

1 | **Appomattox Town Council**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**September 8, 2025**

The Appomattox Town Council held a Regular Council meeting on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Appomattox Municipal Building, 210 Linden Street, Appomattox, Virginia with Vice-Mayor Timothy Garrett, presiding.

Members present: James J. Boyce, Sr., Mary Lou Spiggle, Nathan Simpson, McKinley Cardwell, Jack Hensley, and Timothy W. Garrett

Members absent: Mayor Richard C. Conner

Others: Carlton Duck, Alive Media; Christy Torrence, Office Manager; Michael Campbell, Town Manager; Frank Wright, Town Attorney

Vice-Mayor Timothy Garrett 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.

Approval of the Agenda:

On a motion by Council Member Nathan Simpson, seconded by Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle, the Council voted to add an item under new business regarding an issue at the Kiddie Park. All members present voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

On a motion by Council Member Nathan Simpson, seconded by Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle, the Council voted to add a closed session for the purpose of discussion or consideration of the 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. All members present voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor's Comments:

Vice-Mayor Timothy Garrett acknowledged that Mayor Richard Conner was absent due to a prior commitment, therefore, there were no comments.

Adoption of the Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Council Member McKinley Cardwell, seconded by Council Member Nathan Simpson, the Council voted to approve the minutes for the August 11, 2025, regular Council Meeting and August 26, 2025, Workshop Meeting. All members present voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Unfinished Business:

Vice-Mayor Timothy Garrett read into the record the following items of unfinished business:

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Consideration to adopt proposed ordinance for the amendment of §36-281 of the Town Code, such provision relating to permitted uses in the B-1 Less Intense Use Business District, to add the following as a permitted use in such district: single-family residential existing prior to August 12, 2013, provide that the expansion of the building footprint must comply with the setbacks of the R-2 zoning district.

Consideration to adopt proposed ordinance for the amendments to Chapter 36, Article XIV, “Floodplain District” of the Town Code, to update the current ordinance to comply with statutory and regulatory changes and with directives from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, including without limitation establishing floodplain districts, requiring the issuance of permits for development, and providing factors and conditions for variances to the terms of the ordinances.

Consideration to approve a revised MOU between Town of Appomattox and Appomattox County Sheriff’s Department.

On a motion by Council Member Nathan Simpson, seconded by Council Member James J. Boyce, Sr., both of the proposed Ordinances for the amendments to §36-281 of the Town Code, and Chapter 36, Article XIV, “Floodplain District” of the Town Code were presented for adoption with a ROLL CALL VOTE: Cardwell-yes, Boyce-yes, Garrett-yes, Hensley-yes, Simpson-yes, Spiggle-yes. Motion carried 6-0.

On a motion by Council Member Nathan Simpson, seconded by Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle, the revised MOU between the Town of Appomattox and the Appomattox County Sheriff’s Office was presented to Council for adoption with a ROLL CALL VOTE: Cardwell-yes, Boyce-yes, Garrett-yes, Hensley-yes, Simpson-yes, Spiggle-yes. Motion carried 6-0.

New Business:

Council Member Nathan Simpson presented an issue for discussion by Council regarding the condition of some of the swings in the swing set in the Kiddie Park located in the oldest section on the side near Hunter Street. After discussion by Council, the Town Manager was tasked in doing a site survey and getting cost estimates to replace this swing set. This item will be brought back to Council once the survey and estimates are complete.

Citizen Comment:

There was no citizen comments presented.

Town Manager’s Report:

The Town Manager, Michael Campbell, briefed Council on the status of collaborative process with Centra to bring an Urgent Care Center to Appomattox.

Council Comments

Council Member McKinley Cardwell- So, just two things. I did read the proposal, and it was very thorough and very concise. There were references to all the parties at large. I really do hope that the people that receive this take it to heart and really think about us, because this community is very important. We do hold a certain heart in this area. I think just being able to improve rural healthcare will be good. So, thank you for putting that together. I really appreciate you for doing that. Second, I do have this letter here. So, if you all would like I made nine copies tonight. But I am going to start here, it says:

Our 100-year celebration, in my view, is just the start. This Council and previous councils have built a community worth living in and growing up in. However, this body is stretched too thin, and while our actions are vital, I believe they are not enough. We govern in a world more connected than ever, yet also very disconnected. The digital age has led society to invest in technology and pull away from one another. Instead of sharing ideas, we focus only on ourselves. Instead of moving together toward a higher goal, we each fight for our own hills.

We can't fix this ourselves, but we have a community of wonderful people who can and who have been involved from the start. I suggest we focus on uplifting and highlighting ministries, non-profits, and other special groups that truly make an impact at the ground level. We've dwelled in negativity for far too long. I've come to believe that the best thing I can do as an elected official is to give people more voice and more power in efforts to improve and change our community. The bank account of community spirit is running low. We have many contributors; we need to recognize and invest in them so they can carry the mission forward.

Second, we need to begin again preparing for our community picnic, and every year from now on. The turnout at our 100th anniversary celebration was terrific, and I genuinely believe we can do even better in the future, and I hope to rival any small town that can ignite a June Thanksgiving like we did. The Mayor, the Council, the staff, and dedicated volunteers made it all happen. I am grateful for our united effort. From Mrs. Mobley helping before the event to Treasurer Ray being the last one there picking up trash and restoring Courtland field to its original condition. It was hard work, but through our combined effort and faith in our town, we pulled it off. Let's aim to do it again, each time a little better.

Finally, our community efforts should happen quarterly. From activating local youth in spring with our Mayor for a day to hopefully in the future having a council for a day, to hosting our community picnic in the summer, supporting the community and town at large with the railroad festival in the fall, and finally, developing something grand for our community in winter. We have had many great ideas from numerous council members as well as local community members who are looking for a nostalgic feeling, and I don't think folks would mind if their town reflected a Hallmark movie set every now and then.

If our community members pride us on having small town charm in our past SWOT Analysis, I say we make it more of a reality every year, so that even when we grow, we will grow stronger and grow closer because the community chose to do so.

And with that, I yield.

Council Member James Boyce: I have just got something short and sweet. Although I love the thought of this, that is way too much wasted time. I do not need to know what every individual in this town is doing. My idea of a newsletter...keep me up to date with what the major things are...the different projects, but this today...I appreciate it, but it was, in my opinion unnecessary.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: If I may, that is the report I require from my staff every week since I have been here. So, it is not extra work. It is literally putting them together and getting them to you. My staff...each one of those sections...my staff owes me that report by noon on Friday every week and has done that for seven months.

Council Member James Boyce: So, we are going to get this every week?

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: You don't have to.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: If you'd rather not, he won't include you in on it.

Council Member James Boyce: I mean, to me, I really don't... I need to know the nuts and bolts of what's happening and what we are working on. Who's doing what...I really don't need to know. And that's just me.

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Right, so, I guess we need to come up with something different? That is copy paste. So that is minimal effort. So, as far as me...I require that report. It is for me. So, Dianne's been very, very helpful in just taking those reports...she is copied on them and just turns them into one document. That's all it is. So, if you'd like to see something else, we just need to figure out what that is.

Council Member James Boyce: Well, like I said, definitely the nuts and bolts of what is going on, but what everyone's doing...it was just too much for me. Personally. Everybody else might love it.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: I enjoyed...I don't know if the right word is enjoyed...I found that report was very interesting and I appreciate you sharing it with us. I also want to thank Dianne and Christy. You have stepped up to the plate immediately. Despite our craziness. I appreciate it and I appreciate you. That's all I have.

Council Member Jack Hensley: No, I am good.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: So, I have made a Facebook post about a week and a half ago. Kind of blew up bigger than I thought it would. So, in the old Times Virginians...there,

because people were talking about we love our Main Street and all of these old Christmas decorations they used to have when I was a kid. So, I started looking at old Times Virginians and I found one where...in the 70s...I don't know if it started before that or not, but they used to string across Main Street a big tinsel and lit up Merry Christmas sign. And, so, I posted that picture and it got several hundred likes and several dozen shares or comments. And I think people would love to see it. And I went and met with Bobby Swanberg. He told me he knew all about how they did it. And we saw...you could see where there was... there used to be a utility pole on Main Street. I don't know if that side is connected to it or not, but they connected the...if you are looking down Main Street, the right side of it to our Train Depot. So, I didn't know...if...I am in the process of figuring out how to do it and who is the community might support making the actual sign. But would the Council have any issue with us connecting one end to the Train Depot, assuming we got all of the permissions? I am not asking for any money or anything. But... just...if we were...if we talk to VDOT, if they have any control over it, assuming there is no other "no" in the process, would there be a "no" that comes from the Town to connect it to the top of the Depot.

Vice-Mayor Timothy Garrett: What's y'all's pleasure? Personally, I don't have any problem with it.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: I don't have any problem with it whatsoever. I would love to see that happen...

Council Member James Boyce: And if it was originally connected there, it might still be...I don't know.

Vice-Mayor Timothy Garrett: We can make it happen. You don't have to worry about that.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: Cool. Cool. Is there any issue that you foresee?

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: Just VDOT. Just VDOT. But otherwise no I think its...

Vice-Mayor Timothy Garrett: They currently put one up at Colemans. Across right there...it's not the tinsel one like you are talking about, old but...

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: I have always loved the welcome to Farmville sign whenever I go there, I just...I love it. That would not be the same thing but it would really...it would make me happy looking at it. Christmasy.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: In 1982 Bobby was...he still remembered this and was still angry about it. His...like...I don't know how old Bobby would have been then. His third-grade class or something came to a Council meeting because the Council wouldn't cut on the lights...on the Christmas lights because the electric bill was too much. And so they said they weren't going to pay it that year so they brought a whole classroom of kids to ask the Council to pay and cut the lights on. It's like a scene out of a movie. That's how the minutes read. But yeah.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: That's cool.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: So, that's all I had. I will keep everybody abreast about how this develops.

Vice-Mayor Timothy Garrett: The only thing I have is...where are we at with Railroad Day and our hundredth-year anniversary and the Depot? Showcasing the Town.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: So, we have...I have a list of names that I want to interview for oral histories. So, I have been meaning to convene...whether we need to have a committee meeting or not, I can just send it out in an email and if everybody approves. Then we can schedule them, and we can get some done before that, but what I want to do that the Depot is have like a kiosk set up where people can...we're creating almost like a digital time capsule where people can say what they want to or answer questions or something on camera. Not necessarily what they want to but have that. And also, a bunch of historical and archival pictures and stuff. So, we just need to figure out the screens. I assume...did...was there any effort done on the electrical when you renovated or was that just paint?

Vice-Mayor Timothy Garrett: Just painting pretty much.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: Okay. We wouldn't need much but just two or three good outlets would be...

Vice-Mayor Timothy Garrett: That shouldn't be hard to do all that.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: Yep. And that reminds me, I did get word back from...I spoke with the Superintendent, and he said that the MOU for the AI server is done. Do you know if we have received a copy?

Town Manager, Michael Campbell: If we have...

Christy Torrence, Office Manager: We have.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: That's what...that's what I was going to ask you. Where are we with the AI ...

Council Member Nathan Simpson: So, we got that back today. I guess you will be the one receiving...

Vice-Mayor Timothy Garrett: Yep, we will get that stuff over there and installed.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: So, I will help with getting it set up with Phillip and it will be me, Phillip and Timmy most likely. Mary Lou actually sent me an article, and I am surprised very frequently by how much stuff in AI and technology that I don't know about until Mary Lou

sends it to me. So, much to her credit, the First Lady is hosting some sort of challenge for K-12 students to solve local problems with AI. So, I would love to see an Appomattox team go to the White House and pick up an award.

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: Me too. Because the First Lady, Melania, and not the state First Lady...we have one of those too...this is a national contest.

Vice-Mayor Timothy Garrett: Who's going to go?

Council Member Nathan Simpson: We have got to find a team. We have got to find the dream team. But that's on my radar. I'm...

Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle: I just sent it to him and said something like run with this Nathan.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: Yeah...

Council Member James Boyce: But make sure you find the trail to the AI money to pay for it.

Council Member Nathan Simpson: That's the next question. Who can we get to give us money? Start talking to the Tobacco Commission on that one. But that all...I will give an update pretty quick on the Railroad Festival.

Vice-Mayor Timothy Garrett: So, that's all the Council comments and we will move to the closed session.

Closed Session:

On a motion by Council Member Nathan Simpson, seconded by Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle, the Council voted to convene a closed session for the purpose of discussion or consideration of the 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.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Cardwell-yes, Boyce-yes, Garrett-yes, Hensley-yes, Simpson-yes, Spiggle-yes. Motion carried 6-0.

The meeting was re-opened to the public with Council Member Mary Lou Spiggle, making the following motion, seconded by Council Member McKinley Cardwell:

To the best of each member's knowledge, the only subjects just discussed or considered in the preceding closed meeting were those: (i) lawfully exempted from the FOIA Act's open-meeting requirements and (ii) properly identified in the motion that convened the closed meeting, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)6.

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ROLL CALL VOTE: Cardwell-yes, Boyce-yes, Garrett-yes, Hensley-yes, Simpson-yes, Spiggle-yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Council Member Nathan Simpson, seconded by Council Member McKinley Cardwell, the Council voted to adjourn at 7:28 pm. All members present voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

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Dianne Tanner  
Deputy Town Clerk

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Timothy W. Garrett  
Vice-Mayor