I remind you about Christmas Eve.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Oh, yeah. Thank you, Dianne. So, we know the Governor is going to end up giving Christmas Eve day. We have...it's a half day. We know they...probably will. I mean he's on his way out. The county's already done it. So, um, I wanted to see if Council has any objection to us doing the same and having the full day off for Christmas Eve. And basically, it would be Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: I'm good with that.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: It doesn't require a vote, but I just want to make sure nobody has a problem with that.

Mayor Richard Conner: Any objections?

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Or concerns about availability or anything? I mean, I don't think anybody's going to be busting our door down the day after Christmas.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: You never know. You never know.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Thank you, Dianne. One last thing. Um, I just wanted to say that before everybody scatters when the meeting ends, is that we have some light refreshments in the Conference Room for Counciler Simpson's last Council meeting. So, just want to make sure that nobody just bolts on us. Now I'm done.

Mayor Richard Conner: Does anyone else have any business to come before the Council at this time?

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: You didn't ask us for Council comments. No, did you skip that?

Mayor Richard Conner: Yes, I did. I'd like to move along. Does any Council member need to make comments tonight?

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Yes, I would like to.

Council Comments:

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Thank you. I would like to congratulate Nathan Simpson on his election to the Board of Supervisors, beginning January 1st of next year. And I would also like to say that I have certainly...has it been five years?

Council Member Nathan Simpson: Five years.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Five years. Um, and I have certainly enjoyed working with you and, um, I think that we will have a good...you will be able to help a better working relationship with the Board of Supervisors. I'm looking forward to it and I congratulate you again. Thank you, friend.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: Thank you.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: You're more than welcome.

Mayor Richard Conner: Thank you, Ms. Spiggle. Mr. Simpson?

Council Member Nathan Simpson: Um, it has been the pleasure of the...hopefully, the first part of my political career. I don't know. Haven't shown any intention of stopping at this point. So, uh, I've learned a lot of lessons and I've...the way I describe it to folks is that had I gone to college and gotten a political science degree, I wouldn't have learned a tenth of what I learned in working with each and every one of you. But, um, we've had a.... a long, I think, period where the...the county and the Town haven't always gotten along. And, uh, it's my hope that we can start to change that and start to have meetings and, um, hopefully I'm not a stranger, uh, to the Town. And please call me if I can ever be of support or assistance and I look forward to continuing in working with...with all of you in my new role. So, thank you.

Mayor Richard Conner: Mr. Hensley?

Council Member Jack Hensley: No, I'm good.

Mayor Richard Conner: Mr. Garrett?

Vice Mayor Timothy W. Garrett: I'm good.

Mayor Richard Conner: Mr. Cardwell?

Council Member McKinley Cardwell: Uh, I'd just like to say two things. One, thank you for your service on this Council and everything, and also for asking me to be a part of it. Uh, recognizing the importance of, um, really having every single voice of the Town being heard, and, um, making sure that people still believe here and everything and...um, you know as I carry on that mantle. Um, second to that is, um, we had the passing of Betty Torrence. She is one of the reasons why I do public service. She was an inspiration to many people. She did a lot for no pay whatsoever. And I think it is vitally important that in a community, in a town, that no matter what background you have, what income level or anything like that, you are making a difference every day of your life that you participate and do well unto your neighbor. And that is what Betty did every single day of her life. And I hope we can take heart in that and what she did for people.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Hear, hear.

Mayor Richard Conner: Mr. Boyce?

Council Member James J. Boyce, Sr.: Oh, Christmas time. What can I say? It's a joyous time for some and it's a miserable time for others. But I think if we keep in mind this one important thing that that the babe in the manger grew to be the Christ on the cross. I think it'll help us all just to keep...keep that in the back of our mind and just love people. I mean just love them. I know some people are unlovable, but we have to love them anyway. Mr. Simpson, you're not one of the unlovable.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: Thank you.

Council Member James J. Boyce, Sr.: But, uh, I...uh, I kind of...kind of enjoyed having you around. I'm kind of...kind of...kind of curious to see what you're going to do on the Board. And, uh, in fact, it's my...it's my intention to address the Board at the first meeting that you're there. So, I will see you there.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: Sound's good.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Good. He's giving you a heads up.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: Yeah.

Mayor Richard Conner: Uh, we'll contact weather and have him work it out so we don't have meetings on the same day. Alright.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Yeah. Tell Matt Ferguson to get busy.

Mayor Richard Conner: Matt doesn't work at WSET anymore.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Sometime. Well...

Mayor Richard Conner: No, he used to be when I started.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: You can still let him know.

Mayor Richard Conner: Yeah, he's on...he's on the radio now. He takes requests. Yes. Anyway...again, thank you, Mr. Simpson. Um, appreciate your years of service that I've been here as a part of it. I wish you well in your future endeavors in life, in business, and in politics.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: Thank you.

Mayor Richard Conner: I think you can be a voice of reason, and moving forward, for all community. So, with that, I have asked and been granted to allow you to make your last motion.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: Oh, gosh.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Council Member Nathan Simpson, seconded by Vice Mayor Timothy W. Garrett, the Council voted to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Dianne Tanner
Deputy Town Clerk

Richard C. Conner
Mayor