

**Work Session Agenda
Staunton City Council
Caucus Room
April 10, 2025
5:00 p.m.**

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------|--|
| 5:00 p.m. | 1. | Consideration of Work Session and Regular Meeting Agendas |
| 5:05 p.m. | 2. | Joint Work Session—FY 2026 School Board Budget |
| 5:35 p.m. | | Break (Move to Rita S. Wilson Council Chambers) |

Rita S. Wilson Council Chambers

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------|---|
| 5:40 p.m. | 3. | FY 2026 Budget Work Session |
| 6:30 p.m. | 4. | Closed Meeting for (i) the Potential Disposition of Publicly Held Real Property Bordering Peck Street; and (ii) Consultation with Legal Counsel for Legal Advice Related to Establishment of a Special Tax District (Includes Dinner Break Until Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.) |

**Regular Meeting Agenda
Staunton City Council
Rita S. Wilson Council Chambers
April 10, 2025
7:00 p.m.**

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation/Moment of Silence—Woods

Mayor's Report

Additional Items by Members of Council

REGULAR MEETING

A. Consent Agenda

A.1. Approval of Minutes

Work Session and Regular Meeting of March 27, 2025

A.2. Consideration of Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services FY 2026 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

A.3 Consideration of Proclamation to be Presented in Council Chambers at the April 24, 2025 City Council Meeting—Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

All items will be voted on in one (1) motion. If so requested by any member of Council, an item placed on the consent agenda shall be removed and taken up as a separate matter at the end of the Regular Meeting.

B. Public Hearing of an Ordinance to Establish a Budget for FY 2026 (July 1, 2025—June 30, 2026)*

C. Update on Gypsy Hill Park and Cole Ave Stream Restorations

D. Update on Flood Mitigation Efforts—Tunnel Survey and Structural Evaluation Work Resulting in Partial Closure of Wharf Parking Lot and Closure of Byers Street

Matters from the City Manager

Matters from the Public*

Adjournment

***Public Participation For instructions on how to participate in a Public Hearing and Matters from the Public portions of the City Council meeting visit www.staunton.va.us/council.**

CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, Virginia

Meeting Date:	April 10, 2025	City Council
Item #	1	
Department:	City Council	
Alignment with Staunton Plan (Value/Strategic Area):	Values: Integrity Engagement	
Subject:	Work Session and Regular Meeting Agendas	

Background: Consistent with Procedural Memorandum No. 3, attached are draft meeting agendas for City Council's consideration and for approval as Council prefers.

Suggested Motion: I move to approve the Work Session agenda and the Regular Meeting agenda [as presented] [with the following changes: as to the Work Session, the addition/deletion of _____; as to the Regular Meeting, the addition/deletion of _____].

City Manager: Leslie Beauregard

CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, VA

Meeting Date:	April 10, 2025	Dr. Garrett Smith School Superintendent Leslie Beauregard City Manager
Item #	2	
Department:	School Board City Council	
Alignment with Staunton Plan (Value/Strategic Area):	Value: Excellence Strategic Area: Responsive, Efficient Government	
Subject:	Joint Work Session—FY 2026 School Board Budget	

Background: City Council and Staunton City School Board will meet in a joint work session to discuss the proposed FY 2026 Staunton City Schools budget.

City Manager's Recommendation: Not applicable.

Suggested Motion: Not applicable.

City Manager: Leslie Beauregard

CITY COUNCIL



Staunton, VA

AGENDA BRIEFING

Meeting Date:	April 10, 2025	Leslie Beauregard City Manager Jessie Moyers Chief Finance Officer
Item #	3 & B	
Department:	City Manager Finance Department	
Alignment with Staunton Plan (Value/Strategic Area):	Values: Excellence; Integrity; Inclusion & Equity; Engagement; Environmentally Conscious Strategic Areas: Infrastructure; Economic Development; Responsive, Efficient Government; West End; Built Environment	
Subject:	Public Hearing of an Ordinance to Establish a Budget for FY 2026 (July 1, 2025—June 30, 2026)	

Background: The City Manager's Proposed FY 2026 Budget was presented at the regular meeting on March 27, 2025. A public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for the regular meeting on April 10, 2025. Notice of the public hearing, attached, was advertised in *The News Leader* on April 2, 2025. Prior to the public hearing, there will be a joint budget work session with Staunton City Schools and a city only budget work session on the FY 2026 Proposed Budget.

The FY 2026 Proposed Budget and the March 27, 2025 budget presentation can be found at <https://www.ci.staunton.va.us/departments/finance/city-budget>.

Attachments:

Attachment 1—FY 2026 Budget Ordinance
Attachment 2—Notice of Public Hearing

City Manager's Recommendation: Conduct the budget work session during the Work Session portion of the meeting. Conduct the public hearing during the Regular Meeting.

Suggested Motion: Not applicable.

City Manager: Leslie Beauregard

Ordinance No. 2025-

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A BUDGET FOR THE
CITY OF STAUNTON, VIRGINIA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES FOR SUCH FISCAL YEAR,
SUBJECT TO FUTURE APPROPRIATION AMENDMENT;
ESTABLISHING A TAX RATE ON TAXABLE PERSONAL PROPERTY,
REAL ESTATE AND PROPERTY OF PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATIONS;
ESTABLISHING AND IMPOSING A SERVICE CHARGE ON
CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY EXEMPT FROM TAXATION;
AND CONTINUING IN EFFECT ALL ORDINANCES OF THE
CITY OF STAUNTON, VIRGINIA, RELATING TO TAXES, LICENSES,
FEES, SERVICE CHARGES, COSTS AND OTHER CHARGES AND
ALL ORDINANCES RELATING TO THE TIME OF
PAYMENT THEREOF AND COLLECTION THEREOF, EXCEPT AS HEREIN
SPECIFICALLY MODIFIED**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia, as follows:

SECTION 1. The following budget, annexed and incorporated by reference, totaling **\$164,037,707** for the City of Staunton, Virginia for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 is hereby proposed, approved and adopted:

(SEE ATTACHED BUDGET, incorporated by reference)

SECTION 2. Public revenues of the City of Staunton, Virginia are hereby appropriated for public purposes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, as set forth in the appropriate Section of such budget.

SECTION 3.

3.1. The tax rate for all real estate, including real estate owned by public service corporations, subject to tax for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2025, shall be and is fixed at \$0.91 per \$100.00 of assessed value of such property per year, with assessed values being established through biennial reassessments pursuant to Section 58.1-3253 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, as of January of every odd numbered year.

3.2. The tax rate for all real property and improvements located in the Downtown Service District is subject to an additional tax for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2025, which shall be and is fixed at \$0.15 (fifteen cents) per \$100.00 of assessed value of such property for calendar year 2025. Assessed values for the Downtown Service District shall be established through biennial reassessments pursuant to Section 58.1-3253 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, as of January 1 of every odd numbered year. These rates shall continue until modified by action of the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia.

SECTION 4.

4.1. The tax rate for all personal property, including vehicles owned by public service corporations (but excluding machinery and tools, referenced and defined in Section 58.1-3507 of the Code of Virginia, as amended), subject to tax for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2025, shall be fixed at \$2.90 per \$100.00 of assessed value per year.

4.2. The tax rate for machinery and tools as defined in Section 58.1-3507 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, subject to tax for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2025 shall be and is fixed at \$1.24 per \$100.00 of assessed value per year.

SECTION 5. For the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, certain categories of property exempted from taxation under Section 58.1-3600 et seq. of the Code of Virginia, as amended, shall be assessed and have imposed a fee or service charge based on the assessed value of the real estate and the amount which the City of Staunton expended in the year preceding for police and fire protection and, in the case of faculty and staff housing of an educational institution, the cost of public school education. The categories of property eligible for such assessment, and the method for calculating the assessment, are prescribed in Section 58.1-3400 et seq. of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

SECTION 6. The rate of service charge or fee imposed for property subject to such charge or fee under Section 5 of this ordinance shall be and is fixed and imposed at \$0.19 per annum per \$100.00 of assessed value and \$0.49 per annum per \$100.00 of assessed value for faculty and staff housing of an educational institution for the 2024 calendar year. The service charge shall be and is payable in one installment on December 15, 2025. Any service charge not paid when due shall bear interest computed at the rate of 10% per annum from the due date until paid.

SECTION 7. The real estate lawfully owned by the County of Augusta lying wholly or partly in the corporate limits of the City of Staunton, Virginia, shall be exempt from the service charge imposed by Section 5 of this ordinance.

SECTION 8. It is the intention of Section 5, 6 and 7 of this ordinance to conform to and meet all the requirements of Section 58.1-3400 et seq. of the Code of Virginia, as amended, and shall be read and construed accordingly.

SECTION 9. The annual salary for each member of the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia, is hereby established as follows and shall remain in effect until formal action is taken to amend this ordinance:

Mayor	\$11,000
Vice-Mayor	\$10,000
Council Member	\$10,000

SECTION 10.

10.1. The City Manager is hereby authorized to transfer funds from one line item to another line item within each Fund of such budget, with the exception of the general contingency account.

10.2. Authorization is hereby given to the City Manager to withhold or postpone the expenditure of any funds appropriated by and in this ordinance when it appears to the City Manager that it would be in the best interests of the City for such expenditure to be withheld; but, this provision shall not in any way limit or restrict the right of the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia, in its sole discretion to the fullest extent permitted by law, to direct immediate disbursement of any appropriated funds when the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia, is of the opinion that the funds should be expended regardless of the position or action or inaction of the City Manager.

SECTION 11. Any ordinance in conflict with this ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent and only to the extent that such conflict exists. However, all ordinances not in conflict with this ordinance shall continue in effect, including specifically all ordinances of the City of Staunton, Virginia relating to taxes, licenses, fees, service charges, costs and payment and collection thereof continuing in effect except as herein specifically modified.

SECTION 12. If any part of this ordinance is found to be invalid by competent authority, the remaining portions of this ordinance shall continue in effect to the fullest extent permitted by law.

This ordinance shall be effective _____, 2025.

Michele D. Edwards, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kiley A. Kesecker
Clerk of Council

**CITY OF STAUNTON, VIRGINIA
FY 2026 ADOPTED BUDGET**

GENERAL FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

	BUDGET
General Property Taxes	\$ 39,177,657
Other Local Taxes	\$ 20,278,522
Commonwealth of Virginia	\$ 15,155,748
Current Service Charges	\$ 2,149,436
Federal Revenue	\$ 1,145,746
Recovered Costs	\$ 524,500
Licenses and Permits	\$ 288,200
Use of Money and Property	\$ 615,000
Fines and Forfeitures	\$ 200,500
Miscellaneous	\$ 77,704
Total Revenue	\$ 79,613,013

APPROPRIATIONS

Transfer to Education Fund	\$ 18,904,462
Public Safety	\$ 17,228,077
Health and Welfare	\$ 8,444,940
Public Works	\$ 8,384,279
General Government Administration	\$ 8,078,751
Transfer to Debt Service Sinking Fund	\$ 5,676,903
Parks, Recreation, Library, and Cultural	\$ 4,603,465
Judicial Administration	\$ 3,952,766
Community Development	\$ 3,096,557
Transfer to the City CIP Fund	\$ 1,518,813
Nondepartmental	\$ (285,000)
Educational Agency Contributions	\$ 9,000
Total Appropriations	\$ 79,613,013

DEBT SERVICE SINKING FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

Transfer from the General Fund	\$ 5,676,903
General Revenues	\$ 909,122
Total Revenue	\$ 6,586,025

APPROPRIATIONS

Debt	\$ 6,586,025
Total Appropriations	\$ 6,586,025

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

Transfer from the General Fund	\$ 1,518,813
Total Revenue	\$ 1,518,813

APPROPRIATIONS

Capital Improvements	\$ 1,518,813
Total Appropriations	\$ 1,518,813

BLUE RIDGE COURT SERVICES FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

Non Capital Grants/ Contributions	\$ 1,365,927
Miscellaneous	120,468
Charges for Services	140,000
Total Revenue	\$ 1,626,395

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$ 1,626,395
Total Appropriations	\$ 1,626,395

WATER FUND**ANTICIPATED REVENUE**

Charges for Service	\$	4,699,708
General Revenues		5,507,267
Grant Contributions		-
Total Revenue	\$	10,206,975

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$	3,707,946
Debt		944,029
Capital		5,555,000
Total Appropriations	\$	10,206,975

SEWER FUND**ANTICIPATED REVENUE**

Charges for Services	\$	4,332,757
General Revenues		2,362,061
Total Revenue	\$	6,694,818

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$	3,093,483
Debt		868,342
Capital		2,732,993
Total Appropriations	\$	6,694,818

PARKING FUND**ANTICIPATED REVENUE**

Charges for Services	\$	241,550
General Revenues		230,811
Total Revenue	\$	472,361

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$	296,492
Debt		175,869
Total Appropriations	\$	472,361

STORMWATER FUND**ANTICIPATED REVENUE**

Charges for Services	\$	1,349,145
General Revenues		78,000
Total Revenue	\$	1,427,145

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$	415,385
Capital		1,011,760
Total Appropriations	\$	1,427,145

ENVIRONMENTAL FUND**ANTICIPATED REVENUE**

Charges for Services	\$	3,822,400
General Revenues		675,840
Non Capital Grants/ Contributions		12,000
Total Revenue	\$	4,510,240

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$	3,297,240
Capital		1,213,000
Total Appropriations	\$	4,510,240

EDUCATION FUND**ANTICIPATED REVENUE**

Commonwealth of Virginia	\$	24,646,289 (1)
Transfer from the General Fund		18,904,462
Federal Government		1,956,507
Charges for Services		10,000
General Revenues		32,000
Total Revenue	\$	45,549,258

APPROPRIATIONS

Administration and Operation of Schools	\$	45,549,258
Total Appropriations	\$	45,549,258

(1) This revenue figure is estimated and will be adjusted on the first budget amendment of FY2026.

CAFETERIA FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

Operating Grants	\$ 1,907,952
Charges for Service	154,200
General Revenues	<u>338,316</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 2,400,468

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$ 2,400,468
Total Appropriations	\$ 2,400,468

SCHOOL TEXTBOOK FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

Commonwealth of Virginia	\$ 249,538
General Revenues	<u>150,812</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 400,350

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$ 400,350
Total Appropriations	\$ 400,350

SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

General Revenues	\$ 200,000
Total Revenue	\$ 200,000

APPROPRIATIONS

Capital Improvements	\$ 200,000
Total Appropriations	\$ 200,000

STATE OPERATED PROGRAMS

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

Operating Grants	\$ 2,831,846
Total Revenue	\$ 2,831,846

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$ 2,831,846
Total Appropriations	\$ 2,831,846

Grand Total Revenues

\$ 164,037,707

Grand Total Expenditures

\$ 164,037,707

Balance

\$0

Approved this 24th day of April 2025

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

ATTEST: _____

Kiley A. Kesecker

Clerk of Council

CERTIFIED: _____

Michele D. Edwards

Mayor of Council

PLEASE RUN THIS AD: WEDNESDAY, April 2, 2025

City of Staunton

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2026 (2025-2026) BUDGET

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF STAUNTON CITY COUNCIL
ON THE PROPOSED FY 2026 BUDGET FOR THE
CITY OF STAUNTON AND STAUNTON CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-2506, the public is hereby given notice of a meeting of the Staunton City Council to conduct a **PUBLIC HEARING** on the proposed FY 2026 budget as presented by the City Manager. The public hearing will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rita S. Wilson City Council Chambers located at 116 West Beverley Street, Staunton, Virginia 24401.

Following is a brief synopsis of the proposed FY 2026 Budget:

	Revenues	Expenditures
<u>City Government Funds:</u>		
General Fund	\$ 79,613,013	\$ 79,613,013
Debt Service Sinking Fund	\$ 6,586,025	\$ 6,586,025
City Capital Improvements Fund	\$ 1,518,813	\$ 1,518,813
Blue Ridge Court Services Fund	\$ 1,626,395	\$ 1,626,395
<u>City Proprietary Funds:</u>		
Water Fund	\$ 10,206,975	\$ 10,206,975
Sewer Fund	\$ 6,694,818	\$ 6,694,818
Environmental Fund	\$ 4,510,240	\$ 4,510,240
Stormwater Fund	\$ 1,427,145	\$ 1,427,145
Parking Fund	\$ 472,361	\$ 472,361
<u>School Operating Funds:</u>		
Education Fund	\$ 45,549,258	\$ 45,549,258
State Operated Programs	\$ 2,831,846	\$ 2,831,846
Cafeteria Fund	\$ 2,400,468	\$ 2,400,468
School Capital Improvements Fun	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
School Textbook Fund	\$ 400,350	\$ 400,350
Total All Funds	\$ 164,037,707	\$ 164,037,707

Proposed Property Tax Rates:

	Current Tax Rates as of January 1, 2024	Proposed Tax Rates for January 1, 2025
Real Estate	\$0.89	\$0.91
Personal Property – motor vehicles	\$2.90	\$2.90
Personal Property – business tangible property	\$2.90	\$2.90
Personal Property – machinery and tools	\$1.24	\$1.24

After holding its own public hearing, the Staunton School Board proposes to Council, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 22.1-92, a public schools budget totaling \$51,381,922. Council is required to prepare and approve an annual budget for educational purposes by May 15 or within thirty days of the receipt by the City of the estimates of state funds, whichever is later, in accordance with Virginia Code Section 22.1-93.

The FY 2026 Budget is available on the City's website at www.staunton.va.us/budget.

The public is strongly encouraged to participate in the budget process. The meeting will be audio streamed live on Cable Channel 7 and video streamed on the City's internet site at <https://www.ci.staunton.va.us/government/city-council>. Specific guidelines for participation can be found at <https://www.ci.staunton.va.us/government/city-council/access-city-council-meetings>. Questions regarding participation may be directed to Clerk of Council, Kiley Kesecker at keseckerka@ci.staunton.va.us or 540-332-3810.

Kiley A. Kesecker
Clerk of Council

CITY COUNCIL



Staunton, Virginia

AGENDA BRIEFING

Meeting Date:	April 10, 2025	City Council John C. Blair, II City Attorney
Item #	4	
Department:	City Council	
Alignment with Staunton Plan (Value/Strategic Area):	Value: Excellence Strategic Area: Responsive, Efficient Government	
Subject:	Closed Meeting for (i) the Potential Disposition of Publicly Held Real Property Bordering Peck Street; and (ii) Consultation with Legal Counsel for Legal Advice Related to Establishment of a Special Tax District	

Suggested Motion: I move to enter a closed meeting for (i) the discussion of the potential disposition of real property bordering Peck Street where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City of Staunton pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(3); and (ii) consultation with legal counsel from the City Attorney for legal advice related to establishment of a special tax district pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(8).

Second. Discussion. Vote – Clerk of Council to poll members of Council.

After the closed meeting: I move that Council reconvene in an open meeting and certify to the best of each member's knowledge that only lawfully exempted public business matters were discussed and that only public business matters as identified in the closed meeting motion were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting.

Second. Discussion. Vote –Clerk of Council to poll members of Council.

City Manager: Leslie M. Beauregard

CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, Virginia

Meeting Date:	April 10, 2025	City Council
Item #:	A	
Department:	City Council	
Alignment with Staunton Plan (Value/Strategic Area):	Strategic Area: Responsive, Efficient Government	
Subject:	Consent Agenda	

Background: As provided in [Council Procedure Memorandum No. 14](#), it is the policy of City Council to have the City Manager place routine, noncontroversial items on a Consent Agenda. Briefings for each item included on the Consent Agenda have been prepared in the manner and format of regular business items on the agenda, with each item described in sufficient detail to provide the public with an appropriate understanding of such item. All matters listed on the Consent Agenda will be enacted by one motion and as a single item. There will be no separate discussion of an item. If discussion is desired, the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of a member of City Council and considered separately at the end of the regular meeting agenda.

The Mayor will inquire whether any member of City Council desires to remove any item from the Consent Agenda and to place such item on the regular meeting agenda for separate consideration.

Suggested Motion (if no items removed): I move to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

Suggestion Motion (if one or more items removed): I move to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of item(s) _____, and that item(s)_____ be moved to the end of the regular agenda for discussion and a separate vote.

City Manager: Leslie Beauregard

CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, Virginia

Meeting Date:	April 10, 2025	City Council
Item #	A.1	
Department:	City Council	
Alignment with Staunton Plan (Value/Strategic Area):	Values: Integrity Engagement	
Subject:	Approval of Minutes	

Background: Draft meeting minutes are attached for City Council's consideration and for approval as Council prefers.

Attachment:

Attachment 1 – Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2025

Suggested Motions: I move to approve the work session and regular meeting minutes of March 27, 2025 [as presented] [with the following changes: _____.]

City Manager: Leslie Beauregard



City Council
WORK SESSION
March 27, 2025
5:15 p.m.

Council Members present: Mayor Edwards, Vice Mayor Arrowood, and Councilors Overholtzer, Park, Shepherd, and Woods. Councilor Campbell was absent.

Mayor Edwards called the meeting to order: Mayor Edwards called this meeting of Staunton City Council to order.

Mayor Edwards stated: “On March 17, 2025, I received a request from Councilor Overholtzer to participate remotely in the March 27, 2025 Staunton City Council meeting due to a personal matter that prevents his physical attendance at the meeting. Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I will now ask Councilor Overholtzer to state the personal matter that makes him unable to attend tonight’s meeting.”

Mr. Overholtzer stated that he was on vacation.

Ms. Park stated, “Pursuant to Staunton City Council Procedural Memorandum Number Three, I move to allow Councilor Overholtzer to remotely participate in the March 27, 2025 Staunton City Council meeting due to a personal matter.”

The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Arrowood and carried as follows:

Mr. Campbell	absent	Ms. Park	aye
Ms. Woods	aye	Vice Mayor Arrowood	aye
Mr. Shepherd	aye	Mayor Edwards	aye

Mayor Edwards asked Mr. Overholtzer to state the remote location from which he is participating. Mr. Overholtzer responded that he was in Nags Head, North Carolina. Mayor Edwards asked Councilmembers and the audience if they could hear Mr. Overholtzer. The response was affirmative.

1. Consideration of Work Session and Regular Meeting Agendas

Consistent with Procedural Memorandum No. 3, the agendas were presented for Council consideration.

Vice Mayor Arrowood moved to approve the work session and regular meeting agendas as presented.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Park and carried as follows:

Ms. Park	aye	Mr. Shepherd	aye
Mr. Overholtzer	aye	Vice Mayor Arrowood	aye
Ms. Woods	aye	Mayor Edwards	aye
Mr. Campbell	absent		

2. Update on Friends of the Library Terrace Project

Assistant City Manager Amanda Kaufman stated that the Friends of the Staunton Library have been working towards the construction of a public terrace on the lawn of the Staunton Public Library to be used for a variety of outdoor programming needs. The Friends have been consulting with design firms to finalize the site plan and have prepared an update for Council.

Director of Library Services Sarah Skrobis and Kennon Bowen from the Friends presented the final visual design concepts that have been developed. No financial support for this project is being requested from the city.

There were no questions from Councilmembers.

3. Update on Refuse Modernization Initiative

Director of Public Works Dave Irvin provided an update on the progress of the refuse modernization initiative, including a recap of the roll-out process, and revisited FAQs based on resident feedback. He also discussed next steps regarding monthly yard waste pick up.

Councilmembers discussed the bag tag system for extra trash and a non-compliance protocol, as well as a reconciliation phase to address any issues with the delivered cans.

4. Discussion of Adopt-A-Street Program

Councilor Overholtzer stated that the Adopt-A-Street program is designed to encourage citizen participation in beautification and litter cleanup of designated areas in their community at regular intervals. Individuals, organizations, or businesses may agree to adopt-a-street and to keep the designated area cleared of litter and other debris.

The city has had a passive program in place for many years. Should the direction be given to staff to enhance this program and start to actively push it out, this would require a budget and staff resources. The operational budget would include signage, support materials such as trash grabbers, safety vests, trash bags, and other materials. Staff time would include placing signage at Adopt-A-Street spots, setting up traffic safety signage and collecting trash if the group cannot dispose of the trash on their own. These are all tasks not currently undertaken by staff and would most likely occur on weekends.

Vice Mayor Arrowood asked if Public Works can make the signage, which Mr. Irvin confirmed.

Councilmembers were in agreement and instructed staff to move forward with the project.

5. **Discussion of Establishment of Day Shelter for Unsheltered Persons**

At the request of Mayor Edwards, Council discussed the establishment of a low-barrier day shelter in the city to provide services and resources to unsheltered persons in our community.

Mayor Edwards stated that the intention is to provide a safe and warm place for unsheltered individuals during the day.

A brief discussion took place, and Councilmembers were in agreement of their support for the project. Mayor Edwards instructed staff to move forward, and Ms. Beauregard stated that she will discuss the project with Housing Planner Rebecca Joyce.

The work session adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Kiley A. Kesecker
Clerk of Council

**REGULAR MEETING OF STAUNTON CITY COUNCIL****Thursday, March 27, 2025****7:00 p.m.****Rita S. Wilson Council Chambers**

PRESENT: Mayor Michele D. Edwards
Vice Mayor Brad D. Arrowood
Jeff L. Overholtzer (remote participant)
Corrie R. Park
Blake N. Shepherd
Alice L. Woods

ABSENT: Adam F. Campbell

ALSO PRESENT: Leslie Beauregard, City Manager
Amanda Kaufman, Assistant City Manager
John Blair, City Attorney
Kiley Kesecker, Clerk of Council

Mayor Edwards called the meeting to order: Mayor Edwards called this meeting of Staunton City Council to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

The invocation/moment of silence was given by Pastor Won Un on the invitation of Mr. Shepherd.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Edwards stated that she had attended a Library Advisory Board meeting and provided information on the "Book a Librarian" educational program. She also stated that there is an upcoming senior health fair at the Gypsy Hill Park Gym.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Ms. Park stated that she recently participated in the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank's Shop to Stop Hunger event.

Mr. Overholtzer stated that he recently attended a briefing provided by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia.

REGULAR MEETING**A. Consent Agenda**

Mayor Edwards made the following statement:

“Per Procedure Memorandum No. 14, it is the policy of City Council to have routine, non-controversial items placed on a Consent Agenda. All items on the Consent Agenda will be voted on in one motion. If separate discussion of an item is requested by any member of Council, that item shall be removed and considered separately at the end of the regular meeting agenda.”

**A.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes
Work Session and Regular Meeting of March 13, 2025**

Mayor Edwards asked if any Councilmembers desired to remove any item from the Consent Agenda to be placed on the regular meeting agenda for separate consideration.

Vice Mayor Arrowood moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Woods and carried as follows:

Ms. Woods	aye	Ms. Park	aye
Mr. Shepherd	aye	Vice Mayor Arrowood	aye
Mr. Campbell	absent	Mayor Edwards	aye
Mr. Overholtzer	aye		

B. Presentation of Proposed FY 2026 Budget

City Manager Leslie Beauregard and Chief Financial Officer Jessie Moyers presented details of the FY 2026 proposed budget to City Council as the official kick off to a series of public hearings and work sessions that will result in the scheduled consideration to adopt the FY 2026 Operating and Capital Budget on April 24, 2025. The presentation highlighted General Fund revenues and expenditures, the proposed real estate tax rate increase to \$.91/\$100 assessed value, the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court facility, FY 2026 Capital Improvement Plan, refuse modernization, and accomplishments.

Total proposed budget is \$164,037,707 for all funds

- \$15.4 million (or 10.4%) increase over FY 2025

General Fund proposed budget is \$79,613,013

- \$6.1 million (or 8.31%) increase over FY 2025

Councilmembers discussed the proposed budget, including General Fund expenditures, and outside agency and animal shelter expenditures. The renovation of the Gypsy Hill Park pool house, including the estimated cost and potential design plan and uses were also discussed.

93
94 **C. Public Hearing of Effective Real Property Tax Rate Increase**
95

96 The proposed budget is based on a real property tax rate of \$0.91 per \$100 assessed value. The
97 current real property tax rate is \$0.89 per \$100 assessed value.
98

99 Mayor Edwards stated the following:
100

101 “In a moment, I will open the Public Hearing. It is a time that Council sets aside to hear from
102 citizens and others about a specific topic.
103

104 We ask that you please give your name, your address, and then keep your remarks at five minutes
105 or less. When you reach the five-minute time limit, I will let you know that your time limit has
106 expired.
107

108 For our Zoom participants, please raise your hand now if you wish to speak on this particular
109 matter. If you raise your hand during this Public Hearing, you will also be able to raise your hand
110 during this Council meeting for other Public Hearings and Matters from the Public. Please keep
111 your comments to five minutes. Once everyone who wishes to speak has had an opportunity, I will
112 then close the Public Hearing.
113

114 I will now open the Public Hearing, so if you wish to speak, please approach the podium. We will
115 alternate between individuals physically present and those that have their hands raised via the
116 Zoom platform.”
117

118 The public hearing was opened.
119

120 Gretchen Walzl, 746 Opie Street, stated that she had some questions about her assessment.
121

122 Roger Preore, 337 East Beverley Street, spoke in opposition to the proposed tax rate and suggested
123 lowering it to \$0.87.
124

125 Pamela Wagner, 164 North Coalter Street, spoke in support of the proposed tax rate increase.
126

127 Steve Claffey, 1618 Dogwood Road, urged Council not to raise the tax rate in the interest of
128 remaining competitive with other localities in the region.
129

130 Vonda Lacey, 808 Craig Drive, urged Council not to raise the tax rate and to consider where that
131 money is going if they do.
132

133 With there being no one else wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.
134

135 **D. Consideration of Augusta County Landfill Leases**
136

137 City Attorney John Blair stated that in 1999, Augusta County, Staunton, and Waynesboro created
138 the Augusta County Landfill. The localities executed two documents: an Agreement establishing

the operational terms of the property and a Trust Agreement in which the landfill real estate was placed in a trust to be governed by Trustees.

The Trustees of the Augusta County Landfill are the Augusta County Administrator and the Staunton and Waynesboro City Managers. The Trustees manage the landfill in accordance with the Agreement and Trust Agreement.

At a recent meeting, the Trustees were presented with two potential leases of Augusta County Landfill property. The leases are for approximately 116 acres and 76 acres to be used as pastureland for two year terms with renewal options for three additional years.

The proposed lease prices are above the market value of the Virginia State Land Evaluation Advisory Council's proposed land use value of \$25.50 per year per acre for pastureland located in Augusta County, Virginia. The Schooley Lease is for \$3,400 per year for 76.57 acres and the Hershberger Lease is for \$5,100 per year for 116.83 acres. The Trustees have discussed the proposed leases and are in favor of executing them.

The Agreement requires that the governing bodies of Augusta County, Staunton, and Waynesboro provide permission for the Trustee's to lease the Trust's land.

Mayor Edwards asked if there were any questions from Councilmembers.

Ms. Woods clarified that the revenue from the leases will go to the landfill, which Mr. Blair confirmed.

Councilmembers had no further questions.

Vice Mayor Arrowood moved to permit the Augusta County Landfill Trustees to execute the leases to Charles Schooley and Jesse Hershberger as presented.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Park and carried as follows:

Mr. Shepherd	aye	Mr. Campbell	absent
Ms. Park	aye	Vice Mayor Arrowood	aye
Ms. Woods	aye	Mayor Edwards	aye
Mr. Overholtzer	aye		

E. Consideration of Amendment to Staunton City Code Section 6.10.010

Mr. Blair stated that in 2002, the Staunton City Council amended its Animal Control ordinance to reflect that certain, common offenses would be punished with civil penalties rather than as criminal offenses. The Council adopted Staunton City Code Section 6.05.020 to reflect the change in punishments. One of the offenses that the Council decided to punish as a civil penalty rather than a misdemeanor was the failure of a dog, cat, or ferret owner to vaccinate an animal older than four months with a rabies vaccine. However, the ordinance which mandates the rabies vaccination for

dogs, cats, and ferrets, adopted in 1964, still provides for criminal penalties. The proposed ordinance would conform the current City Code with Council's 2002 amendments.

Mayor Edwards asked if there were any questions from Councilmembers.

Mr. Overholtzer asked how many people are charged with such penalties in a year. Mr. Blair stated that he did not have that information, but it could be provided by the animal control officer.

Councilmembers had no further questions.

Ms. Park moved that City Council adopt the amendments to Staunton Code Section 6.10.010, as presented.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Woods and carried as follows:

Ms. Park	aye	Mr. Shepherd	aye
Mr. Overholtzer	aye	Vice Mayor Arrowood	aye
Ms. Woods	aye	Mayor Edwards	aye
Mr. Campbell	absent		

Ordinance No. 2025 - 07

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING, RESTATING AND REORDAINING SECTION 6.10.010, RABIES VACCINATION OR INOCULATION OF CATS, DOGS, AND FERRETS, OF CHAPTER 6.10, DOGS AND CATS, OF TITLE 6, ANIMALS AND FOWL OF THE STAUNTON CITY CODE

RECITALS

- A.** the Staunton City Code's rabies vaccination ordinance still provides for criminal penalties;
- B.** The Staunton City Code currently classifies the failure of a cat, dog, or ferret to receive a rabies vaccination as a violation punishable as a civil penalty;
- C.** The legislative history indicates that the Staunton City Council desired to make the failure of a cat, dog, or ferret to receive a rabies vaccination punishable as a civil penalty;
- D.** these changes to the City Code are recommended by the City's animal control officer and the City Attorney; and
- E.** this matter has been heard and considered; and
- E.** These recitals are deemed an integral part of this ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia, that Section 6.10.010, Rabies vaccination or inoculation of cats, dogs, and ferrets, of Title 6, Animals and Fowl, of the Staunton City Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.10.010 Rabies vaccination or inoculation of cats, dogs and ferrets.

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep, hold or harbor any cat, dog or ferret over the age of four months within the city limits unless such cat, dog or ferret shall have been vaccinated with a vaccine licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as recommended in the current “Compendium of Animal Rabies Control,” prepared by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc. If, however, the requirement of vaccination or inoculation threatens the physical well-being of such cat, dog or ferret, the owner or custodian of such animal shall have a certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian certifying the same; and the owner shall provide a copy of the signed veterinarian certificate to the city’s animal control officer. A copy of such certificate will be forwarded to the local health department officer within one working day of receipt by the animal control officer. The owner or custodian of a dog, cat or ferret shall furnish upon request of an animal control officer, deputy animal control officer, humane investigator, law enforcement officer or official of the local health department, the current certificate of vaccination for such animal.

(2) Any person transporting a cat, dog or ferret into the city from another jurisdiction shall immediately conform with the provisions of this section.

~~(3) The first violation of this section shall constitute a Class 4 misdemeanor. The second violation as to the same animal shall constitute a Class 3 misdemeanor. Subsequent violations as to the same animal shall constitute Class 2 misdemeanors. Upon being found guilty of a third or subsequent violation related to the same animal, the court may also order the confiscation and the proper disposition of the animal.~~

Introduced: March 27, 2025

Adopted: March 27, 2025

Effective Date: March 27, 2025

Signed: MICHELE D. EDWARDS, MAYOR

Attest: KILEY A. KESECKER

Clerk of Council

F. Update on Virginia Department of Transportation Richmond Avenue Road Diet & Roundabout and Project

City Engineer Lyle Hartt stated that in 2016, the city applied for and was later awarded Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Smart Scale funding in the amount of \$2,245,805 for improvements along Richmond Avenue in the vicinity of the intersection with Greenville Avenue, to include a road diet and roundabout. At the November, 2024 City Council meeting, city and VDOT staff provided an update on this project, in particular the funding gap between the original budget and current estimates.

During the February 13, 2025 work session, city staff provided an update on these projects and asked for guidance from City Council regarding next steps.

At the February 27, 2025 regular meeting, city staff updated City Council again and presented an update on both projects and several options to consider.

At the February 27 meeting, City Council authorized the Edgewood Road sidewalk project, agreeing to request that the two Augusta Street sidewalks projects be canceled and those funds transferred to Edgewood Road, and City Council committed to allocating between \$400K and \$1.1M in local dollars to complete the project.

City Council also decided to continue the conversation about the Richmond Avenue roundabout and road diet with the new information provided that evening that much of the funding for the single lane roundabout that VDOT had indicated would be available was in question.

On March 20, 2025, city staff was informed of the following by VDOT regarding the Richmond Avenue single lane roundabout project:

- Revised estimate for a single lane roundabout has increased from \$7.5M to \$7,798,637
- Total available funding from SMART SCALE and other non-local sources is \$3,393,868 broken out as follows:
 - o SMART SCALE=\$2,245,805
 - o Other Non-Local Sources=\$1,148,063

That leaves a funding gap of \$4,404,769 based on VDOT's most recent cost estimate of the single lane roundabout.

Staff reviewed several options with VDOT's team as far as the roundabout is concerned, which we continue to process and will review with City Council during this meeting. Those options ranged from the city identifying \$4.4M to fill the funding gap, to applying for VDOT Revenue Sharing to help fund the roundabout, which would still leave an anticipated gap requiring approximately \$3M in local funds, to doing something other than a roundabout to interface with the Greenville Avenue road diet.

A discussion took place regarding alternatives to the roundabout, including a less costly intersection with a traffic signal and improved pedestrian accessibility.

Ms. Woods suggested using the entire \$3.4 million to enhance the intersection without the use of city funds. Councilors Park and Shepherd agreed

Mayor Edwards noted the consensus among Councilmembers to ask VDOT to create a safe intersection within the \$3.4 million budget.

Councilmembers had no further questions.

MATTERS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Ms. Beauregard provided updates and information on the following:

- VA250 mobile museum at the Frontier Culture Museum
- Staunton Augusta Art Center pop-up exhibit from JMU architecture students for reimagining the Wharf

MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Edwards read the following statement:

“This part of City Council’s agenda is entitled matters from the public. It is a time that Council sets aside to hear from citizens and others about a wide variety of subjects. A copy of the Staunton City Council’s ‘Matters from the Public’ rules is available in paper form at the Clerk’s desk and online at the City of Staunton webpage. You are asked to familiarize yourself with those rules before commenting. Please come to the podium or raise your hand, identify yourself, and complete your remarks within five minutes.”

Mary Miller, 471 Albemarle Avenue, shared some words on the importance of integrity, empathy, compassion, and kindness.

Ann Senter, 1810 Springhill Road, described issues with the new trash policy regarding the placement of trashcans at the end of their long driveway.

There was no one else present wishing to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Kiley A. Kesecker
Clerk of Council

CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, Virginia

Meeting Date:	April 10, 2025	Captain Chad Kauffman Police Department
Item #	A.2	
Department:	Police Department	
Alignment with Staunton Plan (Value/Strategic Area):	Values: Excellence; Engagement Strategic Area: Responsive, Efficient Government	
Subject:	Consideration of Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services FY 2026 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant	

Background: The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is offering a grant for local units of government to purchase equipment that improves or enhances the delivery of law enforcement services to the community and/or ensures the safety of citizens and officers. The Police Department intends to purchase a drone docking station and additional drone.

In emergency situations, response time is a critical factor that can mean the difference between life and death. Currently, first responders in Staunton rely on traditional dispatch methods, which can be delayed by traffic, terrain, and communication challenges. By integrating drone technology, the Police Department can significantly reduce response times and enhance the ability of emergency personnel to assess and react to unfolding incidents more effectively. The implementation of a drone dock and drone will enable an automated, always-ready aerial response system that improves emergency outcomes and enhances overall public safety. The grant requires localities to contribute 25% matching funds.

	City Share	DCJS Share	Total Compensation
DCJS Byrne/JAG Grant	\$9,200	\$27,600	\$36,800

Fiscal Impact: Because this grant requires a cash match, per City Council Procedure Memorandum No. 5, submitting an application for this grant requires approval by City Council. The city share of the grant will be funded with existing asset forfeiture funds.

City Manager's Recommendation: Recommend that Council authorize staff to apply for the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services FY 2026 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

Suggested Motion: I move City Council authorize staff to apply for the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services FY 2026 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

City Manager: Leslie Beauregard

CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, Virginia

Meeting Date:	April 10, 2025	City Council
Item #	A.3	
Department:	City Council	
Alignment with Staunton Plan (Value/Strategic Area):	Value: Engagement Strategic Area: Responsive, Efficient Government	
Subject:	Consideration of Proclamation to be Presented in Council Chambers at the April 24, 2025 City Council Meeting—Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive	

Background: Per [City Council Procedure Memorandum No. 19](#), all proclamations presented in Council Chambers must be approved by City Council at the preceding regular meeting.

The item before City Council is the approval of a request for a proclamation to be presented in Council Chambers at the April 24, 2025 Council meeting. The proclamation is in recognition of **The Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive**. Should Council approve this proclamation, it will be prepared for presentation at the beginning of the Regular Meeting on April 24.

Attachment: Not applicable

City Manager's Recommendation: Not applicable

Suggested Motion: I move to approve the requested proclamation in recognition of the Letter Carriers' Food Drive for presentation at the April 24, 2025 City Council meeting.

City Manager: Leslie Beauregard

CITY COUNCIL



Staunton, VA

AGENDA BRIEFING

Meeting Date:	April 10, 2025	Leslie Beauregard City Manager Jessie Moyers Chief Finance Officer
Item #	3 & B	
Department:	City Manager Finance Department	
Alignment with Staunton Plan (Value/Strategic Area):	Values: Excellence; Integrity; Inclusion & Equity; Engagement; Environmentally Conscious Strategic Areas: Infrastructure; Economic Development; Responsive, Efficient Government; West End; Built Environment	
Subject:	Public Hearing of an Ordinance to Establish a Budget for FY 2026 (July 1, 2025—June 30, 2026)	

Background: The City Manager's Proposed FY 2026 Budget was presented at the regular meeting on March 27, 2025. A public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for the regular meeting on April 10, 2025. Notice of the public hearing, attached, was advertised in *The News Leader* on April 2, 2025. Prior to the public hearing, there will be a joint budget work session with Staunton City Schools and a city only budget work session on the FY 2026 Proposed Budget.

The FY 2026 Proposed Budget and the March 27, 2025 budget presentation can be found at <https://www.ci.staunton.va.us/departments/finance/city-budget>.

Attachments:

Attachment 1—FY 2026 Budget Ordinance
Attachment 2—Notice of Public Hearing

City Manager's Recommendation: Conduct the budget work session during the Work Session portion of the meeting. Conduct the public hearing during the Regular Meeting.

Suggested Motion: Not applicable.

City Manager: Leslie Beauregard

Ordinance No. 2025-

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A BUDGET FOR THE
CITY OF STAUNTON, VIRGINIA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES FOR SUCH FISCAL YEAR,
SUBJECT TO FUTURE APPROPRIATION AMENDMENT;
ESTABLISHING A TAX RATE ON TAXABLE PERSONAL PROPERTY,
REAL ESTATE AND PROPERTY OF PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATIONS;
ESTABLISHING AND IMPOSING A SERVICE CHARGE ON
CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY EXEMPT FROM TAXATION;
AND CONTINUING IN EFFECT ALL ORDINANCES OF THE
CITY OF STAUNTON, VIRGINIA, RELATING TO TAXES, LICENSES,
FEES, SERVICE CHARGES, COSTS AND OTHER CHARGES AND
ALL ORDINANCES RELATING TO THE TIME OF
PAYMENT THEREOF AND COLLECTION THEREOF, EXCEPT AS HEREIN
SPECIFICALLY MODIFIED**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia, as follows:

SECTION 1. The following budget, annexed and incorporated by reference, totaling **\$164,037,707** for the City of Staunton, Virginia for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 is hereby proposed, approved and adopted:

(SEE ATTACHED BUDGET, incorporated by reference)

SECTION 2. Public revenues of the City of Staunton, Virginia are hereby appropriated for public purposes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, as set forth in the appropriate Section of such budget.

SECTION 3.

3.1. The tax rate for all real estate, including real estate owned by public service corporations, subject to tax for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2025, shall be and is fixed at \$0.91 per \$100.00 of assessed value of such property per year, with assessed values being established through biennial reassessments pursuant to Section 58.1-3253 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, as of January of every odd numbered year.

3.2. The tax rate for all real property and improvements located in the Downtown Service District is subject to an additional tax for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2025, which shall be and is fixed at \$0.15 (fifteen cents) per \$100.00 of assessed value of such property for calendar year 2025. Assessed values for the Downtown Service District shall be established through biennial reassessments pursuant to Section 58.1-3253 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, as of January 1 of every odd numbered year. These rates shall continue until modified by action of the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia.

SECTION 4.

4.1. The tax rate for all personal property, including vehicles owned by public service corporations (but excluding machinery and tools, referenced and defined in Section 58.1-3507 of the Code of Virginia, as amended), subject to tax for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2025, shall be fixed at \$2.90 per \$100.00 of assessed value per year.

4.2. The tax rate for machinery and tools as defined in Section 58.1-3507 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, subject to tax for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2025 shall be and is fixed at \$1.24 per \$100.00 of assessed value per year.

SECTION 5. For the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, certain categories of property exempted from taxation under Section 58.1-3600 et seq. of the Code of Virginia, as amended, shall be assessed and have imposed a fee or service charge based on the assessed value of the real estate and the amount which the City of Staunton expended in the year preceding for police and fire protection and, in the case of faculty and staff housing of an educational institution, the cost of public school education. The categories of property eligible for such assessment, and the method for calculating the assessment, are prescribed in Section 58.1-3400 et seq. of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

SECTION 6. The rate of service charge or fee imposed for property subject to such charge or fee under Section 5 of this ordinance shall be and is fixed and imposed at \$0.19 per annum per \$100.00 of assessed value and \$0.49 per annum per \$100.00 of assessed value for faculty and staff housing of an educational institution for the 2024 calendar year. The service charge shall be and is payable in one installment on December 15, 2025. Any service charge not paid when due shall bear interest computed at the rate of 10% per annum from the due date until paid.

SECTION 7. The real estate lawfully owned by the County of Augusta lying wholly or partly in the corporate limits of the City of Staunton, Virginia, shall be exempt from the service charge imposed by Section 5 of this ordinance.

SECTION 8. It is the intention of Section 5, 6 and 7 of this ordinance to conform to and meet all the requirements of Section 58.1-3400 et seq. of the Code of Virginia, as amended, and shall be read and construed accordingly.

SECTION 9. The annual salary for each member of the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia, is hereby established as follows and shall remain in effect until formal action is taken to amend this ordinance:

Mayor	\$11,000
Vice-Mayor	\$10,000
Council Member	\$10,000

SECTION 10.

10.1. The City Manager is hereby authorized to transfer funds from one line item to another line item within each Fund of such budget, with the exception of the general contingency account.

10.2. Authorization is hereby given to the City Manager to withhold or postpone the expenditure of any funds appropriated by and in this ordinance when it appears to the City Manager that it would be in the best interests of the City for such expenditure to be withheld; but, this provision shall not in any way limit or restrict the right of the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia, in its sole discretion to the fullest extent permitted by law, to direct immediate disbursement of any appropriated funds when the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia, is of the opinion that the funds should be expended regardless of the position or action or inaction of the City Manager.

SECTION 11. Any ordinance in conflict with this ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent and only to the extent that such conflict exists. However, all ordinances not in conflict with this ordinance shall continue in effect, including specifically all ordinances of the City of Staunton, Virginia relating to taxes, licenses, fees, service charges, costs and payment and collection thereof continuing in effect except as herein specifically modified.

SECTION 12. If any part of this ordinance is found to be invalid by competent authority, the remaining portions of this ordinance shall continue in effect to the fullest extent permitted by law.

This ordinance shall be effective _____, 2025.

Michele D. Edwards, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kiley A. Kesecker
Clerk of Council

**CITY OF STAUNTON, VIRGINIA
FY 2026 ADOPTED BUDGET**

GENERAL FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

	BUDGET
General Property Taxes	\$ 39,177,657
Other Local Taxes	\$ 20,278,522
Commonwealth of Virginia	\$ 15,155,748
Current Service Charges	\$ 2,149,436
Federal Revenue	\$ 1,145,746
Recovered Costs	\$ 524,500
Licenses and Permits	\$ 288,200
Use of Money and Property	\$ 615,000
Fines and Forfeitures	\$ 200,500
Miscellaneous	\$ 77,704
Total Revenue	\$ 79,613,013

APPROPRIATIONS

Transfer to Education Fund	\$ 18,904,462
Public Safety	\$ 17,228,077
Health and Welfare	\$ 8,444,940
Public Works	\$ 8,384,279
General Government Administration	\$ 8,078,751
Transfer to Debt Service Sinking Fund	\$ 5,676,903
Parks, Recreation, Library, and Cultural	\$ 4,603,465
Judicial Administration	\$ 3,952,766
Community Development	\$ 3,096,557
Transfer to the City CIP Fund	\$ 1,518,813
Nondepartmental	\$ (285,000)
Educational Agency Contributions	\$ 9,000
Total Appropriations	\$ 79,613,013

DEBT SERVICE SINKING FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

Transfer from the General Fund	\$ 5,676,903
General Revenues	\$ 909,122
Total Revenue	\$ 6,586,025

APPROPRIATIONS

Debt	\$ 6,586,025
Total Appropriations	\$ 6,586,025

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

Transfer from the General Fund	\$ 1,518,813
Total Revenue	\$ 1,518,813

APPROPRIATIONS

Capital Improvements	\$ 1,518,813
Total Appropriations	\$ 1,518,813

BLUE RIDGE COURT SERVICES FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

Non Capital Grants/ Contributions	\$ 1,365,927
Miscellaneous	120,468
Charges for Services	140,000
Total Revenue	\$ 1,626,395

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$ 1,626,395
Total Appropriations	\$ 1,626,395

WATER FUND**ANTICIPATED REVENUE**

Charges for Service	\$	4,699,708
General Revenues		5,507,267
Grant Contributions		-
Total Revenue	\$	10,206,975

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$	3,707,946
Debt		944,029
Capital		5,555,000
Total Appropriations	\$	10,206,975

SEWER FUND**ANTICIPATED REVENUE**

Charges for Services	\$	4,332,757
General Revenues		2,362,061
Total Revenue	\$	6,694,818

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$	3,093,483
Debt		868,342
Capital		2,732,993
Total Appropriations	\$	6,694,818

PARKING FUND**ANTICIPATED REVENUE**

Charges for Services	\$	241,550
General Revenues		230,811
Total Revenue	\$	472,361

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$	296,492
Debt		175,869
Total Appropriations	\$	472,361

STORMWATER FUND**ANTICIPATED REVENUE**

Charges for Services	\$	1,349,145
General Revenues		78,000
Total Revenue	\$	1,427,145

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$	415,385
Capital		1,011,760
Total Appropriations	\$	1,427,145

ENVIRONMENTAL FUND**ANTICIPATED REVENUE**

Charges for Services	\$	3,822,400
General Revenues		675,840
Non Capital Grants/ Contributions		12,000
Total Revenue	\$	4,510,240

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$	3,297,240
Capital		1,213,000
Total Appropriations	\$	4,510,240

EDUCATION FUND**ANTICIPATED REVENUE**

Commonwealth of Virginia	\$	24,646,289	(1)
Transfer from the General Fund		18,904,462	
Federal Government		1,956,507	
Charges for Services		10,000	
General Revenues		32,000	
Total Revenue	\$	45,549,258	

APPROPRIATIONS

Administration and Operation of Schools	\$	45,549,258
Total Appropriations	\$	45,549,258

(1) This revenue figure is estimated and will be adjusted on the first budget amendment of FY2026.

CAFETERIA FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

Operating Grants	\$ 1,907,952
Charges for Service	154,200
General Revenues	<u>338,316</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 2,400,468

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$ 2,400,468
Total Appropriations	\$ 2,400,468

SCHOOL TEXTBOOK FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

Commonwealth of Virginia	\$ 249,538
General Revenues	<u>150,812</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 400,350

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$ 400,350
Total Appropriations	\$ 400,350

SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

General Revenues	\$ 200,000
Total Revenue	\$ 200,000

APPROPRIATIONS

Capital Improvements	\$ 200,000
Total Appropriations	\$ 200,000

STATE OPERATED PROGRAMS

ANTICIPATED REVENUE

Operating Grants	\$ 2,831,846
Total Revenue	\$ 2,831,846

APPROPRIATIONS

Operations	\$ 2,831,846
Total Appropriations	\$ 2,831,846

Grand Total Revenues

\$ 164,037,707

Grand Total Expenditures

\$ 164,037,707

Balance

\$0

Approved this 24th day of April 2025

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

ATTEST: _____

Kiley A. Kesecker

Clerk of Council

CERTIFIED: _____

Michele D. Edwards

Mayor of Council

PLEASE RUN THIS AD: WEDNESDAY, April 2, 2025

City of Staunton

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2026 (2025-2026) BUDGET

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF STAUNTON CITY COUNCIL
ON THE PROPOSED FY 2026 BUDGET FOR THE
CITY OF STAUNTON AND STAUNTON CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-2506, the public is hereby given notice of a meeting of the Staunton City Council to conduct a **PUBLIC HEARING** on the proposed FY 2026 budget as presented by the City Manager. The public hearing will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rita S. Wilson City Council Chambers located at 116 West Beverley Street, Staunton, Virginia 24401.

Following is a brief synopsis of the proposed FY 2026 Budget:

	Revenues	Expenditures
<u>City Government Funds:</u>		
General Fund	\$ 79,613,013	\$ 79,613,013
Debt Service Sinking Fund	\$ 6,586,025	\$ 6,586,025
City Capital Improvements Fund	\$ 1,518,813	\$ 1,518,813
Blue Ridge Court Services Fund	\$ 1,626,395	\$ 1,626,395
<u>City Proprietary Funds:</u>		
Water Fund	\$ 10,206,975	\$ 10,206,975
Sewer Fund	\$ 6,694,818	\$ 6,694,818
Environmental Fund	\$ 4,510,240	\$ 4,510,240
Stormwater Fund	\$ 1,427,145	\$ 1,427,145
Parking Fund	\$ 472,361	\$ 472,361
<u>School Operating Funds:</u>		
Education Fund	\$ 45,549,258	\$ 45,549,258
State Operated Programs	\$ 2,831,846	\$ 2,831,846
Cafeteria Fund	\$ 2,400,468	\$ 2,400,468
School Capital Improvements Fun	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
School Textbook Fund	\$ 400,350	\$ 400,350
Total All Funds	\$ 164,037,707	\$ 164,037,707

Proposed Property Tax Rates:

	Current Tax Rates as of January 1, 2024	Proposed Tax Rates for January 1, 2025
Real Estate	\$0.89	\$0.91
Personal Property – motor vehicles	\$2.90	\$2.90
Personal Property – business tangible property	\$2.90	\$2.90
Personal Property – machinery and tools	\$1.24	\$1.24

After holding its own public hearing, the Staunton School Board proposes to Council, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 22.1-92, a public schools budget totaling \$51,381,922. Council is required to prepare and approve an annual budget for educational purposes by May 15 or within thirty days of the receipt by the City of the estimates of state funds, whichever is later, in accordance with Virginia Code Section 22.1-93.

The FY 2026 Budget is available on the City's website at www.staunton.va.us/budget.

The public is strongly encouraged to participate in the budget process. The meeting will be audio streamed live on Cable Channel 7 and video streamed on the City's internet site at <https://www.ci.staunton.va.us/government/city-council>. Specific guidelines for participation can be found at <https://www.ci.staunton.va.us/government/city-council/access-city-council-meetings>. Questions regarding participation may be directed to Clerk of Council, Kiley Kesecker at keseckerka@ci.staunton.va.us or 540-332-3810.

Kiley A. Kesecker
Clerk of Council

CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, Virginia

Meeting Date:	April 10, 2025	Willow Hughes Environmental Programs Administrator
Item #	C	
Department:	Community Development— Environmental Programs	
Alignment with Staunton Plan (Value/Strategic Area):	Values: Environmentally Conscious; Excellence Strategic Area: Infrastructure	
Subject:	Update on Gypsy Hill Park and Cole Ave Stream Restorations	

Background: Willow Hughes, Environmental Programs Administrator will provide an update on the status of both the [Gypsy Hill Park Stream Restoration](#) and the [Cole Ave Stream Channel Restoration](#) projects.

Attachment: Not applicable.

City Manager's Recommendation:

Suggested Motion: Not applicable.

City Manager: Leslie Beauregard

CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, Virginia

Meeting Date:	April 10, 2025	Leslie Beauregard City Manager Lyle Hartt City Engineer
Item #	D	
Department:	City Manager’s Office City Engineer	
Alignment with Staunton Plan (Value/Strategic Area):	Strategic Areas: Infrastructure; Responsive, Efficient Government	
Subject:	Update on Flood Mitigation Efforts—Tunnel Survey and Structural Evaluation Work Resulting in Partial Closure of Wharf Parking Lot and Closure of Byers Street	

Background: In August 2020, two devastating floods, two weeks apart, impacted the City of Staunton, principally areas in downtown and at the Wharf.

At the September 10, 2020 City Council meeting, a few weeks after the floods, staff briefed City Council. The major takeaway from this meeting was to direct staff to engage a consultant to perform a hydrologic and hydraulic study of the city and present possible mitigation projects that could alleviate the flooding.

At the May 27, 2021 City Council meeting, at the completion of the hydrologic and hydraulic study conducted by Wiley|Wilson, staff briefed City Council.

The following link is to the presentation from that evening :

<https://www.ci.staunton.va.us/home/showpublisheddocument/10177/637577897268930000>.

Most of the potential projects presented were not feasible to pursue at that time.

At the August 26, 2021 City Council meeting, as follow up to the information provided at the May 2021 meeting, staff took a deeper dive and presented concrete and more feasible recommendations, including but not limited to, tunnel maintenance and improvements.

Following these reports, City Council made the decision to allocate a portion of American Rescue Plan Act funds towards flood mitigation efforts, which included the study/design of tunnel maintenance through performing a survey and structural evaluation.

The City of Staunton contracted with Wiley|Wilson to perform the tunnel survey and structural evaluation, exploring the conditions where Gum Spring Branch (often referred to as Peyton Creek) and Lewis Creek run underground. The structural evaluation is not yet complete. However, at this stage, engineers are concerned with the structural integrity of the tunnel in several specific areas, primarily around the Wharf. At their recommendation and out of an abundance of caution, the city decided to limit traffic above those sections of the tunnel starting early Friday, March 7, 2025 and until further evaluation is finished and any necessary repairs to public property are completed. City staff provided information and a current status at the March 13, 2025 City Council meeting.

Update: Since the March 13, 2025 update, the following has been occurring:

- **Parking** – A portion of the eastern part of the Wharf Parking Lot has been reopened offering additional free downtown spaces. Staff is working on improving signage to better direct those looking for downtown parking and to make it as easy as possible to find. Staff has also started conversations about overall changes to downtown parking as it relates to changes that will occur with Augusta County Courts moving to Verona later this year. The Johnson Street Parking Garage has returned to its typical pay structure and monthly Wharf Parking Lot customers were requested to park in the garage in order to free up the limited space available in the Wharf.
- **Farmers Market** – The 2025 Farmers Market will open, as scheduled on April 5th, in the western portion of the Wharf Parking Lot, the same location it's always been. City staff has been working with the Farmers Market Board to ensure as smooth an opening as possible. They will continue to be in the Wharf until any future construction prohibits this. Staff has been working with them to identify an alternative location when that time comes.
- **Tunnel Repairs** –Wiley|Wilson continues their assessment and is focusing on immediate repairs in places that have the highest impact on the Wharf area. They are focusing on two areas: tunnel crossings beneath West Johnson Street and Byers Street. Due to safety and access concerns, Wiley|Wilson has recommended that the City make repairs from the top side of the tunnel. Due to the severity of deterioration, repairing the tunnel will require replacing the tunnel walls and roof with a new reinforced concrete structure.

Wiley|Wilson is working on preliminary design of these repairs. In the near term, they will make a recommendation for the construction method that will minimize the impact to the Wharf area and result in a cost effective, long-term solution for the City. They are currently reviewing both cast-in-place reinforced concrete and precast reinforced concrete options. At this time, cost estimates and a probable construction schedule are still unknown.

City staff will provide additional details and answer any questions during the regular meeting.

Attachments:

Attachment 1—[March 13, 2025 City Council Agenda Briefing and Documents](#)

Attachment 2—[March 13, 2025 Staff Presentation](#)

City Manager's Recommendation: Not applicable.

Suggested Motion: Not applicable.

City Manager: Leslie Beauregard