



Staunton Plan Update

November 9, 2023

Presented by the City Manager's Office



A culturally rich, historic city
with an exciting future of
innovation, growth and
resilience.

You belong here!

Vision

- *Integrity*
- *Inclusion & Equity*
- *Excellence*
- *Engagement*
- *Environmental Consciousness*

Values

Infrastructure



Gardner Springs

The foundational and physical framework, utility systems, and transportation network that supports the City.

Infrastructure



Plan for and provide appropriate water infrastructure

- Portion of Gardner Springs pump station project funded with grant funds(\$5.9M)
- Remaining bonds initially for project to be repurposed for other water projects

Quick Fact

- Pipe that runs from Staunton Dam to the city is 100 years old

What's Next

Continue to educate and plan for long term water needs going into FY 2025 budget cycle

Infrastructure



Complete the infrastructure for Staunton Crossing

- Received \$4.6M grant from the State to install sewer lines and pump station

Quick Facts

- Five years away from retiring the \$15M debt at Staunton Crossing

What's Next Apply for State grants to complete the needed water infrastructure

Infrastructure



Focus on creating walkable places (pedestrian focus, greenways, trails)

- Capital reserve funds (\$467,00) in place for sidewalks and bike/pedestrian infrastructure
- Future VDOT funded projects scheduled for Greenville Ave., North Augusta/Edgewood, Lewis Creek/Commerce Rd., Richmond Ave., pedestrian improvements to Downtown intersection (\$31M in locally and VDOT administered funds)

Quick Facts

- Community meeting held in September about Beverley St. bike infrastructure improvements
- Follow up on Beverley St. improvements with City Council in October

What's Next

January 2024
Council Work
Session to review
all upcoming VDOT
projects

Infrastructure



Plan for and provide stormwater infrastructure and flood mitigation solutions

- Gypsy Hill Park Stream Resto – Nov. 2023 bid
- Cole Ave. Stream Resto – Spring 2024 bid
- Working through processes to initiate tunnel maximization project study

Quick Facts

- Flood shield project underway – in discussion with 15 possible properties
- Flood sensors and new alert system in place and working

What's Next December 2023 work session on Stormwater long term planning and funding; continue to grow public information regarding stormwater management and flood awareness

STANTONTM
PLAN



Economic Development



Pursue targeted industries for development of Staunton Crossing

- Crossing Way road construction underway, to be completed in May 2024.
- Full marketing effort of Staunton Crossing in place – www.stauntoncrossing.com

Quick Fact

- Is the only publicly held site with 275 contiguous acres along the I-81/I-64 corridors.

What's Next Continue targeted marketing of Staunton Crossing.

Economic Development



Support the retention and expansion of existing businesses, attract new businesses and promote Staunton as a top tourist destination

- Many new businesses open and on the horizon
- You will hear more about tourism next.....

Quick Fact

- Economic Development forum held in March 2023

What's Next Continue to market the city as a business friendly place for existing and new business; continue integrated and targeted marketing and public relations for tourism

Economic Development



Prioritize affordable housing and housing for working families

- Two updates on Affordable Housing activities/initiatives provided to City Council – [August](#) and [October](#) 2023
- Housing and City Manager's Office staff participated in several regional housing meetings and summits

Quick Fact

- Over 200 people from across the region participated in the SAW Housing Summit held mid October

What's Next Provide educational opportunities to City Council on housing; distribute survey @ housing; create task list of housing-related activities city is doing or could be doing; explore outside funding sources; provide another update Spring 2024

Responsive, Efficient Gov't



Employee of the Year

Focus on the ways in which the City provides services, attracts and grows its employees, and fulfills the City Council's goals.

Responsive, Efficient Gov't



Recruit highly qualified employees, retain employees that receive continual training and development, compensate competitively, and maintain a workforce that reflects the community it serves

- Partial implementation of compensation & classification study recommendations in FY 2024
- No significant changes to employee health insurance
- Completed employee engagement & satisfaction survey

What's Next Continue to explore and implement innovative ideas for attracting and retaining employees; Continue offering professional development and growth opportunities; Employee of the Quarter to incorporate City Values

Responsive, Efficient Gov't



Prioritize regional solutions and problem solving

- Plans being finalized for new animal shelter facility
- Plans in progress for new and improved Lewis Street BRITE Transit Hub
- SAW regional approach to determine and allocate opioid settlement funds

What's Next Regional community visioning to determine priorities for allocation of opioid settlement funds; animal shelter to open in 2024; BRITE Transit Hub open in 2024

Responsive, Efficient Gov't



Review and implement changes to the City's organizational structure to better achieve Council's goals

- Reorganization to permanently split Community Development and Economic Development
- New organizational focus on affordable housing
- New organizational structure in Public Works to better streamline operations, find efficiencies and better serve the community

What's Next Continue to explore possible city organization structure changes with the FY 2025 budget

Responsive, Efficient Gov't



Develop an effective communications and engagement function

- Engagement & Communications Manager position recruitment is complete

What's Next With position filled, anticipate increased capacity for organization-wide communication and room for innovation

West End



West End Community Meeting



A commitment to providing resources to Staunton's West End – to promote this community as a vibrant area that has diverse business opportunities, cultural offerings, and great potential for economic growth and stability.

West End



Implementation of the West End Revitalization Plan

- West End revitalization plan underway and on track to be completed mid 2024
- City Council dedicated one penny of real estate tax revenue to a West End reserve as part of the FY 2024 budget (\$287,000)

Quick Fact

- West End Revitalization Plan funded with ARPA Funds
- The West End has an active business association with over 85 members

What's Next Complete revitalization plan by summer 2024; continue to resource future implementation of the plan

Built Environment



J & DR District Court Facility

Focus on facilities owned and maintained by the City, with an eye on not only what is needed in the current environment, but in future years as city space needs evolve and change.

Built Environment



Separation of City J&DR court operations from Augusta County

- J&DR Court Facility project [website](#) developed
- City staff met with West End Business Association regarding project
- Two [updates](#) provided to City Council and the public since the purchase of Chestnut Hills over the summer: August and October 2023

Quick Fact

- J&DR District Court will be ready for business in fall 2025

What's Next Continue to meet all Commonwealth deadlines for JDR facility; next update early 2024; break ground spring 2024

Built Environment



Plan for the future of public safety facilities

- Police/Fire & Rescue Space Needs Assessment completed

Quick Facts

- Two fire stations serve the 20 sq. mile city as well as portions of Augusta County and MBU

What's Next Staff to review needs assessment and then present plan to City Council; future capital budget planning as needed

Built Environment



Understand capacity needs and focus on repurposing facilities for City use

- Master Planning of Chestnut Hills underway to vision City use of remaining property
- Reviewing all City space needs – public library, warehouse/storage, community and meeting space, Office on Youth, Court Services, etc.

Quick Fact

- City staff maintains and improves over **369,000 sq. ft.** of city facility space

What's Next Library space needs assessment to be funded in early 2024; complete, review and discuss Master Plan and vision for Chestnut Hills property; plan long term for other city facility needs and opportunities



Next Steps

One Day City Council Mini-Retreat early 2024

- To discuss and review Staunton Plan
- Talk about measures of success

Continue to align city operations with values, goals and objectives and keep them in the forefront

Next Update on Staunton Plan

- May 2024