



City Council
 WORK SESSION
 Rita S. Wilson City Council Chambers
 February 26, 2026
 5:30 p.m.

Council Members present: Mayor Edwards, Vice Mayor Arrowood, and Councilors Campbell, Overholtzer (remote participant), Shepherd, and Woods.

Council Member absent: Park.

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

Councilor Overholtzer requested to remotely participate in the work session and regular meeting from his personal residence at 309 Rainbow Drive in Staunton, Virginia.

Councilor Woods moved that Councilor Overholtzer be permitted to remotely participate in the work session and regular meeting.

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

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

1. Consideration of Work Session and Regular Meeting Agendas

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

Councilor Woods moved to approve the work session and regular meeting agendas as presented.

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

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

2. Review of City Council Procedure Memoranda

John Blair, City Attorney, presented the following information:

In 2025, City Council amended Staunton City Code Section 2.10.105. Prior to this amendment, the Staunton City Council approved its Memoranda of Procedure at its organizational meeting.

During the February 2025 Retreat, City Council agreed with staff that it could be awkward to have a Councilmember vote at their first meeting on unfamiliar procedural rules. Therefore, Council amended the code section to require the City Council to review the procedures on an annual basis at any time of the calendar year.

Councilor Campbell asked about the special meeting provision in Memorandum 16 and inquired about how it could be altered to avoid staff preparing for a meeting for which a quorum would not be present. Mr. Blair explained that the Staunton City Charter contains the language contained in the Memorandum and that it could not be altered without a City Charter amendment.

Mayor Edwards reminded her colleagues of the language in Memorandum 17 before any invocation. The City Manager stated that the language would be added to the DAIS agendas in the future.

Mr. Blair stated that the Procedures would be on the Council’s Consent Agenda at its March 12, 2026 meeting.

3. Presentation and Discussion of Results from 2025 National Community Survey

Josh Knight, Engagement and Communications Manager, presented the following information:

The City of Staunton partnered with Polco to conduct the biennial National Community Survey (NCS). This statistically valid, randomized survey measures quality of life and resident satisfaction with government services, including the economy, mobility, community design, utilities, safety, and the natural environment.

This is the second time the City has conducted this survey through Polco. The first survey was in early 2024. Having two years of results now allows the City to establish trend data and gain deeper insights into shifting resident satisfaction.

To ensure a representative sample, 3,000 randomly selected households received a mailed invitation with a link to complete the survey online. A paper version of the survey was also mailed to the same households to ensure accessibility. All responses are completely confidential and anonymous.

To ensure every resident had a voice, the City also hosted an open, community-wide online version in late October. Both the community-wide survey and the randomly sampled, statistically significant survey remained open until Nov. 11.

The City's management team and department directors have reviewed the survey results and provided feedback on the data. A summary presentation of the survey results, incorporating departmental insights, was provided during the work session.

Mayor Edwards thanked Mr. Knight for the presentation. She stated that she was happy to see the good results, but also glad for the data that highlighted areas that needed improvement so that the Council could target those areas.

Councilor Campbell urged staff not to focus on the open data, but to keep an eye on its trend and any discrepancies between it and the random sample survey.

Vice-Mayor Arrowood commented that maybe a better dissemination of recycling messaging concerning the availability of a single location drop-off could improve the recycling finding.

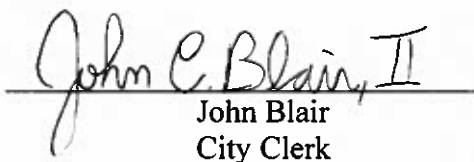
The City Manager stated that recycling education is now part of the Council's strategic plan and that a single location drop-off point allows the City to better adapt to changing market conditions for recycling material demand.

Councilor Woods complimented the City's recent messaging on what materials could be recycled.

Councilor Shepherd stated that there is a perception problem with the infrastructure finding. He stated that Columbia Gas' work on Churchville Avenue may be perceived as a problem with city infrastructure, when it has nothing to do with the city. The City Manager agreed.

Councilor Overholtzer complimented the survey. However, he pointed out that the questions were closed ended and did not permit comments. He suggested that a focus group or representative ad hoc group be formed to gather suggestions on how to improve recycling in the city.

The February 12, 2026 Staunton City Council Work Session adjourned at 6:10 p.m.


John Blair
City Clerk