



## **City of Buena Vista City Council Special-Called Council Meeting**

May 29, 2025, 6:00 PM

Council Chambers – 2039 Sycamore Avenue

The City Council for the City of Buena Vista met for a Special-Called Council Meeting on Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

### **Members Present:**

Mayor Tyson Cooper  
Vice-Mayor Danny Staton  
Michelle Poluikis  
Melvin Henson

Steve Webb  
Stanley Coffey  
Ronald Cash

**Members Absent:** None

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

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order, and Councilmember Coffey delivered the opening prayer.

### **ADG #2: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Councilmember Webb moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Vice-Mayor Staton, and carried by Council.

### **ADG #3: RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION FROM VISITORS**

- Jordan Rice, 1407 Woodland Avenue, voiced concerns about the rate increases at Glen Maury Park stating that it isn't fair to the residents. She also stated that there isn't anything to do [at GMP], there aren't any picnic tables, you have to pay to go to the events and the pool when you're camping, the roads are a mess, and the camp store has nothing. She feels that the pool should be included in the price when you are camping and also questioned that if the pool renovations were paid for with grant money, then why are the prices being raised.
- Wayne Fitzgerald, 545 East 23rd Street, echoed Mrs. Rice's concerns regarding GMP rate increases noting that it isn't as busy as it used to be. He also wondered if the campground rates are going up for the folks that come into town for the different festivals such as Beach Music and the Fiddler's Convention. He believes that these rate increases are only chasing people out.
- Amy Gilliam, 1710 Spruce Avenue, feels that the PSA is a "fake authority" and has been holding illegal meetings since 2014 because Mr. Henson has been a member of the Authority since its inception in 2010. She requested that the Council readdress the makeup of the PSA as she believes it is not aligned with the state code. She also questioned the reasoning and appropriateness for delegating 50% of certain salaries to the water and sewer funds.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **OB #1: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE TAX RATES FOR THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026**

Mr. Tyree reported that previous practice involved allocating 25% of the City Manager and Finance Director's salaries to the water and sewer funds, which stopped in the past few years, and we are proposing to restart that prior precedent. Treasurer Amy Hudson also agreed that it's fair and reasonable to allocate some of the costs for the personnel in her office as well. With those reallocated compensations from the general fund, it actually decreases the proposed real estate tax rate from 14¢ to 7¢; so that would be 98¢ per \$100 assessed value. There is also a reduction of \$151,057 in the water infrastructure reserve, leaving a balance of \$138K, and on the sewer side we previously budgeted \$52,000 and \$50,000 to the capital outlay budget and those would both be reduced to \$0; the sewer fund's unrestricted net position remains at \$323,577 which is at least 25% of the planned 2026 sewer fund expenditures. He added that most localities have a goal of about 20% of expenditure, so we're above that average trend on the sewer side. The final recommendation is a 7¢ decrease on the proposed real estate tax rate and no other fee changes are proposed at this time. *\*this summary report covered all three Ordinances being presented\**

Ms. Burch presented the following Ordinance:

#### **An Ordinance Establishing the Tax Rates for the City of Buena Vista, Virginia for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR 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 One Dollar and Five Cents (\$0.98) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026, said levy to be based upon the value of such property as of July 1, 2025.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, 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 2025, said levy to be based upon the value of such property as of January 1, 2025.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, there is hereby levied upon all public service corporation real estate the sum of One Dollar and Five Cents (\$0.98) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026, said levy to be based upon the value of such property as of July 1, 2025.

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

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Tyson T. Cooper, Mayor

Attest:

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Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

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Date of Adoption

Councilmember Webb made a motion to adopt the Ordinance as presented, with Councilmember Poluikis seconding. Ms. Burch polled the Council as follows:

Member	Present	Absent	Yes	No	Abstain
Councilmember Henson	X		X		
Councilmember Poluikis	X		X		
Councilmember Webb	X		X		
Councilmember Coffey	X			X	
Councilmember Cash	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Staton	X			X	
Mayor Cooper	X		X		

The Ordinance was **approved** by a vote of 5-2.

**OB #2: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

As there were changes since the first reading, Mayor Cooper presented the following Ordinance:

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA  
FY 2025-2026 PROPOSED MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

**GENERAL FUND REVENUES**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
General Property Tax	\$7,206,913
Other Local Taxes	\$2,261,335
Permits, Privilege Fees	\$52,480
Fines & Forfeitures	\$34,450
Earnings from Investments	\$3,400
Charge for Services	\$871,809
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$142,970
Non-Categorical Aid from Virginia	\$672,019
Shared Expenses	\$1,312,402
Categorical Aid - Virginia	\$3,765,802
Categorical Aid - Federal	\$245,296
Non-Revenue Receipts	\$35,270
Transfers - Other Funds	\$125,000
<b>Total General Fund Revenues</b>	<b>\$16,729,146</b>

## **GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES**

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
City Council	\$42,431
City Manager	\$200,265
Information Technology	\$267,000
City Attorney	\$74,000
Human Resources	\$97,543
Finance Department	\$350,299
Independent Auditor	\$0
Commissioner of the Revenue	\$252,769
Reassessment	\$44,050
City Treasurer	\$194,128
Insurance	\$83,150
Electoral Board	\$226,025
Circuit Court	\$5,000
General District Court	\$8,395
Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court	\$8,645
Clerk of the Circuit Court	\$298,448
City Sheriff	\$567,700
Commonwealth's Attorney	\$431,855
Criminal Justice Services	\$78,458
Police Department	\$1,931,691
BVPD SRO No. 2	\$99,512
BVPD SRO 402 Grant	\$113,415
BVPD SRO No. 1	\$83,921
BVPD SRO 275 Grant	\$101,289
BVPD V-STOP Grant	\$86,966
BVPD Community Development Program	\$209,696
Fire Services	\$224,240
Rescue Services	\$174,925
Probation Office	\$1,000
Magistrate Office	\$250
Regional Jail	\$725,133
Juvenile Detention Center	\$25,000
Public Safety Communication Center	\$507,407
Inspections	\$106,650
Medical Examiner	\$100
Administration & Engineering	\$202,975
Street Maintenance	\$995,792
Streetlights	\$71,000
Refuse Collection Department	\$817,904

Refuse Disposal	\$0
Building & Grounds	\$452,777
Green Hill Cemetery	\$42,761
General Tax Relief	\$76,000
Social Services	\$2,419,586
Economic Development	\$212,852
Community Development	\$143,166
School Fund	\$2,295,238
Transfers to Other Funds	\$456,602
Debt Service	\$269,674
Non-Profit Agencies	\$625,465
Retiree Medical Plan	\$26,000
<b>Total General Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>\$16,729,146</b>

### **PARKS & RECREATION FUND REVENUES**

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
Charge for Services	\$478,447
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$225
Gift Shop Sales	\$3,100
Transfer from General Fund	\$423,620
<b>Total Parks &amp; Rec Fund Revenues</b>	<b>\$905,392</b>

### **PARKS & RECREATION FUND EXPENDITURES**

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
Administration	\$182,532
Recreation	\$215,228
Parks & Campgrounds	\$333,087
Activities	\$51,100
Swimming Pool	\$123,446
<b>Total Parks &amp; Rec Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>\$905,393</b>

### **WATER FUND REVENUES**

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
Charge for Services	\$1,236,730
<b>Total Water Fund Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,236,730</b>

### **WATER FUND EXPENDITURES**

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
Water Administration	\$243,267
Water Maintenance	\$385,209
Water Production	\$384,345

Debt Service	\$223,909
<b>Total Water Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,236,730</b>

### SEWER FUND REVENUES

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
Charge for Services	\$1,287,782
<b>Total Sewer Fund Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,287,782</b>

### SEWER FUND EXPENDITURES

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
Sewer Administration	\$216,193
Sewer Maintenance	\$210,729
Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$860,861
<b>Total Sewer Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,287,783</b>

### SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FUND REVENUES

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
Non-Revenue Receipts	\$18,467
Transfer from Other Funds	\$24,297
<b>Total School Construction Fund Revenues</b>	<b>\$42,764</b>

### SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FUND EXPENDITURES

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
Debt Service	\$42,764
<b>Total School Construction Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>\$42,764</b>

### SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND REVENUES

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
Charges for Services	\$50,557
Categorical Aid - Virginia	\$23,834
Categorical Aid - Federal	\$862,374
<b>Total School Nutrition Fund Revenues</b>	<b>\$936,765</b>

### SCHOOL NUTRITION FUND EXPENDITURES

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
School Nutrition Expenses	\$936,765
<b>Total School Nutrition Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>\$936,765</b>

### SENIOR CENTER FUND REVENUES

<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Non-Revenue Receipts	\$8,500
<b>Total Senior Center Fund Revenues</b>	<b>\$8,500</b>

### SENIOR CENTER FUND EXPENDITURES

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

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Tyson T. Cooper, Mayor

Attest:

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Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Adoption

Councilmember Coffey stated that he didn't understand why the school's allocation was so close to the amount allocated to the Police Department. Mr. Tyree and Mr. Kearney explained that the school system actually operates on an overall budget of about \$16M, so the \$2.2 the City gives them is just a portion of their overall budget, whereas the \$1.9M that is allocated to the Police Department is their total budget for the year.

Councilmember Webb made a motion to adopt the Ordinance as presented, with Councilmember Poluikis seconding. Ms. Burch polled the Council as follows:

Member	Present	Absent	Yes	No	Abstain
Councilmember Henson	X		X		
Councilmember Poluikis	X		X		
Councilmember Webb	X		X		
Councilmember Coffey	X			X	
Councilmember Cash	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Staton	X			X	
Mayor Cooper	X		X		

The Ordinance was **approved** by a vote of 5-2.

**NB #3: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026**

Ms. Burch presented the following Ordinance:

**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 the Fiscal year 2025-2026 is hereby appropriated effective July 1, 2025 in the amount of \$21,147,079 and in accordance with the following provisions:

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$16,729,146</b>
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation Fund</b>	<b>\$905,392</b>
<b>Water Fund</b>	<b>\$1,236,730</b>
<b>Sewer Fund</b>	<b>\$1,287,782</b>
<b>School Construction Fund</b>	<b>\$42,764</b>
<b>School Nutrition Fund</b>	<b>\$935,765</b>
<b>Senior Center Fund</b>	<b>\$8,500</b>
<b>TOTAL FY 2025-2026 BUDGET</b>	<b>\$21,147,079</b>

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Tyson T. Cooper, Mayor

Attest:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Adoption

Councilmember Webb made a motion to adopt the Ordinance as presented, with Councilmember Poluikis seconding. Ms. Burch polled the Council as follows:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Councilmember Henson	X		X		
Councilmember Poluikis	X		X		
Councilmember Webb	X		X		
Councilmember Coffey	X			X	
Councilmember Cash	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Staton	X			X	



Mayor Cooper	X		X		
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The Ordinance was **approved** by a vote of 5-2.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

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Tyson T. Cooper, Mayor