



CITY OF BUENA VISTA COUNCIL AGENDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 6, 2026 | 6:00 PM

Council Chambers – 2039 Sycamore Avenue

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

ADG #2: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ADG #3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 16, 2026 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

ADG #4: RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION FROM VISITORS

Citizens who desire to speak to council regarding items **NOT listed** on the agenda will be recognized at this time. Please limit your statement to three (3) minutes.

ADG #5: REPORTS:

1. Mayor
2. City Manager
3. City Attorney
4. Council Committees/Members
5. Department Heads
6. Invited Community Organizations

ADG #6: CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

Rockbridge Regional Jail Commission

Mr. Wayne Handley has resigned from the Jail Commission. This appointment will begin immediately and will expire on January 14, 2027. This is the first time it has appeared on the agenda.

This seat must be filled by a staff member, typically the City Manager.

Rockbridge Regional Public Safety Communications Center Board

Mr. Wayne Handley has resigned from the PSCC Board. This appointment will begin immediately and will expire on December 31, 2026. This is the first time it has appeared on the agenda.

This seat must be filled by a staff member, typically the City Manager.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

ADG #7: RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION FROM VISITORS

Citizens who desire to speak to council regarding items **listed under New Business** on the agenda will be recognized at this time. Please limit your statement to three (3) minutes.

NB #1: DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR IRF FUNDS

NB #2: FLOOD HAZARD RESILIENCE PLAN PRESENTATION

NB #3: DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF AN APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION

ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- August 11 | 6:00 PM – Planning Commission
- August 12 | 6:00 PM – Joint Glen Maury Park & Outdoor Spaces Committee
 - August 17 | 6:00 PM – Cemetery Committee
- August 18 | 6:00 PM – Citizens Advisory Committee
 - August 20 | 6:00 PM – City Council

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Every Monday | 6:30 PM – Line Dancing @ The American Legion
- Every Friday | 3:00 PM – Farmers Market @ Magnolia Square
 - Every Friday | 6:00 PM – Friday Events @ Straws
- August 7 | 7:30 PM – Summer Family Film Night @ Magnolia Square
 - August 8 | 9:00 AM – Cars & Coffee @ Asunder
 - August 14 | 6:00 PM – Fridays in the Park ft. Southpaw
 - August 14-16 – Chris Wheeler Tournament
- August 15 | 8:00 AM – Heroes Breakfast @ The American Legion
 - August 19 | 7:00 PM – Book Club @ Leaf & Lore

CITY OF BUENA VISTA CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

July 16, 2026 | 6:00 PM

Council Chambers – 2039 Sycamore Avenue

The Buena Vista City Council met for a Regular Council Meeting on Thursday, July 16 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Mayor Jesse Lineberry – *arrived at 6:11*

Vice-Mayor Danny Staton

Michelle Poluikis

Amy Gilliam

Stephanie Noel-Branch

Ronald Cash

Members Absent:

William Kerr

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

Vice-Mayor Staton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., and Councilmember Poluikis delivered the opening prayer.

ADG #2: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember Gilliam moved to approve the agenda, Councilmember Cash seconded, and the motion carried.

ADG #3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 18, 2026, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING & EXECUTIVE SESSION, AND THE JUNE 25, 2026, SPECIAL CALLED EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

No one spoke.

ADG #5: REPORTS:

1. Mayor

None.

2. Interim City Manager

Mr. Handley reported that the City continues to work through the leadership transition while maintaining progress on infrastructure projects and daily operations.

He also highlighted Senator Tim Kaine's recent visit to the Virginia Innovation Accelerator, where representatives from Main Street Buena Vista, Rockbridge County, Southern Virginia University, Mountain Gateway Community College, and Modine discussed workforce development and regional economic opportunities.

Mr. Handley also provided an update on the wastewater treatment plant project, noting that the City continues to pursue congressionally directed funding and has held multiple meetings with the Environmental Protection Agency and other stakeholders. Staff is also exploring additional funding opportunities through the Virginia DEQ, the USDA, and the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) to support the project's phased implementation.

3. City Attorney

None.

4. Council Committees/Members

Mrs. Noel-Branch reported meeting with Kelly Weaver, Sheryl Wagner, and Jen Carpenter to discuss regional tourism partnerships and collaborative marketing opportunities in support of the Microbusiness Marketing Leverage Program grant. She also attended Senator Kaine's visit to the Virginia Innovation Accelerator, where she discussed the City's wastewater treatment plant needs with the Senator and shared his recommendations with Mr. Handley.

Mrs. Noel-Branch also attended the recent Rockbridge Outdoors meeting, where members discussed regional outdoor recreation initiatives, including planning for the Grit Adventure Race scheduled for May 21-23 next year. This event will involve collaboration with localities throughout the region.

She announced that the July Citizens Advisory Committee meeting was canceled and will resume on August 18. She noted that the Committee is currently accepting applications through the City's website. She also announced that the Outdoor Spaces Committee is scheduled to meet on July 23 to continue planning for outdoor recreation, community amenities, and public space initiatives.

5. Department Heads/Constitutional Officers/Court Clerks

Michael Loudermilk – Public Works

Mr. Loudermilk reported on the installation of a new drinking fountain and water bottle filling station at Magnolia Square. He explained that the project was funded through a \$5,000 grant awarded to Main Street Buena Vista by the Rockbridge Area Community Health Foundation. MSBV allocated approximately \$3,000 of the grant toward the purchase and installation of the fountain, with Public Works managing the procurement process and completing the installation. The project was completed within the allocated budget. Addressing public questions regarding the funding source, he clarified that the project was fully funded through the grant and did not require City funds. He noted the importance of pursuing grant opportunities and collaboration between City departments and community partners to maximize available resources.

6. Invited Community Organizations

Jen Carpenter – Main Street Buena Vista

Mrs. Carpenter began her report by thanking Michael Loudermilk and the Public Works team for their collaboration on the installation of the new drinking fountain and water bottle filling station at Magnolia Square, noting that more than 145 water bottles have been filled. She also recognized the Public Works department's support of the recent Norton motorcycle rally downtown, which attracted visitors from across the country and internationally, and highlighted the event as an example of collaboration between Glen Maury Park and downtown businesses.

She announced the launch of the Get to Gnome BV community scavenger hunt, which has generated positive community engagement. She also announced the upcoming Connect BV event, scheduled for August 24, which will serve as a back-to-school celebration featuring activities for residents and local students.

She reported applying for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's Community Investment Training Program, which provides training to help communities attract investment and support redevelopment efforts. Mrs. Carpenter also thanked Councilmember Noel-Branch for her assistance in developing regional tourism partnerships to support future grant opportunities. Additionally, she highlighted Senator Kaine's recent visit to the VIA, where discussions focused on the federally funded entrepreneur pipeline and conference space project. Finally, she shared plans to organize a downtown

walking tour showcasing redevelopment efforts, including recently renovated and vacant properties, in collaboration with local property owners.

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

None.

OLD BUSINESS

OB #1: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT TO ADOPT NEW SECTION 702 ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

There being no changes to the ordinance text, Councilmember Noel-Branch motioned to read by title, seconded by Councilmember Cash, and carried by Council.

Councilmember Cash 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			
Mrs. Noel-Branch	X		X		
Mr. Cash	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Staton	X		X		
Mayor Lineberry	X		X		

The following ordinance was unanimously approved:

Zoning Text Amendment Section 702 Accessory Dwelling Units

AN ORDINANCE to amend Section 302 and adopt new Section 702 of the Land Development Regulations of the Code of the City of Buena Vista, as amended, for the purpose of regulating Accessory Dwelling Units.

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, Section 302 is hereby amended, and Section 702 is hereby adopted as shown in the attached "Exhibit A".

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

Daniel L. Staton, Vice-Mayor

Attest:

Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

Date of Adoption

OB #2: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR ZONING MAP AMENDMENT IN THE 100 BLOCK OF SOUTH HAZEL AVENUE

There being no changes to the ordinance text, Councilmember Noel-Branch motioned to read by title, seconded by Councilmember Poluikis, and carried by Council.

Councilmember Noel-Branch 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			
Mrs. Noel-Branch	X		X		
Mr. Cash	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Staton	X		X		
Mayor Lineberry	X		X		

The following ordinance was unanimously approved:

**Zoning Map Amendment
100 Block of Hazel Avenue
Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 16, 17, and 18 of Block 57, Section 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, the following property shall be rezoned from R2 Residential to R3 Residential Limited pursuant to Section 617.03-3 of the Land Development Regulations, and the zoning map for the City shall be amended to reflect this change: Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 16, 17, and 18 of Block 57, Section 1, located in the 100 Block of South Hazel Avenue; as shown on "Exhibit A".

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

Daniel L. Staton, Vice-Mayor

Attest:

Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

Date of Adoption

OB #3: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR RIGHT OF WAY ABANDONMENT IN THE 100 BLOCK OF SOUTH HAZEL AVENUE

There being no changes to the ordinance text, Councilmember Noel-Branch motioned to read by title, seconded by Councilmember Cash, and carried by Council.

Councilmember Noel-Branch 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			
Mrs. Noel-Branch	X		X		
Mr. Cash	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Staton	X		X		
Mayor Lineberry	X		X		

The following ordinance was unanimously approved:

**Abandonment of Public Right of Way
Portion of Alley in Block 57, Section 1**

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 B”.

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 on “Exhibit A”.

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

Daniel L. Staton, Vice-Mayor

Attest:

Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

Date of Adoption

OB #4: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR RIGHT OF WAY ABANDONMENT IN THE 300 BLOCK OF LONGHOLLOW ROAD

There being no changes to the ordinance text, Councilmember Noel-Branch motioned to read by title, seconded by Councilmember Poluikis, and carried by Council.

Councilmember Poluikis 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			
Mrs. Noel-Branch	X		X		
Mr. Cash	X		X		

Vice-Mayor Staton	X		X		
Mayor Lineberry	X		X		

The following ordinance was unanimously approved:

**Abandonment of Public Right of Way
Alley in Block 1, Forest Subdivision, 300 Block of Longhollow Road**

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 B”.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that as a condition of the aforesaid abandonment and vacation, the City retains a perpetual easement over, under, and across the Property for the installation, maintenance, repair, replacement of all utilities, including, but not limited to, water and sewer lines; electric; cable; telephone; and gas lines; and garbage pick-up.

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 on “Exhibit A”.

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

Daniel L. Staton, Vice-Mayor

Attest:

Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

Date of Adoption

NEW BUSINESS

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

None.

NB #1: ROCKBRIDGE RECOVERY PRESENTATION

Lori Turner, Executive Director of The Community Foundation, began her presentation by thanking City Council for its continued support of Rockbridge Recovery and the regional partnership that has helped expand recovery services. She reported that this regional support has contributed to securing \$812,000 in Opioid Abatement Authority funding for the coming year, including \$150,000 for the purchase of a new facility to expand services.

Mrs. Turner provided an overview of the HOPE House recovery campus, which includes men's and women's recovery homes and an outreach center serving as the primary point of entry for individuals and families seeking assistance. She explained that the outreach center offers peer recovery support, transportation assistance, harm reduction services, testing, care kits, and connections to treatment, emphasizing that there are no barriers to accessing services. She also noted that the recovery homes were intentionally designed to provide a safe, welcoming, home-like environment that promotes dignity and

supports long-term recovery, with many rooms furnished through donations from local churches, businesses, and community members.

Mrs. Turner highlighted the impact of peer recovery services, recognizing Substance Use Services Director Josh Clark for being named 2026 Peer of the Year by the Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) of Virginia. She also shared that she recently presented the region's collaborative recovery model at the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority Recovery Conference, where communities from across the Commonwealth expressed interest in learning from the Rockbridge region's approach.

She emphasized that local support has been instrumental to the program's success, noting that more than \$200,000 in local contributions was committed before opioid settlement funding was awarded, along with support from 33 community partners and 14 letters of support. The new funding will sustain housing, peer recovery services, transportation, harm reduction, testing, and workforce reintegration efforts while allowing the organization to continue identifying and addressing unmet recovery needs.

Mrs. Turner concluded by thanking City Council for its partnership and reaffirmed The Community Foundation's commitment to transparency, collaboration, and expanding recovery services to ensure individuals and families affected by substance use disorders continue to receive the support they need.

Mrs. Turner then introduced Mark Peters, a graduate of the HOPE House recovery program and soon-to-be first graduate of the Maury River Recovery Court. Mr. Peters shared his personal journey, describing more than 10 years of active addiction, repeated incarceration, and unsuccessful attempts at recovery that resulted in the loss of his family and stability. He credited HOPE House with providing the support and environment that enabled him to achieve lasting recovery after his release from jail. Mr. Peters reported that he has since completed the HOPE House program, earned his peer recovery support certification, and now works as a peer recovery specialist, helping others facing similar challenges. He expressed gratitude to The Community Foundation and City Council for supporting recovery services, stating that the investment has transformed not only his life but the lives of many others.

Councilmember Cash thanked Lori Turner and Rockbridge Recovery for providing HOPE House participants who volunteered during the City's July 4th celebration, noting that their assistance was invaluable and that they demonstrated a strong work ethic, positive attitudes, and a commitment to serving the community. He noted that the experience reflected the program's emphasis on building character, relationships, and life skills in addition to supporting recovery.

Councilmember Cash also shared that Josh Clark, Rockbridge Recovery Substance Use Services Director and the 2026 SAARA Peer of the Year, is his grandson. He spoke about Mr. Clark's personal journey from addiction and incarceration to recovery through Rockbridge Recovery, noting that remaining in the local community and connecting with the organization's services played a significant role in his success. Mr. Cash praised the positive impact of HOPE House and Rockbridge Recovery on individuals and the community and thanked Mrs. Turner for her leadership and dedication to the program.

NB #2: CERTIFIED CRIME PREVENTION COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

Corporal Josh Guttman introduced Tina Sumpter of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), who presented the City of Buena Vista with its Certified Crime Prevention Community designation. Ms. Sumpter explained that the program was established in 1998 to recognize communities that demonstrate a comprehensive commitment to crime prevention and community safety. She noted that Buena Vista is one of only 16 communities statewide to receive the certification out of more than 400 eligible localities. Ms. Sumpter explained that earning the certification required the City to successfully meet 19 community safety standards, including 12 core elements and seven additional criteria, demonstrating a broad commitment to crime prevention and public safety. She highlighted several accomplishments included in the City's application, including the Police Department's School Resource Officer program, with five SROs serving the school division; annual school safety audits; participation in

fire, lockdown, and earthquake drills; victim assistance services supporting approximately 125–145 victims annually; Virginia Rules education programs for seventh-grade students; a week-long Virginia Rules summer camp for youth; implementation of the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) for victims of intimate partner violence; and continued collaboration with Project Horizon to provide services and referrals for victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault. She emphasized that this recognition represents a community-wide effort involving the Police Department, City leadership, schools, partner agencies, and residents.

Police Chief Clements thanked Ms. Sumpter for her guidance throughout the certification process and recognized the leadership of former Chief and current City Manager Wayne Handley, as well as the dedication of Corporal Josh Guttman, noting that the certification process took several years of work and that Corporal Guttman successfully led the effort after assuming responsibility for the project. Chief Clements credited the strong collaboration between the Police Department and the community for making the achievement possible.

City Manager Wayne Handley also congratulated Chief Clements and Corporal Guttman, emphasizing the significance of Buena Vista's accomplishment. He noted that many larger Virginia localities have attempted but not achieved the certification and commended the Police Department and community partners for earning recognition as one of only 16 Certified Crime Prevention Communities in the Commonwealth.

NB #3: DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF AN APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION

Mr. Bolster explained that the resolution includes a \$50,000 Virginia Brownfield Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund grant for additional environmental assessment and remediation planning at the former Bontex building, specifically addressing the basement. He noted that staff secured approval to use another grant source to satisfy the required local match, allowing the project to move forward without additional local funding. The other appropriations listed in the resolution consist of FY2026 project carryovers: \$160,121 for the VDOT-funded Streetscape Project to cover remaining invoices as the project nears completion; \$17,538 for the Magnolia Square Project, funded through a combination of local and fundraising dollars, to complete remaining work; \$129,800 for the Community Flood Preparedness Fund culvert replacement project at 6th Street and Woodland Avenue; and \$425,178 for the Community Development Block Grant Downtown Revitalization Project to pay outstanding invoices as the project reaches completion. Mr. Bolster noted that the 6th Street Culvert Project is funded through a 90% state grant with a 10% local match and that completion of the design phase will position the City to apply for future construction funding through the next grant cycle.

Mr. Bolster also noted that the carryover projects are reimbursement-based grants, requiring the City to pay eligible expenses before seeking reimbursement from the respective grant agencies, and that the appropriations are necessary to allow the City to complete ongoing projects and continue utilizing previously awarded grant funding.

Ms. Burch presented the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Buena Vista, Virginia, that the following appropriations are, and the same are hereby made, for the period ending **June 30, 2027**, from the UNAPPROPRIATED SURPLUS of the **GENERAL FUND** and expended as follows:

Virginia Brownfields Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund (VBAF) Award

10.8401.56182	VBAF Grant Expense	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
Sub-total 1		\$50,000.00

Streetscape Project – VDOT Funding (FY 2026 Carryover)

10.8402.56183	Streetscape Project – VDOT Funding	<u>\$160,121.00</u>
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Sub-total 2	\$160,121.00
Town (Magnolia) Square Project (FY 2026 Carryover)	
10.8402.56186 Town Square Project	<u>\$17,538.00</u>
Sub-total 3	\$17,538.00
Community Flood Preparedness Fund – Culvert Replacement Project (FY 2026 Carryover)	
10.8402.56188 DCR CFPF Culvert Replacement Project	<u>\$129,800.00</u>
Sub-total 4	\$129,800.00
Downtown Revitalization Project – CDBG Grant Funding (FY 2026 Carryover)	
10.8402.60680 Connect BV CDBG Grant	<u>\$425,178.00</u>
Sub-total 5	\$425,178.00
Total General Fund Appropriation	\$782,637.00

Approved: This 16th day of July 2026.

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

NB #4: DISCUSSION OF CEMETERY FEE STRUCTURE

Vice-Mayor Staton presented a recommendation from the Cemetery Committee to update Green Hill Cemetery's fee structure, noting that many of the fees have remained unchanged since the early 1980s and no longer reflect current operating costs or regional comparisons. He stated that the Committee unanimously recommended increasing the cost of cemetery lots for City residents from \$1,200 to \$1,700, non-residents from \$1,500 to \$2,000, and the perpetual care fee from \$150 to \$500. He explained that the proposed changes would help bring the City's fees more in line with neighboring cemeteries and better support the long-term maintenance of the cemetery, while acknowledging the additional adjustments may be needed in the future as costs continue to rise.

Mr. Kearney asked whether the Committee also planned to review other cemetery fees, such as opening and closing charges and administrative documents. Vice-Mayor Staton responded that the Committee is conducting a comprehensive review of the cemetery's fee schedule, policies, and regulations, but is bringing recommendations to Council in phases rather than all at once. Councilmember Cash noted his agreement with the phased approach, stating that the cemetery lot fee is the most significant issue to address initially. Mayor Lineberry expressed support for updating the fee structure but encouraged the Committee to preserve a meaningful cost advantage for City residents when finalizing the recommendations.

Vice-Mayor Staton invited everyone to attend the Cemetery Committee meeting scheduled for the following Monday to continue discussions on the proposed changes.

NB #5: DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CENTRAL SHENANDOAH HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2026 UPDATE

Mr. Handley explained that the Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan, prepared by the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, is the result of a multi-year regional planning effort involving member localities, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and other government partners to identify, evaluate, and prioritize natural, man-made, and industrial hazards that could affect the region. He stated that the plan establishes regional mitigation priorities and identifies strategies to improve community resilience, protect public infrastructure, support economic vitality, and reduce the impacts of

future disasters. He noted that each participating locality contributed its own areas of concern, which were incorporated into the regional plan. Mr. Handley emphasized that adopting the Plan is important because it maintains the City's eligibility for state and federal disaster assistance and hazard mitigation funding, including FEMA grant opportunities, should a disaster occur.

Ms. Burch presented the following resolution:

A Resolution of the City of Buena Vista, Virginia
Adopting the Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update

WHEREAS the Buena Vista City Council recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within the City of Buena Vista; and

WHEREAS the City of Buena Vista has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update, in accordance with federal laws, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; and the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; and

WHEREAS the Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in the City of Buena Vista, Virginia from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS adoption by City Council of the City of Buena Vista demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and to achieving the goals outlined in the Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA, that the City of Buena Vista, Virginia, hereby adopts the Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update. Revisions to the plan made after adoption that are necessary to satisfy plan approval requirements shall not require City Council to readopt the plan. Subsequent plan updates following the approval period for this plan shall require adoption resolutions.

ADOPTED by a vote of _____ in favor and _____ against, and _____ abstaining.

Daniel L. Staton, Vice-Mayor

Attest:

Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

Date of Adoption

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

NB #6: DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF NEW CITY MANAGER CONTRACT

Mr. Kearney explained that the contract for incoming City Manager Krystal Onaitis is substantially similar to the agreement previously approved for former City Manager Jason Tyree and incorporates the terms

previously discussed by Council. He stated that he reviewed the agreement with Mr. Handley and Ms. Onaitis' legal counsel to address any questions and ensure all parties were in agreement. He also explained that the contract outlines the City Manager's duties, terms of employment, and compensation, and includes a provision allowing Ms. Onaitis additional time to relocate to the City due to current housing market conditions and noted her intention to become a Buena Vista resident and actively engaged in the community as soon as possible.

Councilmember Poluikis moved to **approve** the new City Manager contract. 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			
Mrs. Noel-Branch	X		X		
Mr. Cash	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Staton	X		X		
Mayor Lineberry	X		X		

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

Daniel L. Staton, Vice-Mayor

STAFF REPORT

TYPE: Authorization to Apply for Grant

PROJECT: Industrial Revitalization Fund – 2076 Magnolia Ave

DATE: 7/29/2026

SYNOPSIS

The City is partnering with SVU to apply for an Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) grant of \$450,000 to complete renovation of the vacant building at 2076 Magnolia Ave. The application requires a local government resolution of authorization.

DISCUSSION

SVU has owned the 7,000 sf vacant commercial building at 2076 Magnolia Ave since 2022, and has plans to renovate it into a dynamic hub for their art and design program. It would house a large gallery, studios for students, faculty offices, and storage and support space. Its presence would consistently bring students and faculty into the heart of downtown, building the connection between campus and the City and increasing the level of activity. This staff report includes excerpts from a schematic exterior renovation design prepared with the assistance of Main Street Buena Vista.

The IRF program, administered by the Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD), provides funding for rehabilitation of commercial and industrial buildings into new uses that contribute to the vitality of communities. Previous successful IRF grant recipients in Buena Vista are the Virginia Innovation Accelerator and Mountain Gateway Community College. Only localities may apply for IRF grants, but recipients may be either private or government entities. The estimated project cost of the project at 2076 Magnolia Ave is \$950,000. The IRF request is for \$450,000. SVU is providing the remaining \$500,000 in cash. There is no City contribution or expense for this project. Additionally, if awarded, the contract and transfer of funds would be directly between DHCD and SVU; the City would not be responsible for grant management or reporting.

REQUESTED ACTION

Due to a quick turnaround time (grant due date of July 31) and pulling together key information, the grant application has already been submitted with a draft of this resolution of authorization. Staff requests that Council approve this resolution, which will be sent to DHCD.



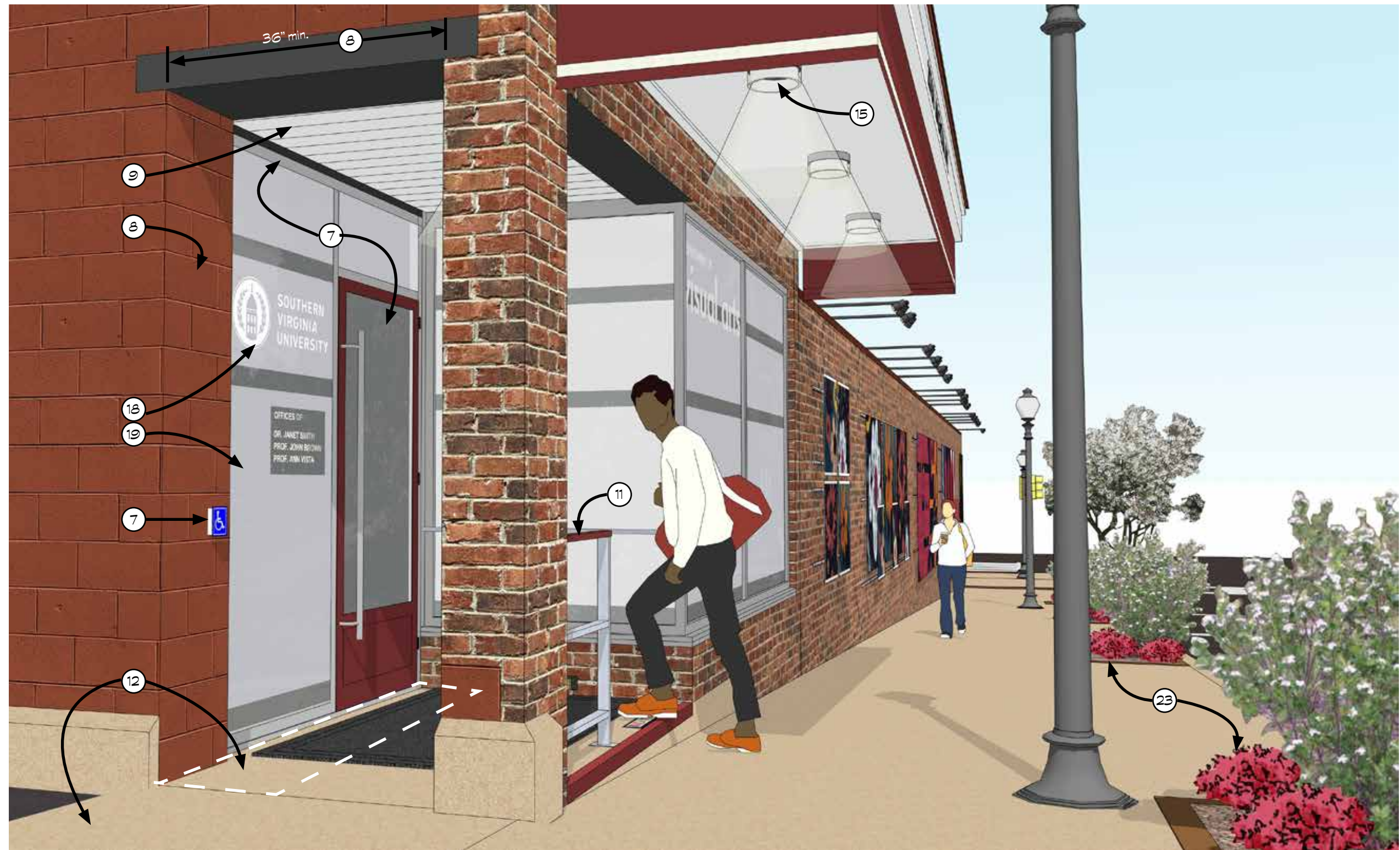




E. 21st ST. & MAGNOLIA AVE. FAÇADE

GENERAL NOTES AND KEYNOTES - SEE SHEET A.1

 COMMONWEALTH PRESERVATION GROUP 536 West 35th St. Norfolk, VA 23508 Phone: 757.923.1900 www.commonwealthpreservationgroup.com	 VIRGINIA Main Street POWERED BY DHCD	 MAIN STREET BUENA VISTA	FAÇADE IMPROVEMENTS FOR: 2076 Magnolia Street Buena Vista, Virginia	SCHEMATIC DESIGN ONLY NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION	Date: 03/09/2026 VMS Project No.: TT.04 Drawing Title: E. 21st STREET & MAGNOLIA AVE. FAÇADES	Sheet No.: A.3 SHEET 3 OF 7
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SIDE ENTRY FROM ALLEY

GENERAL NOTES AND KEYNOTES - SEE SHEET A.1



536 West 35th St. Norfolk, VA
23508
Phone: 757.923.1900
www.commonwealthpreservationgroup.com



FAÇADE IMPROVEMENTS FOR:

2076 Magnolia Street

Buena Vista, Virginia

**SCHEMATIC
DESIGN ONLY**

**NOT FOR
CONSTRUCTION**

Date: 03/09/2026

VMS Project No.: TT.04

Sheet No.:

A.7

SHEET 7 OF 7

Drawing Title: SIDE ENTRY FROM
ALLEY



RESOLUTION

Industrial Revitalization Fund Application Southern Virginia University

8/6/2026

WHEREAS the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development has established the Industrial Revitalization Fund grant program to leverage local and private resources to achieve market-driven redevelopment of industrial structures, creating a catalyst for long-term employment opportunities and ongoing physical and economic revitalization; and

WHEREAS Southern Virginia University purchased in 2022 the former vacant and blighted retail property at 2076 Magnolia Avenue; and

WHEREAS Southern Virginia University intends to transform this blighted structure into a state-of-the-art, off-campus educational facility dedicated to SVU's rapidly growing art and design; and

WHEREAS Southern Virginia University has committed up to \$500,000 of its own cash funding to this capital project to serve as match.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Buena Vista shall apply for \$450,000 of Industrial Revitalization Funds for Southern Virginia University's building renovations at 2076 Magnolia Avenue; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the City Manager or her designee is hereby authorized to sign and submit appropriate documents for the submittal of this Industrial Revitalization Fund application.

Jesse Lineberry, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah Burch, Clerk of Council

Date

STAFF REPORT

TYPE: Council Update

PROJECT: Stormwater Risk & Resilience Plan

DATE: 7/29/2026

SYNOPSIS

The Stormwater Risk & Resilience Plan is complete. It provides an updated overview of the waterways in the City, their flood risk, past structural projects to mitigate flood risk, and provides recommended future capital projects and operational actions.

ANALYSIS

Background

Flood hazard mitigation and stormwater management are key issues for Buena Vista, but the most recent plan that looked in detail at what those specific risks were and identified recommended projects or actions was the 1999 Buena Vista Watershed Plan. The goals of preparing a new plan were to

- Identify gaps in flood hazard mitigation project planning
- Identify policy and programmatic changes City government can make to improve flood hazard resilience
- Analyze the hydraulic/hydrologic impact of projects constructed (and not constructed) over the last 20 years
- Offer project recommendations

Additionally, under the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)'s Community Flood Protection Fund (CFPF) program, a locality with a DCR-approved resilience plan are eligible for project funding. This plan meets DCR's criteria and has been approved, unlocking future funding for construction projects as well as future studies and operational support.

Plan Overview

The plan reviews each of the sub-watersheds in the City, the analysis of them that was done in the 1999 plan, the recommended projects from that plan, and what projects were actually completed (whether part of the earlier plan or not). It then provides for that sub-watershed operational/maintenance recommendations, further study recommendations, and capital project recommendations based on the 1999 plan. Finally, it offers overall recommendations and prioritization.

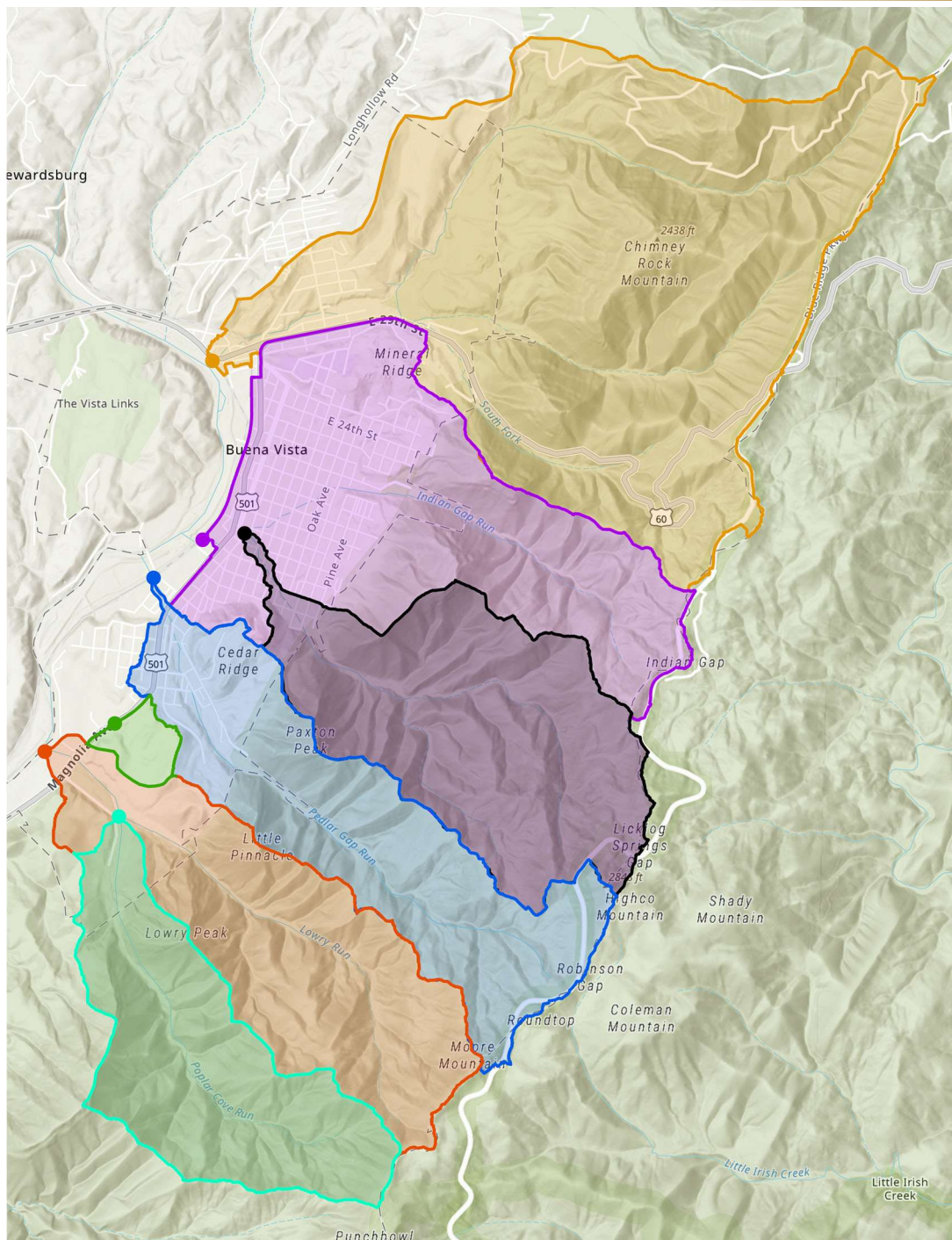
Next Steps

Staff is not requesting any action or funding from Council at this time. However, this plan is already informing discussions about potential grant applications and department priorities. Tom Roberts is the de factor floodplain administrator, but due to other responsibilities has not previously pursued much training for this. In April 2026 he attended the Virginia Floodplain Manager's Association conference and has additional training scheduled this fall and has begun efforts to update and revise the City's floodplain regulation ordinance. With additional training and with this plan, staff are much better positioned to take the incremental action necessary to keep our residents and infrastructure safe and resilient.

Buena Vista, Virginia

Stormwater Risk & Resilience Plan of Internal Streams

June, 2026



**Civil Consulting
Group, P.C.**
ENGINEERING
DESIGN & ANALYSIS

3688 Country Club Road · Troutville, VA 24175 · (540) 992-2242



Executive Summary

Flood Risk is the probability of a flood occurring, combined with the consequences if it does occur. Flood Resilience is the ability to recover from a flood event.

Buena Vista has been ravaged by floods throughout its modern history, with the 1960s to 1990s seeing multiple catastrophic events resulting in tens of millions of dollars in damage and the permanent loss of many businesses. The James R. Olin Floodwall was completed in the 1990s to contain the Maury River, but it did nothing to prevent flooding from the City's five interior streams: Chalkmine Run, Indian Gap Run, Noel's Run, Pedlar Gap Run, and Lowry Run. The first four streams drain over 8,000 acres of steep terrain into Buena Vista's flatter downtown area and transport an endless supply of cobbles and debris, clogging everything in their paths. Lowry Run, located at the southern end of the City near Dickinson Lane, is largely undeveloped and drains 2,307 acres under Route 501 beside the City's water filtration plant.

To reduce recurring flood damage from interior streams, and to enhance resilience, several projects were undertaken in the 1980s and 90s ranging from elevating/relocating/demolishing 28 flood-prone homes, to channelizing streams, to installing many new culverts, some of which have liftable tops to aid in debris removal. It was well-known that these measures, while very helpful, would not eliminate frequent flooding.

Since 1999, several local and regional studies have been prepared, examining threats to Buena Vista's safety and economic vitality:

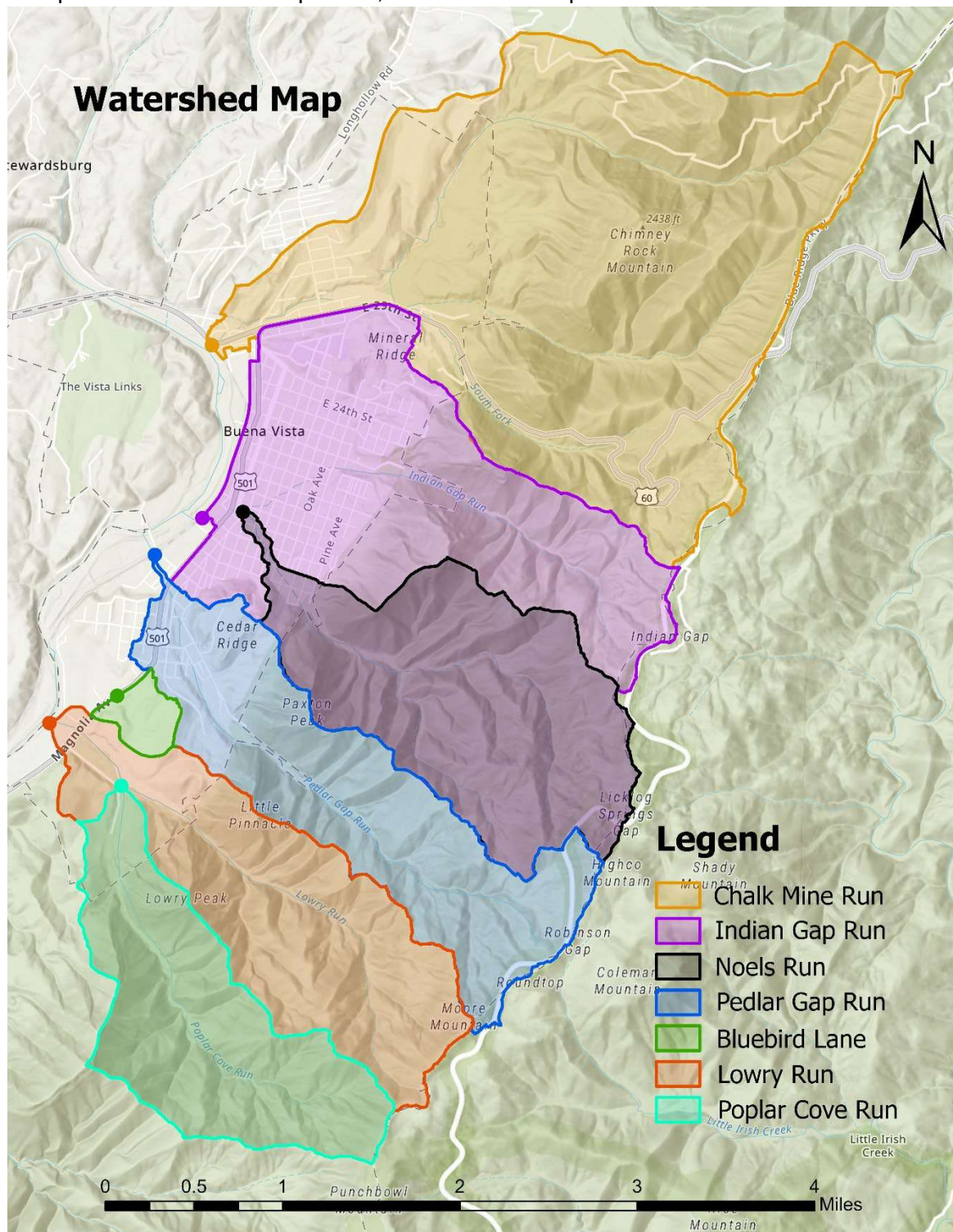
- 1999 Buena Vista Watershed, Final Plan – Environmental Impact Statement
- 2002 Central Shenandoah Valley Regional Flood Mitigation Plan
- 2020 Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan
- 2020 Buena Vista Community Water System Risk and Resiliency Analysis and Emergency Response Plan
- 2022 Buena Vista, Lexington, and Rockbridge County Emergency Operations Plan

These documents are hereby incorporated via reference and are included in the Appendix.

The 2002 and 2020 Central Shenandoah studies are thorough in addressing overall risks and recommending resilience measures, while the 2020 Community Water plan looked solely at threat mitigation and resilience measures for potable water sources, treatment, and distribution.

In the mid-1990s, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a division of the USDA, began a multi-year study to quantify the interior flooding and associated financial costs, and to recommend infrastructure improvements to substantially reduce flood damage. It was published in 1999 as Buena Vista Watershed, Final Plan – Environmental Impact Statement. The study

included HEC-1 and HEC-2 numerical models that estimated the runoff rates, volumes, and flood depths for various return periods, with and without potential infrastructure enhancements.



The NRCS report excluded Lowry Run due to its lack of development, but was otherwise very thorough, recommending \$20.8 million (2025 dollars) in improvements to reduce damage from the 100-year storm event to its practicable lower limit. The recommendations included debris basins, channelization, and bridge/culvert replacements. The most significant impediments to flow were often railroad bridges over the streams near the floodwall, that tend to backup interior water into downtown. Without improving the bridges' hydraulic capacities, water will continue to flood parts of downtown despite other upstream improvements. The report and its recommendations were accepted by the federal government, but money was never appropriated and the City appears to have abandoned pursuit.

Of the flood mitigation projects recommended by NRCS, a few were later completed, all in the Chalkmine Run watershed, parallel to 29th Street (Route 60). Here, two debris basins were installed and three bridges were replaced. A recommended channelization between the Route 60 bridge and Rockbridge Avenue was designed in 2010, but was never fully permitted or constructed.

The best way to be flood-resilient is to minimize flooding in the first place. Therefore, it is essential that Buena Vista perform periodic inspections and maintenance on the existing debris basins, channels, bridges, and culverts in order to maximize their already limited capacities. This avoids exacerbating damage from storms and, hypothetically, turning a 5-year rainfall event into a 10-year flooding event. It has been several years since significant maintenance was performed and there is some question as to who is, or should be, responsible for maintaining the channels. Should it be the City, the landowners, or more likely, a combination of both?

Overall Recommendations

Buena Vista must be pro-active in maintaining its present system while enhancing it whenever opportunities arise. All the projects recommended in the 1999 NRCS study are still valid, though expensive, and should be long term goals. However, there are more pressing, but less costly things that Buena Vista must do to reduce risk and enhance resilience, all of which are explored within this report. Below is a summary of the recommendations.

1. **Replace the Woodland Avenue Culvert (capital project)**

The Woodland Avenue culvert on Pedlar Gap Run was installed in the 1970s and due to corrosion, has collapsed at its entrance and deformed along its 150-foot length. The City has just completed a temporary, emergency repair to its entrance, but the culvert must be replaced in the very near term to avoid total collapse. The culvert is hydraulically undersized and the 1999 NRCS report recommended replacing it with a large, single-span, precast structure, but did not give the size. Buena Vista should begin the process to analyze the flows, prepare the necessary design and construction documents, and bid the project to contractors. The analysis, design, and bid documents

are estimated to cost \$121,000 and construction is estimated at \$300,000 based upon 150 linear feet times \$2,000 per linear foot. Buena Vista should pursue CFPF grant funding for this critical project.

Summary

Hydrologic/Hydraulic Analysis, Structure Design, Bid Package, and Construction Administration	\$121,000
Construction of new structure (estimate based on limited info)	<u>\$300,000</u>
Total Budgetary Figure	\$421,000

2. Restore the Debris Basins on Chalkmine Run (capital project)

Buena Vista should restore the two debris basins on Chalkmine Run to their initial states. The original design documents and maintenance agreement from 2005 are provided in Appendices 8, 9, and 10 of this report. The cost for restoring the two basins is estimated at \$40,000 and is considered a capital project. This will reduce flood risk and enhance resiliency by diminishing the volume of cobbles and debris available to clog the channel and bridges between the entrance to the former Northwest Hardwoods and the Maury River.

3. Construct Remaining NRCS Recommended Debris Basins (capital project)

NRCS recommended constructing seven additional debris basins on three interior streams. The City should examine ownership of the recommended locations and explore costs associated with acquiring properties and constructing the debris basins. Based upon limited cost data from the NRCS report, the total cost of an average basin in 2025 is estimated at \$651,000 for a total cost of \$4.56 million. Buena Vista should rank potential locations based upon usefulness and cost, then pursue funding to acquire the land, then design and construct as many basins as possible.



Debris Basin on Chalkmine Run shortly after construction

4. Perform Deferred Maintenance

Buena Vista should perform Deferred Maintenance as summarized in the following table, with 1 being the highest priority. The tasks are explained within the body of the main report, and the costs are those expected if a contractor was hired to do the work, but it could be done in-house for less money. The regulations for working in a stream are complex, therefore we recommend the City submit a Joint Permit Application. The preparation cost for this is estimated at \$12,000. The permits are good for several years and readily renewed.

Because this is deferred maintenance that can be completed in a specific time, and since Buena Vista lacks adequate in-house personnel to complete the task, the City should pursue a CFPF grant to hire two workers for two years. Performing deferred maintenance is crucial to reducing the frequency and severity of flooding.

The maintenance cost estimates below assume that a contractor is hired to complete the tasks. As noted, hiring two workers for two years would likely reduce the total cost.

Deferred Maintenance Summary Based Upon Priority

Priority	Watershed	Total Cost
1-highest		
3-lowest		
1	Indian Gap Run	\$38,750
1	Noel's Run	\$130,000
1	Pedlar Gap Run	\$60,000
1	Chalkmine Run	\$0
	Priority 1 Total	\$228,750
Priority	Watershed	Total Cost
2	Indian Gap Run	\$95,500
2	Noel's Run	\$13,500
2	Pedlar Gap Run	\$15,000
2	Chalkmine Run	\$83,750
	Priority 2 Total	\$207,750
Priority	Watershed	Total Cost
3	Indian Gap Run	\$110,000
3	Noel's Run	\$0
3	Pedlar Gap Run	\$98,500
3	Chalkmine Run	\$293,750
	Priority 3 Total	\$502,250
	Total of All Maintenance Priorities	\$938,750

5. Establish Maintenance Responsibilities

The City should collaborate with the Department of Environmental Quality to review its flood management ordinances and permitting and enforcement procedures for compliance with current regulations and adherence to best practices.

The City must also determine who is responsible for maintaining the creek channels: the City, the property owner, or no one? Several other questions must be answered:

- a. Was an easement placed on the concrete portion of Indian Gap Run when it was constructed?
- b. Are there any maintenance easements on the other channels?
- c. It is assumed that the City would be responsible for maintaining the elements within the rights-of-way which would capture all the culverts, bridges, and short sections of the channels.
 1. The City should determine with certainty whether it is responsible for property damage due to flooding if the City has not been maintaining the channels and crossings.
 2. How would this affect the City's insurance?
- d. The City should determine whether it can pass an ordinance requiring property owners to maintain their channels and how it would be handled if the channel is the property line. What liability would the owners have if their section unmaintained of channel is determined to have exacerbated a flood?
- e. The City should consider a separate fee related only to maintaining interior channels and perhaps the City's closed pipe system. This would provide an earmarked source of revenue where none presently exists.
 1. The 2020 Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) report entitled Central Shenandoah Hazard Mitigation Plan contains the results of a regional survey (pages 329-346) in which 75% of respondents said they would be willing to spend between \$1000 and \$5000 to better protect their homes and families from floods. This was a total cost, not an annual cost.

6. Ongoing Maintenance Recommendations

- a. After performing the deferred maintenance/cleanup, the necessary effort for ongoing maintenance will be better understood. Buena Vista should establish a schedule to maintain two streams per year. This will ensure that each stream receives attention every other year.
- b. After each significant rainfall, inspect all culverts and bridges from the roadways for debris and potential blockages. Encourage citizens to call if they see blockages. Perform emergency maintenance as needed to keep them clear.

- c. Once yearly, inspect all channels and structures from within the channels.
- d. Incorporate asset management into the GIS database to track details, photos, and maintenance histories of all stormdrain elements. This should ultimately include the five streams, their major tributaries, and their appurtenances, as well as the City's entire stormwater piped collection/conveyance system. Adding this information to the GIS system will ensure that it is not lost due to personnel changes.
- e. It is understood that cobbles will build-up over time and effectively reduce channel depths. This may be observable by comparing multi-year high resolution contour data such as that available through VGIN (VA Geographic Information Network). Buena Vista should consult with VGIN to confirm this approach, and if valid, Buena Vista should purchase the necessary data from VGIN every time it is updated. Keeping the channels and banks free of excess vegetation will facilitate the most accurate Lidar mapping.

7. Additional Recommendations

There are several other things that Buena Vista should do to increase its stormwater resilience:

- a. Make 'betterment' improvements to channels, culverts, and bridges when other work is done. The bottlenecks causing much of the flooding are the bridges and culverts in the lower reaches of the system. Whenever any hydraulic structures are rehabilitated or replaced, they should be upsized to increase stormwater capacity. Some will argue that there is no point in spending extra money when so many other impediments to flow will remain unchanged. However, there will likely never be an opportunity to simultaneously replace all the bottlenecks as recommended in the 1999 NRCS study. Therefore, the only way to ameliorate the problems will be one element at a time. To facilitate this, the City must maintain constant contact with the railroad, VDOT and other in-stream structure owners to ensure that they do not implement a project affecting the creeks without the City having an opportunity to increase capacity. Buena Vista should determine if it can require this in its ordinance.
- b. In order for the City to quantify the benefits of the "betterment" described above, and to justify certain capital improvements, hydraulic models are necessary. Significant searching has shown that no one at the federal or local level retained copies of the HEC-1 and HEC-2 models from the 1990s, nor did the company that prepared them. Creating new models on short notice because a bridge or culvert must be replaced is likely untenable, so an opportunity may be lost. The solution is to recreate the models in the near term so they are on-hand.

The availability of high-resolution, 1' contour data and other modern resources make it much easier and cost-effective to create in-house floodplain models that could be used to quantify the effects of improvements to channels, culverts, and bridges. Buena Vista should have the models recreated for the three internal watersheds with significant development. A partial model of Chalkmine Run is available from the 2010 channel improvements plan that was never implemented, and Lowry Run is undeveloped. The City could apply for a CFPF grant to do all three models. If unsuccessful, the City should either continue trying, pare the application back to one model, or budget its own money to do one model every year (or every other year), until they are complete. Each model should have the existing conditions, plus whatever recommendations can be gleaned from the NRCS study. Recall that the NRCS report does not always give dimensions or adequately explain the physical properties of all their recommended improvements. Once created, the models are easily altered to estimate the effects of changes.

Modern models also make it much easier to analyze the flooding effects of climate-induced increases in rainfall, as well as to model nature-based solutions for channel improvements. A budgetary estimate is \$100,000 per model which would be \$300,000 total. There would be economies of scale for doing all three simultaneously. The costs would include hydrologic runoff modeling in HEC-HMS and flood modeling in HEC-RAS.

- b. The peak runoff rates vary greatly depending upon what model or data is used. For instance, FEMA used stream gauge data for their runoff rates whereas NRCS used TR-55, a model that accounts for drainage shed area, slope, soils, and land cover. NRCS believes the stream gauge data in this area is too limited to reliably estimate peak runoff rates. For instance, for a 100-year storm on Chalkmine Run, FEMA used 1,920 cubic feet per second, whereas NRCS estimated 7,336 cubic feet per second. The difference has a profound impact on estimated flooding. NRCS had the storm data and flood photos from the 1990s to consider when it prepared its model, whereas FEMA's model was created circa 1977.

If Buena Vista is going to work with VDOT, Norfolk Southern, and other entities on enhancing capacity, then there must be consistent flow rates for each drainage shed that everyone uses. We recommend that the City utilize the rates from the 1999 NRCS study for this purpose.

- c. Study and implement the recommendations in the Debris Management Plan in Appendix 22.

- d. The City should promote and educate the public about the National Flood Insurance program in an effort to increase the number of properties covered.
- e. The City should evaluate implementation of the Community Rating System (CRS) to potentially reduce NFIP policy premiums.
- f. The City should conduct detailed study and mapping of its existing gray (traditional hard infrastructure such as pipes, inlets, channels) and green stormwater management (grass swales, rain gardens, etc.) collection and conveyance systems to identify and address localized flooding, erosion and sediment control, and water quality concerns.
- g. The City should engage the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for technical assistance in procurement of contractors for debris management. Also, they should consider strategic reuse of collected debris, such as rocks, limbs, etc. for other flood hazard, stabilization, or other environmental projects, such as fill material, armoring riverine banks, etc.

8. Funding Mechanisms

Aside from the previously discussed CFPF grants, the City will need other funding mechanisms.

- a. Search for other grants related to infrastructure resilience.
- b. Consider a stormwater fee that would be used to maintain and improve the streams and pipes within the stormwater system. These are generally assessed over the entire locality based upon a parcel's impervious area.
- c. Consider passing an ordinance requiring property owners to maintain their own stream channels and embankments, thus relieving the City of the cost. The City must have the political will to enforce such a requirement.

Agenda Item: Review and Approval of an Appropriation Resolution

Overview: 1. On June 29, 2026, the Governor of Virginia signed the 2026-2028 biennium budget into law after the legislature passed the plan in a special session. This approved budget included additional funds for public schools, including funds for a four percent salary increase as well as additional At-Risk funding and Special Education funding. This additional state funding requires additional local funds above what was included in the original Governor's budget that was shared with localities and school divisions in December 2025. Based on the calculation templates provided to school divisions on July 2, 2026, the additional local funds needed for Buena Vista City Public Schools (BVCPS) to access all of the state funding available is \$44,132. The Buena Vista City School Board approved the amended FY27 budget at their meeting on July 14, 2026 along with a resolution requesting the appropriation of the additional \$44,132 in local funds. If approved by Council, their action provides the BVCPS with the authority to receive state funding authorized by the budget legislation. Secondly, the approval process for the School Fund appropriation resolution supports City staff updating the FY 2027 budget information in our financial management software with a goal that both agencies are in alignment with each other. Our FY 2027 workers' compensation premiums with the Virginia Risk Sharing Association came in less than budgeted. We can reprogram funds to cover the increase to the Transfer to School Fund budget line (10.9314.67590). This information was discussed with the Budget & Finance Committee at their July 27th meeting.

2. On June 17, 2026, the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) approved a FY 2027 Cooperative Partnership Grant award of \$812,458.61 to support Rockbridge Recovery and the HOPE House Recovery Residence serving the Cities of Buena Vista and Lexington along with Rockbridge County. The City of Buena Vista serves as the fiscal agent for the regional partnership, with the Community Foundation for Rockbridge, Bath & Alleghany acting as the project manager and subrecipient. The grant was approved at the full amount requested and will support program activities, peer recovery services, recovery housing operations, staffing, and related opioid abatement initiatives during FY 2027. Because the funding was not included in the City's originally adopted FY 2027 budget, an appropriation of \$812,459 from the Opioid Settlement Fund is required to establish budget authority for the expenditure of these grant dollars. As of this writing, the funding is still pending deposit. We will generate the payment to the Community Foundation once the grant funding is received.

Recommendation: Receive staff report. Pose any questions you may have and discuss as desired. If in agreement, vote to approve the attached appropriation resolution.

Attachments: 1. FY 2027 Amended Budget Resolution approved by the Buena Vista City School Board dated July 14, 2026.
2. BVCPS Letter of Request to City Council: Change to Appropriations – dated July 15, 2026.

**RESOLUTION OF ENACTMENT
BUENA VISTA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
2026 – 2027**

SCHOOL BOARD AMENDED BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that on a motion by Charles Jolley, seconded by Lisa Kerr, the Buena Vista City School Board approved the amended 2026 - 2027 school board budget in the amount of Fifteen Million, Ninety Thousand, Forty-Seven Dollars and Eighty Cents (\$15,090,047.80). The 2026-2027 budget totals with local, state and federal funds is subject to revision by acts of the state and federal governments. The total of Fifteen Million, Ninety Thousand, Forty-Seven Dollars and Eighty Cents (\$15,090,047.80) includes state revenue in the amount of Ten Million, Four Hundred Eleven Thousand, One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$10,411,150.00), state sales tax in the amount of One Million, Three Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand, Six Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Dollars (\$1,363,693), Federal Funds in the amount of Six Hundred Ninety Two Thousand, Four Hundred Forty Six Dollars and Eighty Cents (\$692,446.80), required local city operational revenue in the amount of Two Million, Six Hundred Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Eight Dollars (\$2,604,258), and other local funds in the amount of Eighteen Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$18,500.00).

These amounts reflect a change from the initial 2026-2027 school budget approved by the Buena Vista City School Board on March 26, 2026 by a total of Four Hundred Four Thousand, Eight Hundred Thirty Dollars and Forty-Four Cents (\$404,830.44). This total includes an increase in state revenue in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand, Five Hundred Eight Dollars (\$258,508), an increase in state sales tax in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars (\$15,883), an increase in federal funds of Eighty-Five Thousand, Nine Hundred Seventy Three Dollars and Twenty-Four Cents (\$85,973.24), and an increase in required local city operational revenue in the amount of Forty-Four Thousand, One Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars (\$44,132.00).

BE IT RESOLVED, in the same motion, that the school nutrition budget is hereby approved in the amount of Eight Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred Five Dollars and Forty-Six Cents (\$827,805.46), a decrease in the amount of Thirty-Three Thousand, Eight Hundred Eighteen Dollars and Eighty-One Cents (\$33,818.81) with all balances on June 30, 2026 remaining in the said account to meet the requirements of state and federal regulations.



**Teresa Ellison, Chairman
Buena Vista City School Board**

ATTEST:


**Sandra Mohler, Clerk of School Board
Buena Vista City School Board**

Date of Adoption: July 14, 2026

Buena Vista City Public Schools



HEATHER AULT, Ed.D.
Division Superintendent

BRENDA WALTON, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

TERESA ELLISON
School Board Chairman

SANDRA MOHLER
Clerk of the School Board

To: Dr. Wayne Handley, Buena Vista City Interim City Manager
From: Dr. Heather Ault, Buena Vista City Public Schools Superintendent
Date: July 15, 2026
Subject: FY27 Amended Local Funding Request

I am writing to formally submit Buena Vista City Public Schools' request for additional local funding for Fiscal Year 2027 based on the amended budget the Buena Vista City School Board approved at their meeting on July 14, 2026. This amended budget was created from the final approved state budget that was signed by the Governor on June 29, 2026. This final budget included several exciting and unexpected investments in public education that were not included in earlier versions of the budget. These additions include:

- A 4% salary increase for public school employees
- Additional at-risk funding for school divisions
- Increased funding for Special Education

While these additional state investments are welcome and greatly appreciated, the timing of their approval has created a significant challenge for local governments and school divisions across the Commonwealth. Accessing these new state funds requires an increase in the required local match. We recognize and sincerely appreciate the thoughtful work of your staff and City Council this past spring as they navigated difficult budget decisions while continuing to prioritize support for our schools.

To fully access the additional state funding and implement the initiatives outlined above, we are requesting the required additional \$44,132 in local funding to satisfy the FY27 required local match. This investment will enable BVCPS to receive an additional \$171,600 in state funding. Without the required local match, the division will be unable to access these state funds.

We are deeply grateful for the City's continued partnership and steadfast support of our schools and the students we proudly serve. Your investment plays a vital role in strengthening opportunities for our community and ensuring the continued success of our Fighting Blues.



CITY OF BUENA VISTA

APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION

August 6, 2026

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, 2027**, from the UNAPPROPRIATED SURPLUS of the **SCHOOL FUND** and expended as follows:

FY 2027 BVCPS Amended Budget

19.6600.69130	School Expenses	<u>\$44,132.00</u>
Sub-total 1		\$44,132.00

Total School Fund Appropriation	\$44,132.00
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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, 2027**, from the UNAPPROPRIATED SURPLUS of the **OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND** and expended as follows:

FY 2027 Opioid Abatement Authority Cooperative Partnership Grant – Rockbridge Recovery/HOPE House

60.5157.68015	Program Activities	<u>\$812,459.00</u>
Sub-total 1		\$812,459.00

Total Opioid Settlement Fund Appropriation	\$812,459.00
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Approved: This 6th day of August 2026.

Jesse D. Lineberry, Mayor

Attest:

Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council