



# CITY OF BUENA VISTA CITY COUNCIL

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING & EXECUTIVE SESSION

April 16, 2026 | Immediately Following the PSA Meeting  
Council Chambers – 2039 Sycamore Avenue

The City Council for the City of Buena Vista met for a Regular Council Meeting & Executive Session on Thursday, April 16, 2026, following a meeting of the Buena Vista Public Service Authority.

### Members Present:

Mayor Jesse Lineberry

William Kerr

Vice-Mayor Danny Staton

Stephanie Noel-Branch

Amy Gilliam

Ronald Cash

Michelle Poluikis

### Members Absent:

None

### ADG #1: CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lineberry called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

### ADG #2: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice-Mayor Staton moved to approve the agenda with Councilmember Poluikis seconding, and it was carried by Council.

### ADG #3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 2, 2026, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilmember Gilliam, seconded by Vice-Mayor Staton, and carried by Council.

### ADG #4: RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION FROM VISITORS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Matthew Crandall, 620 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street, spoke in support of the previously proposed rezoning related to the Blue Ridge Abbey. As a new resident, he expressed his appreciation for Buena Vista and emphasized the importance of supporting local businesses and industry. He noted that having lodging options within the City allows visitors, including his own family, to stay in Buena Vista rather than seeking accommodations in Lexington, which in turn supports local restaurants and generates tax revenue for the City. Mr. Crandall encouraged Council to consider the economic benefits of retaining visitor spending locally rather than losing it to surrounding areas and voiced his support for the BRA as a valuable asset to the community.
- Carol Gilliam, 1824 Birch Avenue, spoke about relocating to Buena Vista about a year and a half ago to be near her family. She expressed her desire for her grandchildren to grow up in a community with strong opportunities and a high quality of life. Drawing on her professional background in operating a bed and breakfast, Ms. Gilliam shared her experience with small-town economic development, including prior work in Fayetteville, West Virginia. She described how efforts there similar to the Blue Ridge Abbey helped stimulate local investment, improve infrastructure, and encourage small business growth over time. She noted Buena Vista's assets, including its architecture and natural surroundings, and stated her belief that the City has significant untapped potential. She expressed support for

entrepreneurial efforts, including those associated with the Blue Ridge Abbey, and emphasized that such initiatives can contribute positively to economic development without negatively impacting safety or quality of life.

- Thomas DeSantis, 215 Vista Links Drive, raised concerns regarding recent fiber optic installation activity by Brightspeed and its contractors within the City. He described multiple instances of utility work occurring on and near his property, including within a city sewer easement, without prior notice to them as the homeowners. While some initial installation caused minimal disruption, subsequent work resulted in damage to his lawn, including rutting and incomplete restoration. Mr. DeSantis reported difficulty identifying responsible parties among multiple contractors and utility providers involved, as well as challenges in obtaining responses or repairs despite filing complaints. He expressed concern about the lack of notification, accountability, and restoration standards for such work, and questioned whether appropriate permissions or oversight were in place for utility installations in the City. He urged Council to consider the broader impact on residents and to evaluate how utility work is managed, including communication with property owners and ensuring proper restoration of affected areas.

Mr. Handley acknowledged the concerns and noted that similar complaints have been received from other residents. He stated that the City is actively gathering information and working to identify appropriate contacts with Brightspeed beyond the local contractors.

- Jeanne DeSantis, 215 Vista Links Drive, provided additional comments regarding the impact of the fiber optic installation activity on their property. She expressed concern about the lack of prior notification before contractors arrived, describing multiple instances where crews and heavy equipment entered their property without explanation. She noted that the work caused significant disruption to their landscaping and planting areas, and stated that the proposed remedies from the contractors, such as minimal fill dirt, were insufficient to restore the property to its previous condition. Mrs. DeSantis also raised concerns about broader impacts, including potential effects on adjacent City property, which she and her husband help mow and maintain. She explained that due to the condition of the disturbed land, routine maintenance such as mowing may no longer be feasible for them, which could lead to overgrowth and additional maintenance challenges for the City in the future. She emphasized the lack of communication and notice to property owners was her primary concern and encouraged Council to consider improved oversight and coordination to prevent similar issues.
- Cassandra Howard, 163 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke in support of the Blue Ridge Abbey proposal. She noted that she has lived in the City since 2014 and is currently raising two daughters with her husband. She described her family's regular use of nearby community amenities, including the library and Penny Park, and shared her appreciation for the area's quiet and walkable environment. She also noted that when her parents visit, they have experienced difficulty finding suitable lodging in Buena Vista due to limited availability, requiring them to seek accommodations in Lexington. Mrs. Howard expressed support for the preservation and renovation of the BRA property, commending the care taken to maintain the historic character of the building. She stated her belief that such projects help preserve community assets and prevent deterioration of older structures.
- Louise DeSouza, 2253 Maple Avenue, is one of the co-owners of the Blue Ridge Abbey. She spoke regarding the role of business development in the success of small cities and the importance of supporting local investment. She shared her initial impressions of Buena Vista upon first visiting about five years ago, noting appreciation for the natural surroundings but also describing concern about the condition of some parts of the City at that time. She stated that she and her business partners chose to invest in the BRA based on a belief in the City's potential and a desire to contribute to its revitalization and long-term growth. She explained that the project involved significant private investment and effort and emphasized that such development is intended to support the broader community rather than short-term financial return. Mrs. DeSouza expressed frustration regarding

recent challenges related to approval or regulation of their lodging use, stating that limitations placed on the number of guest rooms felt restrictive in relation to the scale of their investment. She encouraged Council to reconsider its prior decision and to take a more flexible, innovative approach to supporting business development. She concluded by urging Council to consider broader economic development perspectives and to “think outside the box” when evaluating opportunities for growth in the City.

- Terry Hathaway spoke in support of the Blue Ridge Abbey and the previously proposed rezoning. He shared personal experiences of staying in bed and breakfast establishments while traveling with his family, noting that they offer a more unique and engaging experience compared to traditional hotels. He stated that he believes the BRA is a high-quality property and expressed support for its continued operation and development. He indicated that he has a personal and professional relationship with Mr. DeSouza and expressed confidence in his work. Mr. Hathaway also stated that he believes the business would bring economic benefits to the City and could encourage additional investment and development by others.
- Debbie Branham, 2 View Drive, Lexington, is a former Buena Vista resident and frequently visits the City. She spoke in support of the Blue Ridge Abbey and Mr. DeSouza. She described positive personal and professional experiences working with Mr. DeSouza, noting qualities such as honesty, transparency in pricing and project planning, responsiveness, and professionalism in workmanship and staffing. She stated that she regularly sees him in the community and believes he demonstrates an active interest in Buena Vista’s growth and civic life. She commented that she has observed ongoing improvements and new activity in the downtown area and expressed support for continued development and revitalization efforts in the City. Mrs. Branham stated that the BRA represents a high-quality lodging option that could provide additional accommodations for visitors, particularly during local events and festivals, when demand is higher. She noted that she believes such an establishment could benefit both Buena Vista and the surrounding region by increasing lodging availability and enhancing visitor experiences.
- Jordan Clark, 2355 Spruce Avenue, who has been a Buena Vista resident since 2010, spoke in support of Council reconsidering their decision regarding the rezoning request for the Blue Ridge Abbey. He began by expressing support for the character and integrity of the property owners, noting positive personal experiences and their contributions within the community. He stated that the proposal represents an adaptive reuse of an existing structure rather than new development and characterized it as a responsible investment in maintaining and improving existing property. He cited potential economic benefits, including increased lodging capacity, local spending, occupancy-related revenue, and additional tax revenue for the City. He also referenced his background in public education and expressed concern about declining potential revenue sources for the City, suggesting that the project could provide meaningful financial benefit for local services and residents, including children. Addressing concerns raised previously regarding parking and neighborhood impact, Mr. Clark stated that similar street parking conditions already exist in other areas of the City and that the expected impact from the proposal would be limited. He further noted that the proposed rezoning includes a safeguard that would revert the property back to R3 zoning if the approved use changes, which preserves the long-term character of the neighborhood. Mr. Clark encouraged Council to reconsider the decision, stating that the proposal offers economic benefits while maintaining protections for surrounding residential areas.
- Austin Rehl provided information about the Virginia Internship Program and stated that he is seeking students to participate, noting that state matching funds are available for qualifying internships for students enrolled or planning to enroll in Virginia institutions. He shared details of his own workforce and development efforts, including plans for agricultural and trades-based facilities such as converting a horse barn into a blacksmithing and fabrication shop, and indicated he has submitted plans to the

Planning Commission for future consideration. Mr. Rehl also commented generally on the Blue Ridge Abbey discussion, stating that while he was not fully familiar with the specifics of the matter, he understands the challenges of operating a business and navigating regulatory processes. He expressed support for efforts to help streamline processes for business owners where appropriate, while acknowledging the need for regulatory review and balance.

- Daniel DeSouza, 2253 Maple Avenue, co-owner of the Blue Ridge Abbey, addressed Council in support of reconsidering the prior rezoning decision. He stated that he had received multiple letters from local residents expressing support for the project and noted that he would provide them to Council. He referenced one letter from the former property owner who supports the rezoning due to its potential to encourage business growth and increased downtown activity. He stated that the BRA has experienced significant demand for lodging and reported substantial growth in occupancy. He indicated there is currently a waiting list for reservations and asserted that additional rooms are needed to meet demand. He stated that the proposed expansion would generate additional lodging tax revenue for the City and could contribute further indirect economic benefits through visitor spending at local businesses. He estimated increased annual tax revenue associated with the expansion and emphasized the potential broader economic impact. Mr. DeSouza expressed his commitment to continued investment in Buena Vista and requested that Council reconsider their prior decision regarding the rezoning request.
- Marie Shiraki, 2070 Forest Avenue, spoke regarding the importance of preserving and reinvesting in historic properties in Buena Vista. She noted that she operates a historic home used for short-term and long-term rentals, including lodging for hikers, and spoke from her experience in maintaining and utilizing older housing stock for community and visitor use. She emphasized the value of preserving historic structures and avoiding demolition of older buildings, referencing past losses of historic properties in the City. She stated that she believes that rehabilitating and repurposing existing structures helps maintain the City's history and supports the local economy by attracting visitors and generating revenue. She also spoke to the importance of downtown revitalization and walkability, noting that lodging located near Main Street contributes to local business activity and supports restaurants and shops. Additionally, she raised concerns about retaining younger residents, stating that expanded housing and job opportunities are important to help keep families and young people in the community. Mrs. Shiraki encouraged Council to support development approaches that build upon existing assets, promote economic growth, and strengthen long-term community sustainability.

## **ADG #5: REPORTS:**

### **1. Mayor**

Mayor Lineberry announced upcoming community events, including the grand opening of Tractor Supply scheduled for May 2nd, which he plans to attend and encouraged other City leaders and residents to support. He also noted that he will be attending and participating in the ribbon cutting for the BeeVe's new location at Asunder on Monday, April 20th.

### **2. Interim City Manager**

Mr. Handley reported that the Budget and Finance Committee has been actively working on the upcoming fiscal year budget and is nearing completion. Additional meetings are scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, with an update draft to be provided to Council in advance. Public hearings and the formal approval process are expected to occur in May.

He also reported that implementation of the City's new financial software system is underway. The Treasurer's and Commissioner's Offices were temporarily closed to complete the transition and ensure accurate data transfer. He noted that minor discrepancies may occur during the transition and encouraged residents to contact the Treasurer's Office with any concerns.

He noted that he had a meeting with one of the City's representatives on the Board for the Department of Social Services, Mary Lee Huffman. The DSS Executive Director plans to retire in September, so they discussed what that will look like and what the leadership plans are for DSS.

Mr. Handley also highlighted recent additional improvements to the 34<sup>th</sup> Street playground, now named "Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street Park", noting collaboration between Public Works staff and Southern Virginia University students in securing grant funding and completing upgrades.

Lastly, he announced that recruitment for the City Manager position is underway, with the job posting distributed through multiple professional networks. Applications will be reviewed beginning mid-May, with qualified candidates to be presented to Council for consideration and interviews.

### **3. City Attorney**

None.

### **4. Council Committees/Members**

#### ***Glen Maury Park Committee***

Mr. Staton reported on the recent Committee meeting, during which the new Parks and Recreation Director, Ryan Groah, was introduced. He stated that discussion included identifying priority needs and future improvements for the park, with plans to explore some of those more in depth. He also noted that the recent Easter event was successful and announced the upcoming Guy Carawan Festival, which will take place at the beginning of May and serves as a kickoff to the park's event season. He expressed optimism about continued progress and encouraged community participation in upcoming activities.

#### ***Budget & Finance***

Mrs. Poluikis began her report by expressing appreciation for the work of Mr. Handley and Mr. Bolster in developing the proposed budget. She noted that the process initially presented challenges due to the significant funding gap, but staff efforts helped ease the burden on the committee. She also highlighted the contributions and sacrifices made by City departments, including public safety and administrative staff, to minimize the financial impact on residents. She emphasized her gratitude for the dedication of City employees and their efforts to support the community.

#### ***Citizens Advisory Committee***

Mrs. Noel-Branch advised that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21st at 6:00 p.m. at Magnolia Square (weather permitting).

She also introduced a new "questions and suggestions" initiative, which will include a comment box available at Council and committee meetings. Residents will be able to submit topics, questions, or suggestions for future discussion; these can be made anonymously. She noted that the feedback will help inform future town hall meetings and community discussions. She also emphasized that the committee is intended to provide residents with an additional, informal opportunity to share input and engage in conversation, while not replacing the formal role of Council.

#### ***Outdoor Spaces Committee***

Mrs. Noel-Branch noted that the next meeting will be on Thursday, April 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

## 5. Department Heads/Constitutional Officers/Court Clerks

### ***Kristina Ramsey – Economic Development***

Miss Ramsey began her report by expressing appreciation for the strong community engagement shown during public comment regarding economic development and local investment. She thanked both residents and Council members for their involvement and commitment to supporting the community.

She provided updates on several upcoming events and business activities. She announced a launch event for a new artificial intelligence academy and lab, Guud AI, on April 17th. She also highlighted the upcoming ribbon cutting for the BeeVe ice cream shop and Asunder Coffee Roasters, scheduled for April 20th. She also noted that the Virginia Innovation Accelerator will host an Entrepreneur and Innovators Expo along with the Gauntlet program graduation on April 23rd at the VIA. She shared that she recently attended a preview event for the new tasting room and café at the VIA, describing the progress as impressive and encouraging attendance ahead of its official opening.

Miss Ramsey also reported ongoing improvements at the Visitor Center, including recent painting efforts. She provided details on the upcoming Tractor Supply opening, with a soft opening on April 25<sup>th</sup> and a grand opening celebration on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, which will include a ribbon cutting, vendors, live music, refreshments, and participation from BVPD.

## 6. Invited Community Organizations

None.

## **ADG #6: CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, & COMMITTEES**

### **Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board**

The City of Buena Vista must appoint members to the BRCJB. Mr. Josh Elrod, Commonwealth's Attorney, and Mr. Wayne Handley, Interim City Manager, shall be the City's representatives. These terms will be effective immediately and will expire on June 30, 2027.

Councilmember Kerr made a motion to appoint Mr. Elrod and Mr. Handley to the BRCJB. Vice-Mayor Staton seconded the motion, and it was carried by Council.

### **Joint Board of Building Code Appeals**

Each participating jurisdiction must appoint a Secretary to the JBBCA. Ms. Sarah Burch shall serve as the City of Buena Vista's Secretary to the Board.

Councilmember Noel-Branch made a motion to appoint Ms. Burch as JBBCA Secretary. Councilmember Poluikis seconded the motion, and it was carried by Council.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **NONE**

Before moving into new business, Councilmember Noel-Branch asked Council, based on the residents that came to speak about the Blue Ridge Abbey, if [Council] wanted to revisit the decision on the proposed rezoning made at the previous meeting, and asked how that would work.

Ms. Burch explained that since the rezoning was denied that one of the four members of Council who voted against it would have to make a motion to reconsider, meaning that one of the four of those members would have changed their mind at this point. Mr. Kearney added that if it were to be

reconsidered it would have to be done at this point in the meeting before we get into new business, and if it isn't brought back up tonight, it will not be brought up again.

Mr. Cash also noted that the applicant would have to wait 12 months before requesting a rezoning again. There being no motion to revisit the rezoning request, Council moved to new business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ADG #7: RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION FROM VISITORS – NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

None.

### **NB #1: DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF AN APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION**

Mr. Handley advised that this is a resolution to appropriate previously awarded grant funds for law enforcement purposes. He explained that the funds, received through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, must be formally appropriated by Council before they can be expended. He noted that the grants support public safety initiatives, including programs such as DUI enforcement and traffic safety campaigns, as well as related equipment for the Police Department.

Ms. Burch presented the following Resolution:

#### **Appropriation Resolution**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of Buena Vista, Virginia, that the following appropriations are, and the same is hereby made, for the period ending **June 30, 2026**, from the UNAPPROPRIATED SURPLUS of the **GENERAL FUND** and expended as follows:

#### **FY 2026 Funding Request (Law Enforcement Grant Awards)**

10.3101.51400	DMV 402 OT	\$14,280.00
10.3101.60110	Local Law Enforcement Grant	\$1,656.00
10.3101.60253	DCJS Equipment Grant	\$1,539.00
10.3101.60350	DMV 402 Grant	<u>\$13,299.00</u>
<b>Sub-total 1</b>		<b>\$30,774.00</b>
<b>Total General Fund Appropriation</b>		<b>\$30,774.00</b>

**Approved:** This 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jesse D. Lineberry, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

Vice-Mayor Staton made a motion to **approve** the Resolution as presented with Councilmember Kerr seconding, and it was carried by Council.

## **NB #2: DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT WITH OPIOID MANUFACTURERS**

Mr. Kearney stated that this is a resolution for the City to participate in an additional opioid settlement involving six manufacturers. He explained that these entities have reached agreements as part of ongoing nationwide settlements with opioid manufacturers and distributors. This resolution affirms the City's participation in the settlement, consistent with prior approvals. Any funds received will be distributed through the state, with the City receiving a portion to be used for opioid abatement purposes. Mr. Kearney also noted that specific funding amounts for this particular settlement are not yet available, and while these entities are not among the largest manufacturers, the settlement will still result in additional funds for the City.

Ms. Burch presented the following Resolution:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BUENA VISTA CITY COUNCIL APPROVING OF THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED COMBINED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT RESOLVING OPIOID-RELATED CLAIMS AGAINST ASSOCIATED PHARMACIES, INC. (AND AMERICAN ASSOCIATED PHARMACIES); J M SMITH CORPORATION; LOUISIANA WHOLESALE DRUG COMPANY, INC; MORRIS AND DICKSON CO.; NORTH CAROLINA MUTUAL WHOLESALE DRUG COMPANY, INC.; AND UNITED NATURAL FOODS, INC. (INCLUDING ITS SUBSIDIARIES SUPERVALU AND ADVANTAGE LOGISTICS) (COLLECTIVELY REFERRED TO AS THE SIX REMNANT DEFENDANTS), AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY AND/OR THE CITY'S OUTSIDE OPIOID LITIGATION COUNSEL TO EXECUTE THE DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SETTLEMENT.**

There is one settlement agreement covering the combined settlement with the Six Remnant Defendants.

**WHEREAS** the opioid epidemic that has cost thousands of human lives across the country also impacts Buena Vista by adversely impacting the delivery of emergency medical, law enforcement, criminal justice, mental health and substance abuse services, and other services by Buena Vista's various departments and agencies; and

**WHEREAS** Buena Vista has been required and will continue to be required to allocate substantial taxpayer dollars, resources, staff energy and time to address the damage the opioid epidemic has caused and continues to cause the citizens of Buena Vista; and

**WHEREAS** a settlement proposal has been negotiated that will cause six opioid defendants, Associated Pharmacies, Inc (and American Associated Pharmacies); J M Smith Corporation; Louisiana Wholesale Drug Company, Inc.; Morris and Dickson Co.; North Carolina Mutual Wholesale Drug Company, Inc.; and United Natural Foods, Inc. (including its subsidiaries SuperValu and Advantage Logistics) ("Six Remnant Defendants") to pay approximately \$97,625,000 nationwide to resolve opioid-related claims by state subdivisions against it; and

**WHEREAS** Buena Vista will be entitled to a portion of the settlement proceeds despite not having filed suit against any of the Six Remnant Defendants; and

**WHEREAS** the City seeks recovery of the public funds previously expended and to be expended in the future to abate the consequences and harms of the opioid epidemic; and

**WHEREAS** the City's outside opioid litigation counsel has recommended that the City participate in the Six Remnant Defendants settlement in order to recover its share of the funds that the settlement would provide.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Buena Vista City Council, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026, approves of the City's participation in the proposed settlement of opioid-related claims against the Six Remnant Defendants and their related corporate entities, and directs the City Attorney and/or the City's outside

opioid litigation counsel to execute the documents necessary to effectuate the City’s participation in the settlement, including the required release of claims against the Six Remnant Defendants.

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Jesse D. Lineberry, Mayor

Attest:

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Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

Motion to **approve** the Resolution was made by Councilmember Noel-Branch, with Councilmember Cash seconding, and it was carried by Council.

### **NB #3: DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF BRICKER SPURS LAND DONATION FROM HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Mr. Roberts presented a proposed donation of a parcel of land from Habitat for Humanity, described as a former rail spur associated with the brick factory. He explained that Habitat acquired the property through donation and is seeking to transfer it to the City. He noted that accepting the property would assist Habitat while also providing the City with potential future uses, including access to Chalk Mine Run for possible flood mitigation efforts or utility extensions. He stated that staff review found no significant legal risk associated with accepting the property and recommended approval. Mr. Handley noted the negligible risk and absence of cost to the City and highlighted the potential long-term benefit of having the property available for future use.

Councilmember Cash raised concerns regarding the current condition of portions of the property, noting the presence of debris and personal items along parts of the corridor. He also questioned potential public access and liability if the property were to become City-owned. Mr. Kearney responded that there is no intention to open the property for public access and that not all City-owned property is designated for public use. He noted that the property would be acquired via quitclaim deed and may potentially be Posted or otherwise restricted if necessary, depending on what the City’s insurance provider says.

Councilmember Poluikis moved to **approve** the land donation. Councilmember Noel-Branch seconded the motion, and it was carried by Council

### **NB #4: DISCUSSION & SELECTION OF STREAMING SERVICE VENDOR**

Mr. Handley reported that three vendors have provided cost estimates for ongoing streaming services but emphasized that significant upfront investment in hardware—such as cameras, microphones, and related equipment—would also be required. Estimated startup costs for equipment are approximately \$35,000 or more, with total initial costs nearing \$50,000 (including the software cost), in addition to annual service and maintenance fees. He explained that more advanced service options include features such as transcription, ADA-compliant captioning, and video storage. He also noted that the project was not included in the current or upcoming fiscal year budget and would require additional funding decisions if implemented sooner. He recommended planning for implementation in FY 2028 and beginning the procurement process in advance to allow sufficient time for vendor selection and scheduling.

Council discussed the importance of transparency and public access to meetings, with Mayor Lineberry noting that streaming services have been requested by residents and would provide value to the community. He emphasized the importance of balancing budget constraints with investments that benefit citizens.

Mr. Kearney also advised that formal approval of a specific vendor was premature and recommended proceeding first with the required procurement process.

The consensus of Council was to move forward with initiating the procurement process for streaming services, with the intent to consider implementation and funding in FY 2028.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

According to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, for the purpose of discussing a potential candidate for employment as Chief of Police.

On motion by Councilmember Kerr, seconded by Councilmember Gilliam, and carried by Council, City Council convened in an Executive Session at 7:38 p.m.

### **REGULAR SESSION**

#### **ADG #7: CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion by Councilmember Cash, seconded by Councilmember Kerr, and carried by Council, City Council reconvened in regular session at 8:23 p.m. with the following certification.

#### **Certification of Executive Meeting**

**WHEREAS** the Buena Vista City Council has convened in an Executive Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Freedom of Information Act; and

**WHEREAS** Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Buena Vista City Council that such Executive Meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Buena Vista City Council hereby certifies to the best of each member's knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the Executive Meeting to which this certification resolution applies; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the Executive Meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Buena Vista City Council.

#### **VOTE:**

Councilmember Poluikis ✓

Councilmember Gilliam ✓

Councilmember Kerr ✓

Councilmember Noel-Branch ✓

Councilmember Cash ✓

Vice-Mayor Staton ✓

Mayor Lineberry ✓

**AYES – 7**

**NAYS – 0**

Members absent during vote: None

Members absent during meeting: None

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Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

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Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

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Jesse D. Lineberry, Mayor

