



SOUTH HILL TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026, 7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Hill Town Council was held on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the temporary Council Chambers of the South Hill Town Hall located at 111 E. Danville Street, South Hill, Virginia 23970.

I. OPENING

Honorable Mayor Mike Moody called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Moody called upon Clerk of Council Leanne Feather to call the roll, which was as follows:

A. Council Members

Randy Crocker
Gavin Honeycutt
Michael Smith

Jenifer Freeman-Hite
Delores Luster

Ashley Hardee
Carl Sasser, Jr.

Lillie Feggins-Boone was absent.

B. Staff in Attendance

Keli Reekes, Town Manager
Ryan Durham, Chief of Police
Kristine Martin, Human Resources Manager

C. J. Dean, Dir. of Municipal Services
Leanne Feather, Admin. Asst./Clerk
Dahlis Morrow, Dir. of Fin. and Admin.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Honeycutt, second by Councilor Smith, to approve the agenda for April 13, 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATION: SALEM MOOSE LODGE COMPUTER DONATION TO SOUTH HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jane Vaughan, representing the Surfin' Safe Foundation, presented Chief of Police Ryan Durham and Detective Amanda Parker with a "Cop in a Box" computer, donated by the Salem Moose Lodge, to assist in investigations involving crimes against children.

IV. CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

At this time, the following citizens addressed Council:

- **Perry Templin** commended the Police Department for its presence at the No Kings Rally and expressed concerns regarding the permitting of golf carts within Town limits.
- **Wade Crowder** expressed concerns regarding the permitting of golf carts within Town limits.

- **Paul Duffer** expressed past concerns regarding the condition of a neighboring property, incidents of stolen property, and the permitting of golf carts within Town limits.
- **Floyd Edmonds** expressed appreciation to the Town for its support of the “Shaggin’ for a Cause” event, which raised \$45,000.
- **Jonathan Duffer** expressed concerns regarding the issue of stray cats within Town limits.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. FY26-27 Proposed Budget, Rates, and Fees

Town Manager Keli Reekes reported that a Notice of Public Hearing was published in the last two editions of the local newspaper to inform interested parties that Town Council will receive comments regarding the proposed FY26–27 budget, rates, and fees. Ms. Reekes also presented an overview of the FY26–27 budget to Council.

Mrs. Reekes opened the Public Hearing:

- Wade Crowder expressed concerns regarding wasteful spending.
- Jonathan Duffer inquired about cemetery maintenance.
- Karissa Phillips encouraged Council to consider eliminating the burden of vehicle personal property taxes and inquired about the installation of a sewer line at the former Park View High School campus.
- Perry Templin commented on employee salaries.

Mrs. Reekes closed the Public Hearing.

Discussion included acknowledgment of Town staff for their efforts in budget preparation and for the idea to eliminate personal property taxes on vehicles, as well as the importance of continued investment in infrastructure.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Honeycutt, second by Councilor Sasser, to place the proposed budget for FY26-27 on the agenda for adoption and appropriation at the regularly scheduled Town Council meeting to be held on Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Crocker – Aye
Councilor Hardee – Aye
Councilor Luster – Aye
Councilor Smith – Aye

Councilor Freeman-Hite – Aye
Vice Mayor Honeycutt – Aye
Councilor Sasser – Aye

A motion was made by Councilor Luster, second by Councilor Hardee, to place the proposed rates and fees related to the FY26-27 budget on the agenda for adoption at the regularly scheduled Town Council meeting to be held on Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Crocker – Aye
Councilor Hardee – Aye
Councilor Luster – Aye
Councilor Smith – Aye

Councilor Freeman-Hite – Aye
Vice Mayor Honeycutt – Aye
Councilor Sasser – Aye

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes

- a. March 9, 2026 Special Meeting
- b. March 9, 2026 Regular Meeting
- c. March 11, 2026 Budget Work Session
- d. March 18, 2026 Budget Work Session
- e. March 19, 2026 Budget Work Session

2. Monthly Financial Report

Director of Finance and Administration Dahlis Morrow submitted the financial report as follows:

Petty Cash	\$700.00
Checking Accounts	\$4,980,815.66
Investments	\$35,802,138.01
Restricted/Committed Funds	\$1,418,043.04
Total of all Funds	\$42,201,696.61

A motion was made by Councilor Sasser, second by Councilor Luster, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Items for Approval

1. Town Manager Report

a. Golf Cart Ordinance

Town Manager Keli Reekes presented a draft ordinance for Council's consideration to permit the operation of golf carts on roadways within Town limits where the posted speed limit is 25 mph. The proposed ordinance restricts golf cart use on major highways, including Route 1, Route 58, and Highway 47, and requires that golf carts be equipped with properly functioning headlights and brake lights. The ordinance also prohibits golf carts from crossing any roadway with a posted speed limit greater than 25 mph.

A motion was made by Councilor Sasser, second by Councilor Hardee to adopt ordinance O-02-26 permitting golf carts within Town limits, and establish limitations and restrictions on their operation on public highways. The motion failed by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Crocker – No
Councilor Hardee – Aye
Councilor Luster – No
Councilor Smith – Aye

Councilor Freeman-Hite – No
Vice Mayor Honeycutt – No
Councilor Sasser – Aye

b. South Hill Volunteer Fire Department Resolution

Mrs. Reekes reported that, due to ongoing maintenance issues with Unit

Truck 7, the Fire Department is requesting approval to trade the vehicle for a replacement. After applying the trade-in value, approximately \$300,000 will be required, to be financed through a tax-exempt loan pending Council approval of a resolution.

Council discussed the Town's relationship with the Fire Department and sought clarification on the loan agreement.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Honeycutt, second by Councilor Luster to approve the resolution allowing the South Hill Volunteer Fire Department to proceed with a tax-exempt loan in the amount of \$300,000. The motion carried by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Crocker – Aye
Councilor Hardee – Aye
Councilor Luster – Aye
Councilor Smith – Aye

Councilor Freeman-Hite – Aye
Vice Mayor Honeycutt – Aye
Councilor Sasser – Aye

c. Southside Rescue Squad Bucket Drive

Mrs. Reekes reported that the Southside Rescue Squad (SSRS) requested permission to conduct a bucket drive fundraiser on May 23, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at various locations throughout Town, including Peebles Street/Furr Street, West Danville Street, West Atlantic Street, North Mecklenburg Avenue, East Atlantic Street, and the Boyd Auto/Walmart entrance.

A motion was made by Councilor Hardee, second by Councilor Luster, to approve the SSRS request to hold its bucket drive fundraiser on Saturday, May 23, 2026 from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Spring Clean Up Project

Mrs. Reekes reported that, weather permitting, staff proposes designating May 18–22, 2026, as Spring Clean-Up Week, during which Public Works will collect eligible curbside bulky waste items. The initiative will be communicated through utility bill inserts and other channels.

A motion was made by Councilor Hardee, second by Councilor Freeman-Hite, to designate May 18-22, 2026 as South Hill Spring Clean Up Week. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Director of Municipal Services Report

a. Asphalt Milling, Overlay, and Traffic Marking Project

Director of Municipal Services C. J. Dean reported that two sealed bids were received for IFB 2026-01: Asphalt Overlay and Traffic Marking, with Colony Construction, Inc. submitting a bid of \$1,182,777.10 and Hy-Tech Services, LLC (dba MarCo Property Services) submitting a bid of \$1,039,000. This project represents the only street overlay scheduled for FY25–26.

A motion was made by Councilor Smith, second by Councilor Luster to award the bid for asphalt milling, overlay, and traffic marking to Hy-Tech Services, LLC (dba MarCo Property Services) at the base bid price of \$1,039,000. The motion carried by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Crocker – Aye
Councilor Hardee – Aye
Councilor Luster – Aye
Councilor Smith – Aye

Councilor Freeman-Hite – Aye
Vice Mayor Honeycutt – Aye
Councilor Sasser – Aye

b. Dockery Creek Gravity Sewer Resolution

Mr. Dean presented a resolution authorizing the acquisition of right-of-way and easements for the Dockery Street Gravity Sewer Project, including negotiation with property owners and, if necessary, condemnation in accordance with Virginia law, to maintain the project schedule.

Discussion included concerns regarding the use of the “quick take” provision under Virginia law.

A motion was made by Councilor Sasser, second by Councilor Hardee to approve the resolution authorizing acquisition of right of way and easements for the Town’s Dockery Creek Gravity Sewer Project. The motion carried by roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Crocker – Aye
Councilor Hardee – Aye
Councilor Luster – No
Councilor Smith – No

Councilor Freeman-Hite – Aye
Vice Mayor Honeycutt – Aye
Councilor Sasser – Aye

C. Reports to Accept as Presented

For efficiency, the following reports for March 2026 were presented as a group to accept as presented.

1. Police Report

Chief of Police Ryan Durham submitted the monthly police report. He reported there were 411 Activity incidents, 66 reportable criminal offenses, 623 calls for service, and \$1,364 in property recovered. Administrative news was shared.

2. Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Michael Vaughan submitted the quarterly Fire Department report, including updates on activities, training, volunteer hours, fundraising efforts, and administrative matters through March 2026.

3. Municipal Services Report

C.J. Dean submitted the Municipal Services report sharing that Town crews continue water system repairs, service connections, and infrastructure improvements. Annual inspections confirmed all water tanks are in good condition, and coordination with VDOT is ongoing. Multiple utility projects are underway, with easement acquisition efforts continuing.

4. Parks, Facilities and Grounds

Jason Houchins submitted the Parks, Facilities and Grounds report, noting

ongoing facility improvements, park maintenance activities, and infrastructure upgrades. He also reported progress on Town Hall projects and upcoming installation of park security cameras, and noted the retirement of Facilities Technician II Bruce Brown.

5. Code Compliance Report

a. Report of Activity

David Hash submitted the report of activity as follows:

Inspections Completed	57
Permits Issued	25
Fees Collected	\$11,687.77
UEZ Exemption	\$0
Rehab Exemption	\$0
General Exemption	\$178.50
Work Value	\$2,855,080.85

New business licenses in the Town of South Hill in March 2026:

Latemoni Book Cafe	118 W. Danville St.	Retail Book Store
Cabiness Coaching & Consulting	200 E. Ferrell St.	Consulting
Blissful Beauty Salon, LLC	105 Pennington St.	Hair & Nail Salon
Bluebird Florist & Gifts	120 W Danville S	Florist & Gift Shop

b. Dilapidated Properties

Along with the list of completed dilapidated properties, a report on the status of approximately 45 dilapidated properties was also presented.

6. Business Development Report

Brent Morris submitted the Business Development report, noting ongoing efforts to support downtown improvements, recruit new businesses, and coordinate with partners on economic development initiatives. He also reported that planning for the 2026 Hometown Christmas event is underway.

7. Human Resources Report

Kristine Martin submitted the Human Resources report, noting employee service recognitions, a retirement announcement, a new hire in the Public Works Department, and ongoing recruitment efforts.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Honeycutt, second by Councilor Freeman-Hite to approve the reports as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business matters before the South Hill Town Council, Mayor Moody adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

VALIDATION

Minutes approved this 11th day of May, 20 26.


Leanne Feather, Clerk of Council


W.M. Moody, Mayor

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HILL
APPROVING A TAX-EXEMPT LOAN FOR
SOUTH HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the agreement between the Town of South Hill (“Town”) and the South Hill Volunteer Fire Department (“SHVFD”), executed on July 1, 2024, provides that the SHVFD operates as a fire company under Section 27-6.02 of the Town Code, providing fire, rescue, and emergency response services to the Town; and

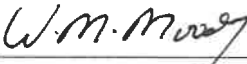
WHEREAS, the SHVFD is seeking to borrow funds to cover the remaining balance owed, after application of a trade-in, for the purchase of a 2019 Pierce Ascendant 110' platform truck; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council recognizes the importance of maintaining reliable and up-to-date fire apparatus to ensure the continued provision of emergency services to the residents of the Town of South Hill;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town does hereby approve a tax-exempt loan to the SHVFD from First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company in the principal amount of \$300,000, which loan is for the purchase of a fire truck to be owned by the Town and operated by the SHVFD;

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the approval of the loan to the SHVFD set forth above is given solely for purposes of the public approval requirements for tax-exempt financing applicable to the SHVFD because of Section 150(e)(3) and Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and such approval does not obligate the Town or its Town Council in any way regarding repayment of the debt.

Adopted this 13th day of April 2026 by the Council of the Town of South Hill, Virginia.



W. M. “Mike” Moody, Mayor

Attest: 

Leanne Feather, Clerk of Council

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HILL
AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF RIGHT OF WAY AND EASEMENTS FOR
DOCKERY STREET SEWER AND ROUTE 58 BYPASS UTILITY PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Town of South Hill (hereinafter, “the Town”) to acquire fee simple right of way and associated easements by purchase or eminent domain from various owners as shown in the lists attached hereto as Exhibits 1-A and 1-B to this Resolution, for the purpose of constructing a new sewer line serving the Town known as the Dockery Street Sewer Project and water and sewer line improvements known as the Route 58 Bypass Utility Project, each as shown on the plans attached as Exhibits 2-A and 2-B to this Resolution (together, “the Property”); and

WHEREAS, acquisition of the Property constitutes a public use and serves a public purpose for water and sewer utilities within the Town of South Hill; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code Sections 15.2-1901 and 15.2-1901.1 give the Town the power to exercise the right of eminent domain if the Town is unable to purchase property rights after making a good faith offer or under certain other circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Town needs to acquire the Property using the “quick take” method set out in Chapter 3 of Title 25.1, Code of Virginia, if acquisition by purchase is unsuccessful after a bona fide effort to purchase;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council meeting in regular session this 13th day of April, 2026:

1. That the adoption of this Resolution constitutes the Town’s certification that the acquisition of the Property has been reviewed by the condemnor for purposes of complying with Virginia Code § 1-219.1 and that the acquisition of the Property is for a public purpose,

namely for the possession, ownership, occupation, and enjoyment of the Property by the public as water and sewer lines;

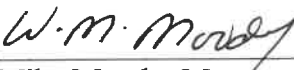
2. That the Town does hereby authorize the Town Manager to make offers for purchase of the Property to the owners thereof in amounts which represent the fair market value of that owner's portion of the Property, as determined according to law, and to negotiate with the property owners, making a bona fide effort to purchase their interests. The Town Manager is authorized to adjust the exact amount of land needed for the acquisition and the final grading of such Property through negotiations;

3. That, if the offer to purchase is not accepted after a bona fide effort to purchase, the Town hereby authorizes the Town Attorney to petition the appropriate court in the name of the Town for condemnation of the Property or portions thereof which have not been sold to the Town;

4. That the Town authorizes its Town Manager to verify by affidavit any petition required to be filed for condemnation and authorizes its Mayor and Treasurer to execute a certificate of taking relating to the Property, pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1904(D) and 25.1-305(A)(2) (a "quick take"); and

5. That the Town authorizes the payment into the court of the offered payment for the Property upon the owner's filing of a petition for payment under Virginia Code § 25.1-310.

BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL


Mike Moody, Mayor

Attest: 
Leanne Patrick, Town Clerk