



CITY OF BUENA VISTA CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

May 21, 2026 | 6:00 PM

Council Chambers – 2039 Sycamore Avenue

The Buena Vista City Council met for a Regular Council Meeting and Public Hearing on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Mayor Jesse Lineberry

Vice-Mayor Danny Staton

Amy Gilliam

Michelle Poluikis

William Kerr

Stephanie Noel-Branch

Ronald Cash

Members Absent:

None

ADG #1: CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, & PRAYER

Mayor Lineberry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ADG #2: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice-Mayor Staton moved to approve the agenda, Councilmember Noel-Branch seconded, and the motion carried.

ADG #3: BUENA VISTA CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia and the City of Buena Vista Land Development Regulations, City Council received public comment on the following matter:

Conditional Use Permit for the construction and operation of a campground with up to 20 campsites at Rockbridge Creative Institute, 801 Meridian Parkway, Tax Map 8-1---1.

- Andrew Powell, a representative of Rockbridge Creative Institute, provided an overview of the organization and its vision. Mr. Powell explained that RCI is a trade school focused on architecture, engineering, and construction, where students will reside on campus and participate in hands-on learning by designing and constructing buildings as part of their education. He stated that students would graduate with an associate degree in architecture, a general contractor's license, and practical business experience developed during the program. Mr. Powell described current and planned projects at the site, including timber-frame structures and campground-style accommodations intended primarily for apprentices, students, instructors, and temporary workers associated with the institute. He explained that the proposed campground structures would be built by students as part of their training and that some units may also be rented to the public in the future to help offset tuition costs for students.

Councilmember Kerr asked whether students would live in the proposed campground structures. Mr. Powell said existing housing is currently being used for apprentices and that the proposed structures would primarily house temporary workers and apprentices during campus development.

Mayor Lineberry asked whether the proposal would operate as a traditional campground. Mr. Handley said it was not intended to compete with Glen Maury Park, but to provide lodging connected to the institute's educational activities for students, instructors, and apprentices.

Councilmember Noel-Branch asked where the proposed structures would be located in relation to nearby apartments and homes. Mr. Powell said most of the area had already been cleared and that the structures would be placed within the wooded landscape, with substantial forested buffers between the development and neighboring properties.

Councilmember Cash asked about accreditation for the proposed programs. Mr. Powell said the institute's master builder program would initially be self-accredited, while the associate degree in architecture would seek accreditation through partnerships with established universities and organizations.

Mayor Lineberry asked whether local residents could participate in classes and programs. Mr. Powell said the public would be able to attend workshops and community classes in trades such as timber framing, leatherworking, stone carving, blacksmithing, and plastering.

Councilmember Cash asked about future campus development, projected growth, traffic impacts, and road conditions. Mr. Powell described a long-term vision for the campus as a small European-style village with educational, residential, and community-oriented buildings developed over many years. He said the next phase would focus on the proposed campground structures and related infrastructure. He also acknowledged concerns about traffic and conditions on 32nd Street and discussed dust mitigation efforts and future roadway improvements.

Mr. Powell also discussed RCI's educational philosophy, construction methods, and use of alternative building materials intended to produce durable, long-lasting structures. He invited Council members to visit the site and tour the current projects and future campus plans.

Mayor Lineberry thanked the presenters and expressed support for RCI's vision and potential community benefits.

- Tom Roberts provided additional information about the proposed conditional use permit for the campground at RCI. He explained that, although it would not operate like Glen Maury Park and would primarily serve students, instructors, apprentices, and others affiliated with the institute, it is classified as a campground because the accommodations are tent structures. He said the campground is designed to meet Virginia Department of Health requirements for layout, spacing, restrooms, showers, and other facilities, and that the proposal includes 20 campsites along the ridge.

Addressing nearby residential concerns, Mr. Roberts said the campsites would be about 700 feet from the apartment complex, separated by wooded areas and a natural gully that should greatly limit visibility. He also said the campground plan includes a restroom and shower building with toilets, showers, and sinks that complies with VDH requirements.

Mr. Roberts also addressed erosion and sediment control, noting that most stormwater work on the site had been completed. He said additional ditch work along the south side of 32nd Street toward Chalk Mine Run was still underway and that the disturbed section of 32nd Street would be repaved under the approved plans. He said the expected completion date for the erosion and sediment control work was July 1. In response to dust concerns, he noted that discussions had included planting evergreen trees near the end of the road by neighboring properties to help reduce dust over time. He said those landscaping efforts, along with dust-control treatments and future paving, were intended to help mitigate impacts on nearby residents.

With no further public comment, Mayor Lineberry closed the public hearing.

ADG #4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 7, 2026, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARINGS

Councilmember Noel-Branch moved to approve the minutes, Councilmember Gilliam seconded, and the motion carried.

ADG #5: RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION FROM VISITORS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Calvin Smith, 171 East 31st Street, expressed concerns about the proposed alley abandonment affecting the alley adjoining his property. He said earlier statements that the City had maintained the fenced VDOT property within the proposed right-of-way abandonment area were inaccurate. In his view, the area had not been maintained for an extended period and had become overgrown with trees and weeds. He also questioned the projected timeline for completing the abandonment, stating that it seemed excessive compared with what he understood to be typical for similar matters. Mr. Smith further raised concerns about an apparent company name change associated with Mr. Whetstone's business and questioned whether additional review or approvals should be required. He also commented on the use and maintenance of public streets and alleys, noting that taxpayers support public infrastructure. He said he was concerned about losing access through the alley he currently uses and asked Council to consider the impact on residents and taxpayers when making its decision.
- Joe Whetstone, 2224 Maple Avenue, addressed Council regarding the alley abandonment and development project on East 31st Street. He clarified that the properties are owned by Horizon Properties and Development, LLC, a business owned by him and his wife, rather than by him personally. He said the properties have always been purchased and held under the business entity and that his local small business focuses on residential renovation and construction projects within the City while employing local workers. Mr. Whetstone also explained that project delays were related to ownership issues involving a portion of the alley and the need for City agreements and approvals before construction could begin. He said work could not start until a memorandum of understanding had been finalized. He also discussed access considerations for the proposed development, noting that some lots could potentially be accessed from Catalpa Avenue instead of the alley. He said the project includes stormwater, sewer, and water improvements associated with the development. In closing, Mr. Whetstone said the project represents a long-term investment for him and his family and that he intends to maintain the property and related infrastructure in a way that supports both the development and neighboring residents.
- David Truslow, 404 East 32nd Street, addressed Council regarding concerns about the ongoing Rockbridge Creative Institute development near his property. He said he had received differing information over time about the scope of the project and expressed concerns about increased traffic and road use. He stated that construction activity and roadway work had contributed to flooding and mud problems affecting his property and neighboring homes during earlier phases of the project. He also expressed frustration over delays in drainage improvements and roadway repairs, noting that portions of 32nd Street disturbed during construction had not yet been restored. Mr. Truslow acknowledged earlier comments about a projected completion date for erosion-control and roadway work and said he hoped the work would be completed as discussed. He also raised concerns about speeding on 32nd Street. While he noted some improvement following discussions with Mr. Rehl, he said he remained concerned about vehicle speeds and traffic-related dust. Additional concerns included roadway width, parking impacts on neighboring properties, dust-control measures, future traffic volume, hunting activity on the RCI property, and the possible placement of a dumpster along 32nd Street. He said traffic and infrastructure impacts on the neighborhood should continue to be considered as the project moves forward.

ADG #6: REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Lineberry said he looked forward to attending the upcoming Fire Department carnival and expressed enthusiasm for the summer season at Glen Maury Park. He also noted that the City pool would open Memorial Day weekend. He encouraged residents to attend school events, City-sponsored

events, and activities at City venues throughout the summer, noting that community participation and tourism help generate revenue that benefits taxpayers and the City as a whole.

2. Interim City Manager

Mr. Handley provided an update on the City Manager recruitment process. He said the City received 14 applications, including several highly qualified candidates, and that he and department heads conducted preliminary interviews with the six most qualified applicants. He advised Council that updates and scheduling information had been shared by email and said the next phase would involve interviews with finalists during an executive session anticipated later in June. He added that, if the process stays on schedule, an offer could be extended in July. He said the recruitment process was progressing well and encouraged Council members to submit any questions or comments so responses could be shared with the full Council.

3. City Attorney

None.

4. Council Committees/Members

Events Committee

Mr. Cash provided an update on plans for the City's July 4th celebration. He said the Committee is planning a flag-raising ceremony for the City's new American flag at Glen Maury Park on July 4th. He noted that the event may be held in the evening before the fireworks to accommodate other regional activities. He also said the event would include opening the existing time capsule and burying a new capsule on Inspiration Hill at GMP. He added that the Committee hopes to include patriotic music and remarks from local and state officials. Mr. Cash invited residents to submit ideas for items to include in the new time capsule.

Mayor Lineberry commented that he would like to explore the possibility of hosting a future children's bicycle parade in Buena Vista as part of future July 4th activities.

Mrs. Noel-Branch added that outreach had been conducted through Buena Vista schools seeking student input and suggestions regarding items to include in the time capsule and thanked Dr. Ault for assisting with the effort.

Glen Maury Park Committee

Mr. Staton provided an update regarding the recent GMP Committee meeting, noting that attendees had offered suggestions and ideas for future park events and fundraising efforts. Mr. Staton acknowledged that the meeting became disorderly near the end and apologized to Millie Sizer and Michelle Poluikis, who were affected, stating that steps would be taken to prevent similar issues at future meetings.

Budget & Finance Committee

Mrs. Gilliam stated that the Committee had recently met to continue work on the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. She said discussions included financing options related to school facilities and wastewater treatment improvements. She also noted requests regarding possible additional salary adjustments for employees in the Treasurer's and Commissioner of the Revenue's offices beyond the percentage increase provided by the state.

Citizens Advisory Committee

Mrs. Noel-Branch reported that the Committee's planned town hall event is being moved to the fall, with September being considered as the tentative timeframe.

Outdoor Spaces Committee

Mrs. Noel-Branch noted that the Committee is working on a collaborative project and will announce it in the coming weeks.

Mrs. Poluikis also thanked the community for supporting the transition of the middle school into the high school facility. She stated that staff and students had begun moving materials and that the process was proceeding positively.

Mr. Cash also provided an update from the Tree Board, stating that two students from PMHS had been selected to serve as youth members of the board for the upcoming year. He said the board hopes to provide educational and community engagement opportunities related to trees, nature, and conservation.

5. Department Heads/Constitutional Officers/Court Clerks

Michael Loudermilk – Public Works

Mr. Loudermilk presented a proposed vision, mission, and core values statement for the Public Works Department. He noted that the statements were intended to provide direction for departmental opportunities, strategic planning, service delivery, and stewardship of public resources. He stated that the department's focus would include infrastructure stewardship, public safety, accountability, professionalism, and responsible management of City assets and resources.

6. Invited Community Organizations

Jen Carpenter – Main Street Buena Vista

Mrs. Carpenter provided updates on recent and upcoming events. She reported that Buena Vista representatives attended the Virginia Main Street "Rev Up" training event in Lexington. She also discussed ongoing downtown initiatives, including a trail maintenance grant application, planning for Rockbridge Outdoors Fest at Glen Maury Park, a proposed downtown movie series, and upcoming Mountain Day vendor applications. Mrs. Carpenter also shared that she recently completed a nonprofit management certificate program and expressed appreciation for the educational opportunities available through MGCC and SVU.

Lori Turner – The Community Foundation

Mrs. Turner addressed Council to express appreciation for the positive momentum and community investment occurring throughout the City. She thanked Council, City staff, volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and community partners for their efforts in economic development, public safety, recreation, recovery programs, and downtown revitalization. She highlighted the opening of the region's first dedicated recovery housing for both men and women through Rockbridge Recovery and noted the positive impact those programs are having on individuals and families in recovery. She also recognized the launch of Recovery Court and congratulated Josh Clark on being named Virginia Peer Recovery Specialist of the Year.

She also referenced recent economic development activity within the City, including the issuance of new business licenses, new brick-and-mortar businesses, improvements through the downtown storefront improvements program, and private investment in downtown properties. She specifically highlighted the Modine Manufacturing expansion and the opening of Tractor Supply as important investments in the City's future. Mrs. Turner commended City staff, including Kristina Ramsey and Tom Roberts, for their work on economic development projects, downtown revitalization efforts, Magnolia Square, the Bontex redevelopment, and other grant and planning initiatives.

Mrs. Turner also recognized the contributions of Southern Virginia University and Mountain Gateway Community College, noting their continued support of workforce development, volunteerism, and community partnerships. She praised the City's investment in public safety, including School Resource

Officers and the Community Resource Officer program, as well as infrastructure and capital improvement projects, including wastewater treatment upgrades, transportation safety improvements, and pedestrian accessibility. She also referenced ongoing improvements at Glen Maury Park, including pool and campground upgrades, and expressed support for investments intended to maintain and improve the park for residents and visitors. She further commended Main Street Buena Vista and Jen Carpenter for organizing community events, supporting local businesses, and promoting downtown activities and tourism.

In closing, Mrs. Turner stated that Buena Vista is experiencing visible progress and renewed community pride, noting that the City is increasingly focused on growth, revitalization, recreation, economic opportunity, and quality-of-life improvements.

ADG #7: CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, & COMMITTEES

Planning Commission

Mr. Harold Kidd has resigned from the Planning Commission. The appointment will begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2026.

Applicant: Lynette Johnson

Vice-Mayor Staton moved to appoint Ms. Johnson to the Planning Commission. Councilmember Cash seconded the motion, and it carried.

OLD BUSINESS

OB #1: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR ALLEYWAY ABANDONMENT BETWEEN EAST 31ST STREET & EAST 32ND STREET

Mr. Roberts provided an update to the staff report. He noted that the ordinance itself had not changed; however, the staff report was updated to provide additional clarification on the rationale for the proposed private street design in lieu of maintaining a public alley or constructing a public street. He explained that staff worked with Mr. Whetstone to evaluate multiple access configurations for the proposed townhouse development, including continued use of the existing alley alignment and alternative access from East 32nd Street. He explained that these alternative access options would require significantly more grading and would fundamentally alter existing access patterns for Mr. Smith's residence. After reviewing the alternatives, the proposed private street configuration along the alley alignment was determined to be the most efficient, least disruptive, and most sustainable site layout.

Mr. Roberts added that a key requirement throughout the review process was maintaining adequate access to the adjacent property owner. He noted that Mr. Smith's existing access is currently served by a public alley, and the proposed design preserves this access while attempting to improve its long-term condition and reliability. He added that converting the alley into a private street would create clearer maintenance responsibilities, as the property owner would be directly responsible for upkeep. He noted that under a public alley or street scenario, maintenance responsibility could remain unclear or require ongoing city involvement or negotiation, particularly regarding long-term upkeep and utility access.

Lastly, he indicated that financial considerations were also part of the evaluation, as a public improvement would likely involve higher initial construction and long-term public maintenance costs compared to a private development-driven approach. Overall, staff concluded that the proposed private street alignment represents the most practical solution balancing development needs, property access, and long-term maintenance responsibilities.

This being the second reading, Councilmember Gilliam made a motion to read the ordinance by title only, with Councilmember Noel-Branch seconding, and it was carried by Council.

Councilmember Poluikis moved to **approve** the ordinance. Councilmember Cash seconded the motion, and Ms. Burch polled the Council as follows:

Member	Present	Absent	Yes	No	Abstain
Mrs. Poluikis	X		X		
Mrs. Gilliam	X		X		
Mr. Kerr	X		X		
Mrs. Noel-Branch	X		X		
Mr. Cash	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Staton	X		X		
Mayor Lineberry	X			X	

The following ordinance was approved by a vote of 6-1:

**Abandonment of Public Right of Way
Portion of Alley in Block 21, Section 6**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA, that in accordance with Section 15.2-2006 through 2008 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, that the public right of way described in “Exhibit A” and “Exhibit B” attached hereto (the “Property”), shall be vacated and abandoned upon receipt of the consideration noted in “Exhibit A”.

As this requested vacation of an alleyway is to accommodate the development of a new multifamily housing development in the City, in accordance with Section 15.2-2006 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the City Council places the following conditions on the vacation of the alleyway:

1. The project will be developed substantially in accordance with the site plan dated August 29, 2024 and approved by the Planning Commission for the City on September 10, 2024.
2. The developer shall convey, prior to recordation of the abandonment, a right-of-way over the full width of the twenty-four (24) foot wide travel way of the new private street as shown on the site plan to all parcels which have frontage on the alley within this block, specifically the parcels identified as 18-1-6-21-1 and 19-1-6-21-19 and any future child parcels with frontage on this alley that may result from subdivision.
3. The developer shall maintain, from recordation of the abandonment and during all construction activity, a means of access for residents and guests of the property at 171 East 31st Street at least twelve (12) feet free of obstructions and in a condition equivalent to, or better than, the existing alley.
4. The developer shall install a fire hydrant within the public right-of-way during construction.
5. The developer and his successors shall be responsible in perpetuity for maintenance of the private street shown on the aforementioned site plan in a condition equal or better than the existing alley.
6. The City retains a perpetual easement over, under, and across the Property for the installation, maintenance, repair or replacement of all utilities, including, but not limited to, water and sewer lines; electric; cable; telephone; gas lines; and garbage pick-up. This easement may be used by adjacent property owners for private utilities with City approval.
7. If the developer fails to comply with the conditions contained in 1 through 3 prior to December 31, 2031, then this vacation of the alleyway shall be void and the alleyway shall again revert to and be owned by the City.

The City agrees to sign off on a recordable document acknowledging the completion of the conditions outlined in 1 through 4 above, once the developer has completed the conditions to the City's satisfaction and presents such a statement to the City for acknowledgment at its cost.

Nothing in this agreement shall prevent the developer or his successors from dedicating the private street to the City in the future with approval of City staff and City Council. Acceptance of the street as a public street or alley shall extinguish all conditions listed above.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall be recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the City of Buena Vista, Virginia, and indexed under the names listed in "Exhibit A".

This ordinance shall be effective 30 days after adoption.

Jesse D. Lineberry, Mayor

Attest:

Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

Date of Adoption

OB #2: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE TAX RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

This being the second reading, Councilmember Gilliam made a motion to read the ordinance by title only, with Vice-Mayor Staton seconding, and it was carried by Council.

Councilmember Cash expressed support for the city's ability to maintain the current tax rate while eliminating a \$1.9M budget gap without increasing taxes. He noted that while these outcomes represent significant achievements, he emphasized that inflationary pressures continue to impact municipal operations and future budgeting. He cautioned that maintaining a balanced budget in the present should not lead to complacency regarding long-term financial challenges. He encouraged continued fiscal discipline and responsible stewardship of city resources across all departments and operations. He stated that efficiency and shared responsibility among city staff, officials, and residents can contribute to controlling costs and improving community outcomes. Mr. Cash further encouraged community engagement and volunteerism, noting that small individual actions—such as maintaining personal property or assisting with cleanliness in public spaces—collectively reduce municipal workload and support city staff efforts. Lastly, he encouraged residents and city leaders to continue working collaboratively to strengthen the community and expressed optimism about Buena Vista's long-term future and potential for continued growth and improvement.

Vice-Mayor Staton moved to **approve** the ordinance. Councilmember Gilliam seconded the motion, and Ms. Burch polled the Council as follows:

Member	Present	Absent	Yes	No	Abstain
Mrs. Poluikis	X		X		
Mrs. Gilliam	X		X		
Mr. Kerr	X		X		
Mrs. Noel-Branch	X		X		
Mr. Cash	X		X		

Vice-Mayor Staton	X		X		
Mayor Lineberry	X		X		

The following ordinance was unanimously approved:

**Ordinance Establishing the Tax Rates for
The City of Buena Vista for Fiscal Year 2026-2027**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA, that in accordance with Section 26-1 of the Code of the City of Buena Vista, there is hereby levied upon taxable real estate an effective tax rate of Ninety-Eight Cents (\$0.98) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027, said levy to be based upon the value of such property as of July 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that there is hereby levied upon personal property a tax rate of Five Dollars and Eighty-Five Cents (\$5.85) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation for the Calendar Year 2026, said levy to be based upon the value of such property as of January 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that there is hereby levied upon all public service corporation real estate the sum of Ninety-Eight Cents (\$0.98) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027, said levy to be based upon the value of such property as of July 1, 2026.

BE IT STILL FURTHER ORDAINED, that all other tax rates not expressly defined above shall remain the same until further action by Council.

This ordinance shall be effective 30 days after adoption.

Jesse D. Lineberry, Mayor

Attest:

Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

Date of Adoption

OB #3: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

This being the second reading, Councilmember Noel-Branch made a motion to read the ordinance by title only, with Councilmember Gilliam seconding, and it was carried by Council.

Vice-Mayor Staton moved to **approve** the ordinance. Councilmember Gilliam seconded the motion, and Ms. Burch polled the Council as follows:

Member	Present	Absent	Yes	No	Abstain
Mrs. Poluikis	X		X		
Mrs. Gilliam	X		X		
Mr. Kerr	X		X		
Mrs. Noel-Branch	X		X		
Mr. Cash	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Staton	X		X		
Mayor Lineberry	X		X		

The following ordinance was unanimously approved:

**Ordinance Approving the
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Municipal Budget**

WHEREAS the City Council, on May 7, 2026, held a public hearing on the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027; and

WHEREAS the City Council, through a series of publicly held Budget & Finance Committee meetings, has developed a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA, that the following budget be and the same is hereby adopted for fiscal planning purposes.

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA
FY 2026-2027 PROPOSED MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

GENERAL FUND (FUND 10) REVENUES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
General Property Tax	\$7,905,281
Other Local Taxes	\$2,358,545
Permits, Privilege Fees	\$68,920
Fines and Forfeitures	\$50,850
Earnings from Investments	\$3,000
Charge for Services	\$891,427
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$155,960
Non-Categorical Aid from Virginia	\$672,319
Shared Expenses	\$1,382,185
Categorical Aid - Virginia	\$3,846,350
Categorical Aid - Federal	\$308,685
Non-Revenue Receipts	\$23,800
Transfers - Other Funds	\$71,336
Total General Fund Revenues	\$17,738,659

GENERAL FUND (FUND 10) EXPENDITURES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
City Council	\$53,775
City Manager	\$157,583
Information Technology	\$220,920
City Attorney	\$74,000
Human Resources	\$35,353
Finance Department	\$215,241
Commissioner of the Revenue	\$263,169
Reassessment	\$44,050
City Treasurer	\$191,281
Insurance	\$86,226
Electoral Board	\$230,052
Circuit Court	\$5,855

General District Court	\$4,580
Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court	\$4,580
Clerk of the Circuit Court	\$312,971
City Sheriff	\$532,684
Commonwealth's Attorney	\$442,402
Criminal Justice Services	\$85,274
Police Department	\$2,232,851
BVPD SRO No. 2	\$0
BVPD SRO 402 Grant	\$127,788
BVPD SRO No. 1	\$89,443
BVPD SRO 275 Grant	\$87,490
BVPD V-STOP Grant	\$107,424
BVPD Community Resource Program	\$124,031
Fire Services	\$244,633
Rescue Services	\$195,694
Probation Office	\$900
Magistrate Office	\$190
Regional Jail	\$780,236
Juvenile Detention Center	\$15,000
Public Safety Communication Center	\$724,794
Inspections	\$109,625
Medical Examiner	\$90
Administration & Engineering	\$112,287
Street Maintenance	\$1,023,589
Streetlights	\$71,000
Refuse Collection Department	\$844,939
Building & Grounds	\$465,456
Green Hill Cemetery	\$42,365
Fleet Services	\$221,083
General Tax Relief	\$114,055
Social Services	\$2,443,830
Economic Development	\$235,256
Community Development	\$159,743
Transfer to School Fund	\$2,559,791
Transfers to Other Funds	\$544,530
Debt Service	\$230,222
Non-Profit Agencies	\$824,874
Retiree Medical Plan	\$43,655
Miscellaneous Expenditures	\$1,800
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$17,738,659

PARKS & RECREATION FUND (FUND 12) REVENUES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Charge for Services	\$534,605

Miscellaneous Revenues	\$5,025
Gift Shop Sales	\$3,250
Transfer from General Fund	\$489,606
Total Park & Rec Fund Revenues	\$1,032,486

PARKS & RECREATION FUND (FUND 12) EXPENDITURES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Administration	\$359,716
Recreation	\$18,900
Parks and Campgrounds	\$443,862
Activities	\$49,250
Swimming Pool	\$160,758
Total Parks & Rec Fund Expenditures	\$1,032,486

WATER FUND (FUND 13) REVENUES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Charge for Services	\$1,370,975
Total Water Fund Revenues	\$1,370,975

WATER FUND (FUND 13) EXPENDITURES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Water Administration	\$358,646
Water Maintenance	\$312,757
Water Production	\$475,663
Debt Service	\$223,908
Total Water Fund Expenditures	\$1,370,975

SEWER FUND (FUND 33) REVENUES

Charge for Services	\$1,434,515
Total Sewer Fund Revenues	\$1,434,515

SEWER FUND (FUND 33) EXPENDITURES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Sewer Administration	\$324,738
Sewer Maintenance	\$266,143
Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$843,634
Total Sewer Fund Expenditures	\$1,434,515

SCHOOL FUND (FUND 19) REVENUES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Local Funds	\$18,500

State Funds	\$11,500,452
Federal Funds	\$606,474
Transfer from General Fund	\$2,559,791
Total School Fund Revenues	\$14,685,217

SCHOOL FUND (FUND 19) EXPENDITURES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
School Expenses	\$14,685,217
Total School Fund Expenditures	\$14,685,217

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FUND (FUND 25) REVENUES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Interest Recovery	\$18,467
Transfer from General Fund	\$24,297
Total School Construction Fund Revenues	\$42,764

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FUND (FUND 25) EXPENDITURES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Bond Payment - Principal	\$23,181
Bond Payment - Interest	\$19,583
Total School Construction Fund Expenditures	\$42,764

SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND (FUND 26) REVENUES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Charges for Services	\$71,326
Categorical Aid - State	\$28,667
Categorical Aid - Federal	\$761,631
Total School Nutrition Fund Revenues	\$861,624

SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND (FUND 26) EXPENDITURES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Nutrition Expenses	\$861,624
Total School Nutrition Fund Expenditures	\$861,624

SENIOR CENTER FUND (FUND 27) REVENUES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
VPAS	\$8,500
Total Senior Center Fund Revenues	\$8,500

SENIOR CENTER FUND (FUND 27) EXPENDITURES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Utilities	\$8,500
Total Senior Center Fund Expenditures	\$8,500

This ordinance shall be effective 30 days after adoption.

Jesse D. Lineberry, Mayor

Attest:

Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

Date of Adoption

OB #4: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

This being the second reading, Councilmember Noel-Branch made a motion to read the ordinance by title only, with Councilmember Cash seconding, and it was carried by Council.

Councilmember Gilliam moved to **approve** the ordinance. Councilmember Poluikis seconded the motion, and Ms. Burch polled the Council as follows:

Member	Present	Absent	Yes	No	Abstain
Mrs. Poluikis	X		X		
Mrs. Gilliam	X		X		
Mr. Kerr	X		X		
Mrs. Noel-Branch	X		X		
Mr. Cash	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Staton	X		X		
Mayor Lineberry	X		X		

The approved ordinance is as follows:

**Ordinance Appropriating Funds for the Operation of
The City of Buena Vista for Fiscal Year 2026-2027**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA, that in accordance with Section 4-1, Budgets and Appropriations, of the Charter of Buena Vista, funds to support the operations of the City for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 are hereby appropriated effective July 1, 2026, in the amount of \$37,174,739 and in accordance with the following provisions:

General Fund	\$17,738,658
Parks & Recreation Fund	\$1,032,486

Water Fund	\$1,370,975
Sewer Fund	\$1,434,515
School Fund	\$14,685,217
School Construction Fund	\$42,764
School Nutrition Fund	\$861,624
Senior Center Fund	\$8,500
TOTAL FY 2026-2027 BUDGET	\$37,174,739

This ordinance shall be effective 30 days after adoption.

 Jesse D. Lineberry, Mayor

Attest:

 Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

 Date of Adoption

NEW BUSINESS

ADG #8: RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION FROM VISITORS – NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

None.

NB #1: FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO GRANT A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR A CAMPGROUND AT 801 MERIDIAN PARKWAY

Ms. Burch presented the following Ordinance:

**Conditional Use Permit for a Campground
 Rockbridge Creative Institute, 801 Meridian Parkway, Tax Map 8-1---1**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA, that after a duly called public hearing, in accordance with the general welfare of the citizens of Buena Vista and in accordance with good zoning practices, pursuant to Section 617.03-3 of the Land Development Regulations, a Conditional Use Permit shall be issued for the operation of a campground with 20 spaces at the Rockbridge Creative Institute, 801 Meridian Parkway, Tax Map 8-1---1, in accordance with the staff report and site plan attached hereto as “Exhibit A”.

This ordinance shall be effective 30 days following adoption by City Council.

NB #2: DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF AN APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION

Steve Bolster explained that the resolution reflects two new state-funded revenue streams requiring appropriation and alignment between the City’s fiscal records and the school division’s budget. The first component is a Targeted School Improvement Grant awarded by the Virginia Department of Education’s Office of School Improvement in the amount of \$124,269.61. Mr. Bolster noted that the grant is intended to support professional development and strengthen instructional capacity for evidence-based interventions in reading and mathematics. The funding will specifically support Kling Elementary, Enderly Heights Elementary, and Parry McCluer Middle School. The goal is to improve academic outcomes for students, including students with disabilities.

The second component is funding associated with the Commonwealth’s biennial “caboose” budget for fiscal years 2024-2026. This allocation provides one-time bonus payments of approximately \$1,500 for SOQ-funded instructional and support positions, subject to certification by the School Board regarding implementation of average or equivalent compensation adjustments. The total distribution for BVCPS under this provision is \$144,922.

Mr. Bolster explained that the School Board has already reviewed and approved both funding items and has requested Council’s approval of the appropriation resolution, as the City serves as fiscal agent for the school division. Approval would authorize receipt and proper accounting of the state funds and ensure alignment between city and school financial records.

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 **SCHOOL FUND** and expended as follows:

School Fund – New Grant Award (Targeted School Improvement Grant) & State Funded One-Time Bonus Payments for Funded SOQ Instructional and Support Positions

19.6600.69130	School Expenses	<u>\$269,192.00</u>
Sub-total 1		\$269,192.00
Total School Fund Appropriation		\$269,192.00

Approved: This 21st day of May 2026.

Jesse D. Lineberry, Mayor

Attest:

Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

Councilmember Poluikis moved to **approve** the resolution, Councilmember Noel-Branch seconded, and the motion carried.

NB #3: APPROVAL OF A PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL POLICE WEEK & PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Chief Clements noted that Peace Officers Memorial Day is observed annually on May 15 and was established in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy. National Police Week is observed annually in May to honor law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. He described several commemorative events attended by members of the BVPD, including the Law Enforcement United “Tough Ride”, a multi-day bicycle event traveling from Roanoke to Washington, D.C., with ceremonial stops along the route to honor fallen officers in participating jurisdictions. He noted that the event included recognition of officers and families from across the region.

Chief Clements also referenced attendance at the Roanoke Regional Law Enforcement Memorial Service, where Buena Vista officers participated in honoring the four officers from Buena Vista who have died in the line of duty over the department’s 134-year history. He noted that Lt. Robert Smith participated in reading the names of the fallen officers during the ceremony. He emphasized the importance of the proclamation as more than a ceremonial action, describing it as a formal public acknowledgement of the sacrifice of law enforcement officers and the lasting impact on their families. He noted that some families of officers killed more than a century ago continue to engage with memorial observances today, underscoring the enduring significance of remembrance efforts.

Ms. Burch presented the following Proclamation:

CITY OF BUENA VISTA PROCLAMATION National Police Week & Peace Officers Memorial Day

WHEREAS the safety and well-being of all citizens of Buena Vista are essential to the prosperity and quality of life of our families and community; and

WHEREAS the men and women of the Buena Vista Police Department and Buena Vista Sheriff’s Office work tirelessly to protect and serve our citizens, enforce our laws, and safeguard our neighborhoods, schools, and families; and

WHEREAS law enforcement officers report for duty each day with full awareness of the risks and dangers they may face, while demonstrating unwavering dedication to public service and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS since the first recorded line-of-duty death in 1786, more than 24,000 law enforcement officers in the United States have made the ultimate sacrifice, including four members of the Buena Vista Police Department, whose names are permanently memorialized on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS it is both fitting and necessary to honor the memory of those officers who have given their lives in the line of duty, and to recognize the profound sacrifice and enduring loss borne by their families; and

WHEREAS in 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed the initial proclamation designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which it falls as National Police Week, to honor the fallen officers and express appreciation for those who continue to serve; and

WHEREAS National Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day provide an important opportunity to recognize the courage, service, and sacrifice of law enforcement officers, as well as the support and resilience of their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City Council of the City of Buena Vista hereby recognizes the recent observance of National Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day and honors the memory of those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice, as well as the service and dedication of those who continue to protect and serve our community.

Jesse D. Lineberry, Mayor

Attest:

Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

Date of Adoption

Councilmember Poluikis moved to **approve** the proclamation, Councilmember Cash seconded, and the motion carried.

NB #4: DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO RENEW CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR EVENTS AT BLUE RIDGE ABBEY

Tom Roberts explained that the original conditional use approval for the B&B included two components: (1) approval for guest lodging (up to 10 rooms total), and (2) a separate, annually renewable approval for special events such as small weddings and gatherings. The annual renewal requirement was established to allow staff and Council to monitor the scale and impact of events, as special events can vary widely in size and type. Under the current conditions, events are limited to outdoor use only, with a maximum attendance of 50 people. Additional requirements include compliance with Health Department restroom standards, restrictions on amplified sound, limitations on event hours, and provisions for shuttle service if off-site parking is needed.

Staff have received no complaints or operational issues related to events since the CUP was first implemented, and only a small number of events have occurred to date. Based on this track record, staff recommend renewal of the permit. He also noted that from an economic development and tourism perspective, these small-scale experience-driven events provide a positive benefit to the community by attracting visitors, supporting local businesses, and generating lodging and meals tax revenue. This use is consistent with broader efforts to promote unique, small-scale tourism opportunities within the city.

Mr. Roberts advised that Council may take action on this proposal by verbal resolution.

Councilmember Cash moved to approve the CUP renewal, Vice-Mayor Staton seconded, and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

Jesse D. Lineberry, Mayor