



February 27, 2025

Mayor and Town Council,

The Town Staff is pleased to present the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26). The budget funds the continued operations of the Town government to include public safety, community engagement, support for the Town's Strategic Plan and Capital Improvement Projects and address the Town's growth.

The proposed budget takes into consideration the Town Council's newly adopted Strategic Plan Goals to include;

- Improve Transportation and Infrastructure to Enrich Quality of Life and Maintain Small Town Feel,
- Promote Fiscal Responsibility and Organizational Excellence,
- Enhance Public Safety and Community Policing,
- Foster Economic Development, Tourism, and Support Town Businesses,
- Preserve Haymarket History and
- Enhance Community Engagement.

The FY26 budget proposes the continued funding of the Town Park initiatives to implement the design and construction of the Park Pavilion and restrooms which will replace the current Town Park House. Furthermore, the Staff is recommending funding the Town Center Site Plan to continue investing in Town owned infrastructure while constructing the Jefferson Street turn lane to provide some relief to the growing traffic demands at the center of Town. Additional projects and initiatives will be presented in the overall budget to include; updating the Town's website, addressing security concerns, improving the Town beautification and addressing the investment in our professional administrative team, all while ensuring fiscal responsibility. As the Council deliberates through the budget work sessions and develops goals for FY26 the Town Staff will adjust the budget to reflect on these updates.

The Town has recognized revenue increases due in part to the strength of our restaurants and the Town's meals tax, the addition of the hotel and transient occupancy tax revenue and the increase in property assessments. The Town Manager and Town Treasurer are recommending a flat tax rate of .105/\$100. This proposed tax rate will allow for continued investment in our Capital Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan Initiatives, while continuing our good governance practices.

With the increase in development and growth, the Town has seen an increase in the needs and services provided for the community to maintain the expectations of high-quality offerings, exceptional service and Small-Town atmosphere. The efforts to showcase our community have proven fruitful when we evaluate our growth in revenue, the increase in visitors to our Town, the investment of new businesses in our community and the success of our community events and engagements. With this the Town Staff is pleased to present the Proposed FY2026 Budget for the Council's review and deliberation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily L. Kyriazi".

Emily L. Kyriazi  
Town Manager and Zoning Administrator  
Town of Haymarket