



**REGULAR MEETING OF STAUNTON CITY COUNCIL**  
**Thursday, January 22, 2026**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Rita S. Wilson Council Chambers**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Michele D. Edwards  
Vice Mayor Brad D. Arrowood  
Adam F. Campbell  
Jeff L. Overholtzer  
Corrie R. Park  
Blake N. Shepherd  
Alice L. Woods

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Leslie Beauregard, City Manager  
John Blair, City Attorney

**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 Vice Mayor Arrowood.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Edwards thanked the City Manager's Office and the Department of Public Works for a recent mailer she received about the trash pick-up schedule as well as what materials can be recycled by the Staunton Recycling Center.

She also highlighted a letter she received commending the City Manager and Sheriff's Office.

Finally, she noted that she was happy to see progress on the Gypsy Hill Pool House.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Councilor Shepherd stated that he attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service at the First Presbyterian Church sponsored by Mary Baldwin University. He stated that he was happy to see the entire City Council in attendance.

Councilor Campbell highlighted the potential winter storm this weekend and asked residents to adhere to the Boy Scout motto of "Be Prepared." He also asked that residents be patient and try to help each other with the effects of the winter storm.

Councilor Park stated that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service is a highlight of her year. She thanked the city departments for the work they will put in this weekend, and she asked that residents stay off city streets and check on their neighbors.

Councilor Overholtzer stated that he is pleased with the number of applicants for City boards and commissions. He also praised the enthusiasm of the board and commission applicants and continued to urge people to volunteer for these opportunities.

Councilor Woods thanked Josh Knight for his work on social media to encourage applicants for City boards and commissions.

Councilor Woods made the following motions out of the Nominations Committee:

I move that the Staunton City Council reappoint Isaac Grant to the Economic Development Authority for a four-year term commencing March 1, 2026 and ending February 28, 2030.

I move that the Staunton City Council reappoint Don Bosserman to the Economic Development Authority for a four-year term commencing April 1, 2026 and ending March 31, 2030.

I move that the Staunton City Council reappoint Suzie Dull to the Economic Development Authority for a four-year term commencing May 1, 2026 and ending April 30, 2030.

I move that the Staunton City Council appoint Kristina Arbogast to the Economic Development Authority for a four-year term commencing February 1, 2026 and ending January 31, 2030.

I move that the Staunton City Council appoint Hans Kettering, Robin Miller, and Isaac Izzillo to three-year terms on the Housing Commission commencing February 1, 2026 and ending January 31, 2029.

I move that the Staunton City Council appoint Brad Arrowood to serve as the Council Liaison to the Housing Commission.

The motion did not require a second, and carried as follows:

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

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **A. Consent Agenda**

#### **A.1. Approval of Minutes**

**Work Session and Regular Meeting of January 8, 2026**

#### **A.2. Consideration of Ordinance Amending City Clerk Provisions in the Staunton City Code and Appointing John Blair as City Clerk**

#### **A.3. FY 2026 2nd Quarter Financial Report**

#### **A.4. Consideration of Marketing Support of Businesses During Downtown Tunnel and Street Repairs Project**

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.”

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.

Councilor Overholtzer moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Woods and carried as follows:

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

**B. Consideration of Basic Plan of the Regional Emergency Operations Plan**

Chief Jason Ball stated as required by the Code of Virginia, Augusta County, and the cities of Staunton and Waynesboro, have recently completed a review and update of the regional Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Staff with the Central Shenandoah Planning District facilitated the update. Virginia State Code requires localities to renew their Emergency Operations Plan on a four-year cycle. This updated plan will replace the 2020 plan, which was re-adopted by City Council on August 14, 2025 until the updates were completed.

Chief Ball highlighted that the Plan focuses on Emergency Services functions. He said there is still work to do on different annexes to the Plan.

Mayor Edwards asked what is the most difficult part of the plan to implement. Chief Ball stated that cooperation among various entities. However, he said that the City has great relationships with other agencies and community partners.

Mayor Edwards asked if the plan incorporates volunteer efforts. Chief Ball said it does include the Red Cross and the CERT team in Augusta County.

Councilor Campbell noted that it's interesting that the plan focuses on functions instead of emergency types.

Mayor Edwards asked Chief Ball to talk about emergency alerts. Chief Ball stated that Everbridge is the City's communications message service. This enables the City to communicate by text, phone, and email during emergencies.

Councilor Shepherd asked if there was still work to be done.

Chief Ball answered in the affirmative. He said there is still work to be done on the Plan's annexes.

Councilor Overholtzer moved that Council approve the Resolution as presented adopting the revised Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Emergency Operations Plan.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Shepherd and carried as follows:

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

**C. Consideration of Resolution Authorizing Virginia Department of Transportation Inventory Adjustment**

Lyle Hartt, City Engineer, stated construction of the public infrastructure of South View Section 4, including Rolling Ridge Court and the extension of Stonewall Jackson Boulevard, was accepted by the City into its public street system in September 2025. The City wishes to add these newly

constructed streets to the City’s Urban Maintenance Inventory registered with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), as is required to receive reimbursement from VDOT for the maintenance of such qualifying roads. To accomplish this, City Council needs to adopt the attached resolution. A sketch of the new sections of the streets is referenced in the resolution, and is also attached to the materials provided to Council.

Councilor Campbell said that there were a number of mark ups for the developer to correct. He asked if they have been corrected? Mr. Hartt stated that they have been remedied.

Councilor Overholtzer thanked City staff for working with the residents in the neighborhood.

Vice-Mayor Arrowood moved that City Council adopt the proposed resolution authorizing the Virginia Department of Transportation to add Rolling Ridge Court and the extension of Stonewall Jackson Boulevard, as shown on Exhibit A of the resolution, to the City’s local system of roads in the Urban Maintenance Inventory.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Overholtzer and carried as follows:

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

**D. Update on Phase I of the Downtown Tunnel and Street Repairs—Byers Street**

Lyle Hartt, City Engineer, states that in response to the identified tunnel and street repairs needed downtown and at the Wharf following the August 2020 floods, the City has developed a comprehensive strategy that addresses fixing the infrastructure and mitigating the impacts on the City’s residents and businesses. In August 2020, two devastating floods, two weeks apart, impacted the City of Staunton, principally areas in downtown and at the Wharf. A summary of previous updates can be found in Attachment 1.

**Phase I – Byers Street Repairs**

The first phase will be to repair the tunnel section under Byers Street so that the street can be reopened to all modes of transportation and act as a detour when the work occurs on Johnson Street. Attachment 3 is the Byers Street traffic plan as presented by Wiley|Wilson. The entirety of the eastern portion of the Wharf parking lot will be closed, which means no vehicles will be able to enter onto Byers St. from Johnson St. And while much of the on-street parking on Byers St. will remain, some spaces may need to be closed off. There is a private residence with a driveway accessing their property on Byers St., and those property owners will maintain access during construction.

Phase I is expected to mobilize in early February. City staff will provide an update on the construction and answer questions.

Mr. Hartt concluded by thanking Josh Knight for establishing the project website for the public and stakeholders.

Vice-Mayor Arrowood asked if the timeline presented is subject to change. Mr. Hartt stated that the timeline is an estimate, but as the work gets underway in areas that haven't been touched in decades, it could change the timeline. However, this is the current best guess for the timeline of work.

Councilor Overholtzer stressed that great efforts are being taken in the marketing campaign and by City staff to inform residents and others that businesses at the Wharf will remain open and accessible during the construction.

Councilor Shepherd asked if the Byers Street U turn would still be available. Mr. Hartt replied in the affirmative.

### **MATTERS FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

Ms. Beauregard presented updates and information on the following items:

There will be a Comprehensive Plan stakeholder meeting for the deaf community at the Staunton Public Library on January 28, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. An ASL interpreter will be on sight.

She thanked Councilor Campbell for urging residents to be prepared for the coming winter storm. She noted that parking will be prohibited in parts of downtown in order for snow plows to operate. She said that parking in city lots and parking garages is free during the winter storm.

She also urged residents to stay off the roads on Sunday if at all possible. If residents need to be on the road, she asked that they take their time and have an emergency plan.

### **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.”

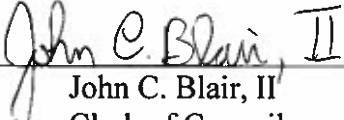
Erica Zipser stated that she is a twelve-year Staunton resident, the daughter of an immigrant, a mother, disabled, and queer. She stated that ICE is terrorizing the country and highlighted the murders of Minneapolis and Portland residents by federal agents. In both instances, she noted that

local police would not aid individuals who called the police. She stated that she emailed the Staunton Police Department on January 9, 2026 to ask if residents can call SPD for help if they are assaulted by ICE or DHS agents. She did not receive a response. She emailed the SPD again on January 15, 2026 with the same question and has not received a response. She noted Governor Spanberger's recent actions regarding ICE and the Virginia State Police and DOC. She said the Staunton Police Department should take this a step further and commit to protect residents and other people in their jurisdiction.

Aaron Barner thanked the Department of Public Works employees in advance for their work during the coming winter storm. He also urged Staunton residents to help each other and to stay off the roads during the coming winter storm. He thanks the Staunton Fire and Rescue Department as well as the Augusta Rescue Squad for their work during the upcoming winter storm and hoped that the Staunton Police Department and Sheriff's Office would have an uneventful winter storm. He congratulated Governor Spanberger, Lieutenant Governor Hashmi, and Attorney General Jones on their recent elections and said he and his neighbors would work with them to remove the foulness of Jim Crow from Virginia. He stated that the members of Council were abdicating their authority by not calling for a special session in which there could be discourse with members of the public. He also stated that Jim Williams and the Staunton Police Department would not keep Staunton safe if ICE comes to Staunton. He stated that ICE agents include J6ers, and unreformed, pardoned Proud Boys.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

  
John C. Blair, II  
Clerk of Council