

**APPROVED MINUTES
TOWN OF URBANNA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Urbanna, Virginia, was held on the 8th day of January, 2026 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall located at 390 Virginia Street, Suite B in Urbanna, VA.

AGENDA ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Goldsmith called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

AGENDA ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION BY A COUNCIL MEMBER

Not necessary.

AGENDA ITEM 3. ROLL CALL

The Mayor called the roll:

Marjorie Austin	Present
Larry Chowning	Absent
Alana Courtney.....	Present
Bill Goldsmith, Mayor	Present
Merri Hanson	Absent
Beth Justice	Present
Robbie Wilson	Present

Others Present:

Ted Costin, Town Administrator
Christine Branch, Town Clerk (via Zoom)
Andrea Erard, Town Attorney
Members of the public

AGENDA ITEM 4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM 5. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

Councilmember Austin made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Justice seconded. The Mayor called for any discussion. All were in favor with none opposed. The motion passed 5-0 with 2 absent.

AGENDA ITEM 6. 2026 ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

6a. Adoption of 2026 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Costin said that the January meetings will be held at the current Town Hall located at 390 Virginia Street, Suite B. Future 2026 meetings will be held at the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department located at 330 Virginia Street in Urbanna.

Councilmember Austin made a motion to adopt the 2026 Meeting Schedule as presented. Councilmember Wilson seconded. The Mayor called for any discussion. All were in favor with none opposed. The motion passed 5-0 with 2 absent.



Urbanna Town Council 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise indicated, all January meetings shown on this schedule will take place in the Town Hall Council Chambers located at 390 Virginia Street, Suite B, Urbanna, Virginia. After February 1, unless otherwise indicated, all 2026 meetings shown on this schedule will take place in the Meeting Room of the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department located at 330 Virginia Street, Urbanna, Virginia.

DATE	TIME	MEETING TYPE
Thursday, January 8	6:00pm	Organizational & Regular
Thursday, January 22	6:00pm	Work Session
Thursday, February 12	6:00pm	Regular
Thursday, February 26	6:00pm	Work Session
Thursday, March 12	6:00pm	Regular
Thursday, March 26	6:00pm	Work Session
Thursday, April 9	6:00pm	Regular
Thursday, April 23	6:00pm	Work Session
Thursday, May 14	6:00pm	Regular; Budget Presentation
Thursday, May 28	6:00pm	Work Session; Budget Public Hearing
Thursday, June 11	6:00pm	Regular; Budget Adoption
Thursday, June 25	6:00pm	Work Session
Thursday, July 9	6:00pm	Regular
Thursday, July 23	6:00pm	Work Session
Thursday, August 13	6:00pm	Regular
Thursday, August 27	6:00pm	Work Session
Thursday, September 10	6:00pm	Regular
Thursday, September 24	6:00pm	Work Session
Thursday, October 8	6:00pm	Regular
Thursday, October 22	6:00pm	Work Session
Thursday, November 12 Thanksgiving	6:00pm	Regular *No Work Session
Thursday, December 10 Christmas	6:00pm	Regular *No Work Session

***Adjustments to Regular Schedule:** No work sessions in November and December due to holidays.

If the Mayor, or the Mayor pro tempore if the Mayor is unable to act, finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for councilmembers to attend a scheduled meeting, the meeting shall be continued to the next occurring Monday at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall. All hearing and other matters previously advertised shall be conducted at the continued meeting, and no further advertisement is required.

Council may hold such special meetings as it deems necessary at such times and places as it may find convenient, and it may adjourn from time to time as it may find convenient and/or necessary. A special meeting of the Council shall be called pursuant to Section 1-4 of Council Bylaws in accordance with Section 15.2-1418 of the Code of Virginia.

Approved by Council at the January 8, 2026 Organizational Meeting

6b. Election of 2026 Mayor Pro Tempore

Mayor Goldsmith nominated Larry Chowning as 2026 Mayor Pro Tempore. Marjorie Austin nominated Robbie Wilson as 2026 Mayor Pro Tempore. Mayor Goldsmith withdrew his nomination of Larry Chowning.

Councilmember Austin made a motion to elect Robbie Wilson as 2026 Mayor Pro Tempore. Councilmember Wilson accepted. The Mayor called for any discussion. The Mayor called the roll:

- Marjorie Austin..... Aye**
- Larry Chowning..... Absent**
- Alana Courtney..... Aye**
- Bill Goldsmith, Mayor Aye**
- Merri Hanson Absent**
- Beth Justice..... Aye**
- Robbie Wilson Abstain**

The motion passed 4-0 with 2 absent and 1 abstaining.

6c. Approval of 2026 Board, Committee, and Commission Appointments

Mr. Costin said Councilmember Courtney was being removed from the Water Committee and placed on the Personnel Committee. Councilmember Austin noted that she had requested to be on the Personnel Committee and was told no. Ms. Erard asked if Ms. Austin was requesting to be added to the Personnel Committee. Ms. Austin said not at this time.

Councilmember Austin made a motion to approve the 2026 Board, Committee, and Commission appointments. Councilmember Justice seconded. The Mayor called for any discussion. The Mayor called the roll:

- Marjorie Austin..... Aye**
- Larry Chowning..... Absent**
- Alana Courtney..... Aye**
- Bill Goldsmith, Mayor Aye**
- Merri Hanson Absent**
- Beth Justice..... Aye**
- Robbie Wilson Aye**

The motion passed 5-0 with 2 absent.

Town of Urbanna
2026 Board, Committee, and Commission Appointments

Planning Commission	
Name	Expires
Merri Hanson (Council Member)	12/31/2026
Gari Lister (Citizen)	12/31/2026
Richard Longest (Citizen)	12/31/2028
Bill Powers (Citizen)	12/31/2029
Katie Wilson (Citizen)	12/31/2027
<i>Ted Costin (Town Administrator)</i>	
<i>Christine Branch (Clerk)</i>	
Board of Historic & Architectural Review (HARB)	
Name	Expires
Amy Denney (Citizen)	12/30/2030
Barbara Hartley (Citizen)	12/31/2029
Tammie Putney (Citizen)	12/31/2027
Peni Roberts (Citizen)	12/31/2026
Patricia Wheeler (Citizen)	12/31/2028
<i>Ted Costin (Town Administrator)</i>	
<i>Christine Branch (Clerk)</i>	
Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)	
Name	Expires
John A. Anzivino (Citizen)	08/31/2029
Lewis Hall (Citizen)	08/31/2030
Martha J. Lowe (Citizen)	08/31/2026
John D. Magness (Citizen)	08/31/2027
Kelly D. Pollok (Citizen)	08/31/2028
<i>Ted Costin (Town Administrator)</i>	
<i>Christine Branch (Clerk)</i>	
Finance Committee	Personnel Committee
Name	Name
Larry Chowning (Council Member)	Larry Chowning (Council Member)
Bill Goldsmith (Mayor)	Alana Courtney (Council Member)
Marnie Harte (Citizen)	Bill Goldsmith (Mayor)
Roy Kime (Citizen)	Merri Hanson (Council Member), Chair
Robbie Wilson (Council Member), Chair	<i>Ted Costin (Town Administrator)</i>
<i>Michele Hutton (Staff, Treasurer)</i>	<i>Christine Branch (Clerk)</i>
<i>Ted Costin (Town Administrator)</i>	
<i>Christine Branch (Clerk)</i>	
Water Committee	Special Events Committee
Name	Name
Marjorie Austin (Council Member), Chair	Marjorie Austin (Council Member)
Bill Goldsmith (Mayor)	Beth Justice (Council Member)
Roy Kime (Citizen)	<i>Michele Hutton (Staff)</i>
David Overman (Citizen)	<i>Ted Costin (Town Administrator)</i>
<i>Maribel Kimble (Water Operations Mgr.)</i>	<i>Christine Branch (Clerk)</i>
<i>Steve Hutton (Water Operations)</i>	
<i>Ted Costin (Town Administrator)</i>	
<i>Christine Branch (Clerk)</i>	
Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC)	Middlesex County Economic Development Authority (EDA)
Name	Name
Ted Costin (Town Administrator)	Marjorie Austin (Council Liaison)
Bill Goldsmith (Mayor)	
Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (PAA)	Urbanna Main Street
Name	Name
Ted Costin (Town Administrator)	Merri Hanson (Council Liaison)
Larry Chowning-Alternate	
MPPDC All Hazards Mitigation Plan (AHMP) Planning Committee	VA250 Committee
Name	Name
Ted Costin (Town Administrator)	
Bill Goldsmith (Mayor)	

6d. Review of Bylaws and Code of Ethics

Mr. Costin said the bylaws had last been updated in October of 2025. No new changes were proposed.

Councilmember Austin made a motion to approve the Bylaws and Code of Ethics as presented. Councilmember Wilson seconded. The Mayor called for any discussion. The Mayor called the roll:

Marjorie Austin..... Aye
Larry Chowning..... Absent
Alana Courtney..... Aye
Bill Goldsmith, Mayor Aye
Merri Hanson Absent
Beth Justice..... Aye
Robbie Wilson Aye

The motion passed 5-0 with 2 absent.

(The Bylaws and Code of Ethics are available from the Town website.)

AGENDA ITEM 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

7a. December 11, 2025 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes

Councilmember Austin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilmember Courtney seconded. The Mayor called for any discussion. All were in favor with none opposed. The motion passed 5-0 with 2 absent.

AGENDA ITEM 8. REPORTS

8a. STAFF REPORTS

8a.1. Town Administrator

Mr. Costin presented his report. There were no questions from Council.

8a.2. Treasurer

The November Treasurer's Report was presented. There were no questions from Council.

8a.3. Town Clerk

The Monthly Clerk's Report was presented. There were no questions from Council.

8b. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8b.1. Finance Committee

Councilmember Wilson said the Finance Committee met on December 29, 2025 and went through several quotes. The biggest item is the Marina Bridge. The money for the Water Tower Pump House repairs is available from the Water Budget.

The committee also discussed repairs needed at the museum, the Independence Day drone show, a pool slide, and playground equipment.

After receiving a quote of \$95,000 for a commercial grade compact pool slide, the committee decided to table the purchase for now. Councilmember Wilson said that, although the Taber Fund could be used for the purchase, the committee felt it was too expensive. He said that a straight slide would be less expensive but would take up a lot of deck space. He was also informed that a slide would not help lower the temperature of the pool water as was hoped. Councilmember

Austin said more than one quote was needed. Councilmember Wilson said he did a price comparison on the components and found the quote to be in line. He said he'd be willing to head up any fundraising efforts.

Councilmember Wilson said he explored playground grants but we did not qualify. The committee decided to table this purchase for now as well.

8b.2. Water Committee

The Water Committee did not meet since their last report.

8b.3. Special Events Committee

The Special Events Committee did not meet since their last report.

8b.4. Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee did not meet since their last report.

AGENDA ITEM 9. PUBLIC COMMENT 1 & COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT 1

Kristi Anzivino of Howard Street said there was broken glass, batteries, and other trash on the streets which spilled from the trash truck during their last pickup. There was also something black dripping from the truck. She reminded people to keep their trash enclosed. Ms. Anzivino also thanked Councilmember Wilson for his work on the pool slide and said she would like to see it happen if possible.

Councilmember Austin said she swept up the debris in the street and notified Mr. Costin of the issue. Mr. Costin said he sent an email to the contractor with the locations he knew of on January 6, 2026, the same day the incident occurred.

AGENDA ITEM 10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10a. Assessment of 2025 Priorities

Mr. Costin reviewed the 2025 priorities set by Council during their January 23, 2025 strategic planning session and gave final updates on each.

Priority 1: Closing on the purchase of 390 Virginia St. or move to an alternative: Alternate location successfully pursued and move underway.

Priority 2: Water system infrastructure upgrades and revenue sources: As field changes are found, Cartograph continues to be updated. Well 3 was terminated and Well 6 is online and complete. Virginia Department of Health and other finance sources have been engaged.

Priority 3: Increase pool revenues: Three paid pool parties were held; one banner was purchased; and no business employee memberships were purchased. A Food Service Solicitation has been drafted. The Special Events Committee could consider fundraiser events.

Councilmember Wilson said he spoke with another locality which spent \$400,000-\$500,000 on a water park which has been a successful revenue source for them. He does not feel this is feasible for the Town. Mr. Costin said there is also a lack of space for a water park.

Councilmember Courtney asked for the pool financials for 2025. Mr. Costin said he will get them to her.

Councilmember Austin said there was an offer to completely handle the food services at no expense to the Town. Mr. Costin said he is finalizing the solicitation and has had to take other considerations into account such as appliances, the need for lifeguard space, and other criteria. He will forward a final draft to Council when ready.

Priority 4: Resolve VA Street Terminus issue: Council considered and rejected an option to sell the land. Council voted to engage Bay Design to perform a survey on the land which has been completed. Council voted to accept Northern Neck Native Plant Company's no-cost offer to initially plant and restore the land. Planting began July 3rd and was disturbed on July 5th. Subsequent plantings were also disturbed. Planting needs to be resumed in 2026. Mr. Costin said signage is in the works and a picnic table will be installed to partially block the entrance and hopefully deter trespassers.

Mayor Goldsmith said other properties are also being trespassed upon in the area. Mr. Costin said 20 feet must remain open for emergency vehicle access. Councilmember Courtney said something should be erected that would block trespassers but allow emergency vehicles to drive through.

Councilmember Austin asked about the Payne's Landing signage. Mr. Costin said it is in the works.

Priority 5: Independence Day fireworks: Drone show was held at a cost of \$18,000. The cost has now increased by 80% and has become prohibitive in consideration of infrastructure needs.

Priority 6: Oyster Festival participation/return: Council formed the Special Events Committee to promote increased communication between the Foundation, Town, volunteers, etc. The road access issue (using Oyster Road for emergency access) was investigated at the Foundation's request. The Town considered adding a logo to the Water Tank but it was deemed too costly given the site lines. We are awaiting the final financial report.

Mayor Goldsmith asked Councilmember Austin about her fundraising efforts for the tank logo. Councilmember Austin said she had about \$4,500 pledged but people backed out when the sight line concerns were raised. Councilmember Courtney said she is against having a logo on the tank.

Priority 7: Zoning enforcement: Mr. Costin said the total number of issues handled in 2024 was 26. In 2025, 31 issues were closed and three are still in progress.

Priority 8: Past due water collection: Staff worked diligently to collect past due accounts and shut-offs were instituted. Staff continues to keep abreast of current delinquencies to enact collection and shut-off procedures. Mr. Costin said Maribel Kimble, Water Operations Manager, told him no one lets their account get 60 days past due anymore because they know their water will be turned off. Councilmember Wilson said he initially didn't understand why a full-time water position was needed and this justifies that it is.

Priority 9: Personnel policy: Staff performance reviews were instituted. The draft policy and pay plan are with the Town Attorney and a draft is scheduled to be presented to Council at the January 22, 2026 work session.

Priority 10: Timely responsiveness of counsel: The Personnel Committee has discussed the concerns and reported to Town Council in closed meeting.

Staff suggests:

1. Continuing to focus on pool revenues, Oyster Festival support but expand that to UBA and Main Street primarily for event coordination,
2. Complete Personnel Policy, and
3. Add Code adoption, boundary line adjustment, and all infrastructure needs and improvements to the priority list for 2026.

AGENDA ITEM 11. NEW BUSINESS

11a. 2026-2027 Pool Management

Mr. Costin said the day to day management of the pool has been contracted out to Signature Pools since its reopening. The effort to recruit by town staff over two years has resulted in a total of four applications for Lifeguards and one for Pool Manager; not enough to operate the pool. Signature has been able to fill these roles primarily as they provide the same services to several pools in the area. Complaints have been few and quickly resolved. Signature has also been very accommodating in support of the Y's program, swim team operations, rentals, and summer reading kickoff sponsored by the library. They have submitted a contract in the amount of \$65,970.00 for the summer of 2026 and locked in the same price for the summer of 2027.

Councilmember Wilson said he supports keeping Signature because it would cost much more to try to do it ourselves.

Mayor Goldsmith said the cost of operating the pool was estimated at \$85,000 four years ago based on Essex County's costs; so \$65,000 is good.

Councilmember Wilson made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the agreement with Signature Pools for services in 2026 and 2027 as presented.

Councilmember Austin seconded. The Mayor called for any discussion. The Mayor called the roll:

Marjorie Austin.....	Aye
Larry Chowning.....	Absent
Alana Courtney.....	Abstain
Bill Goldsmith, Mayor	Aye
Merri Hanson	Absent
Beth Justice.....	Aye
Robbie Wilson	Aye

The motion passed 4-0 with 2 absent and 1 abstaining.

11b. Marina Bridge

Mr. Costin said the Town was given notice as early as 2011 that the bridge was in bad condition. By the recommendation of an engineering firm and the Town Attorney, the marina bridge was partially closed on December 16, 2025 and fully closed on December 19, 2025 with VDOT providing the closure blockade.

Work was done over the holidays to find financial assistance for the project including applying for a grant and getting a commitment from Delegate Keith Hodges to introduce a Special Appropriations Bill in the General Assembly to fund repair/replacement of the bridge.

Mayor Goldsmith said Delegate Hodges needs an estimated cost quickly in order to introduce the bill. He said the MPPDC was contacted regarding possible grant funding for transient boating since the bridge is needed to access the marina and maintain the BIG grant investment.

Mr. Costin said they are also looking into the possibility of a BIG grant. He said this is a municipal bridge owned by the town; it is not covered by VMRC or VDOT. Whitman, Requardt & Associates (WRA) and other engineering companies have been contacted for estimates.

Councilmember Austin asked about putting in a pedestrian bridge. Mr. Costin said no because this is not the town's property.

Ms. Erard said Delegate Hodges has some novel ideas for funding by saving on other areas of the state budget. She has begun drafting the budget amendment and had a conference call with WRA and Mr. Costin. WRA is to contact her with an estimated cost tomorrow. They are also preparing a scope of services estimate including a timeline and price. She said they are also looking into interim solutions and there are some options.

Councilmember Wilson asked legally, who determines the waterflow necessary. Ms. Erard said a state agency. Someone else owns the property with the pond on it.

Mr. Costin said he contacted the Army Corps of Engineers to see if a temporary bridge could just be dropped in. There would be a lot of permitting requirements from multiple agencies. Ms. Erard said the engineering firm has relationships with all those agencies.

Councilmember Austin asked about the Montague property. Ms. Erard said it ends at the bridge. Mr. Costin said the town owns from the boat ramp to the bridge.

Councilmember Justice asked if Rob Wittman was contacted. Ms. Erard said that was a good idea.

Councilmember Wilson said we couldn't do the drone show if we won't have access to the bridge.

Councilmember Wilson made a motion not to renew the 4th of July Airloom drone show contract. Councilmember Austin seconded. The Mayor called for any discussion. The Mayor called the roll:

Marjorie Austin	Aye
Larry Chowning.....	Absent
Alana Courtney.....	Aye
Bill Goldsmith, Mayor	Aye
Merri Hanson.....	Absent
Beth Justice.....	Aye
Robbie Wilson	Aye

The motion passed 5-0 with 2 absent.

11c. Well Pump House

Mr. Costin said the town's well pump house had a pipe failure on October 8. The situation was stabilized and estimates were sought on a complete replacement of the pipes and supports in the well pump house. Mr. Costin showed photos of the current condition of the pipes and supports. The lowest bid received was from Sydnor at \$27,890. The Finance Committee reviewed both bids noting that Sydnor is familiar with the system.

Councilmember Wilson made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to accept the quote from Sydnor at \$27,890 for the re-piping of the well pump house. Councilmember Austin seconded. The Mayor called for any discussion. The Mayor called the roll:

Marjorie Austin..... Aye
Larry Chowning..... Absent
Alana Courtney..... Aye
Bill Goldsmith, Mayor Aye
Merri Hanson..... Absent
Beth Justice..... Aye
Robbie Wilson Aye

The motion passed 5-0 with 2 absent.

AGENDA ITEM 12. PUBLIC COMMENT 2 AND COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT 2

Dan Snead of Colorado Avenue said he's worked at the marina for 6-8 years. He said a project manager is needed to address all the issues. He said culverts are used now which would allow kayaks, etc. rather than a bridge.

Mayor Goldsmith said that is what the engineering firm will do.

William Mayo of Rappahannock Avenue said Council had voted in the 1980s to put money aside each year for bridge and water system maintenance. He said the County should help with the cost since town residents pay taxes.

Mr. Costin said he met with the County Administrator yesterday who offered him guidance.

Bruce Murray of Marston Avenue said the town will never have enough money if an engineering firm is used. He said to use an overlay which is permanent.

AGENDA ITEM 13. COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS & REQUESTS

Councilmember Austin said her treatments have been completed.

AGENDA ITEM 14. CLOSED MEETING (if needed)

None required.

AGENDA ITEM 15. ADJOURN OR RECESS

**Councilmember Austin made a motion to adjourn. All were in favor with none opposed.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,
Christine H. Branch, Town Clerk**

Approved by Council: January 22, 2026

ATTEST:

Christine H. Branch, Town Clerk