

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 7:00 p.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Pam Carter, Vice-Chair
Michael Shull
Butch Wells
Gerald Garber
Carolyn Bragg
Scott Seaton
Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator
Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development
Julia Hensley, Planner II
James Benkahla, County Attorney
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

ABSENT: Jeffrey Slaven, Chairman

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 248th year of the Commonwealth....

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Vice-Chair Carter welcomed those present at the meeting.

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Pam Carter, Pastures District, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Mike Lawson, Senior Pastor of Rejoicing Life and also a member of the Augusta County School Board, delivered the invocation.

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NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK PROCLAMATION

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board adopt the following proclamation:

**National Library Week 2024
Proclamation**

WHEREAS, libraries provide the opportunity for everyone to pursue their passions and engage in lifelong learning, allowing them to live their best life;
WHEREAS, libraries strive to be trusted and welcoming institutions for all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic status;
WHEREAS, libraries strive to develop and maintain programs and collections that are as diverse as the populations they serve and ensure equity of access for all;
WHEREAS, libraries adapt to the ever-changing needs of their communities, continually expanding their collections, services, and partnerships;
WHEREAS, libraries play a critical role in the economic vitality of communities by providing internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for job seekers, small businesses, and entrepreneurs;
WHEREAS, libraries are accessible and inclusive places that promote a sense of local connection, advancing understanding, civic engagement, and shared community goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Jeffrey Slaven, Chairman of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors, proclaim National Library Week, April 7-13. During this week, I encourage all residents to visit their library to explore the wealth of resources available.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Carter, Shull, Garber, Wells, Bragg and Seaton
Nays:	None
Absent:	Slaven

Motion carried.

Jennifer Brown, Director of Augusta County Library, thanked the Board for their support of the libraries.

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Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, stated that this is an ordinance amendment of the County Code Chapter 22 related to tax relief for the elderly and disabled. The Board received a presentation from the Commissioner of the Revenue at the last meeting regarding this benefit to the elderly in the community and as it relates to their taxes. There are three updates to the definitions to make them in in line with state code. As discussed with the Board at that presentation, there will be a change to the dollar amount for the total combined income during the preceding calendar year from \$40,000.00 to \$55,000.00. Also, the net combined financial worth would go from \$100,000.00 to \$125,000.00. Finally, the person claiming an exemption shall file annually after January 1st, but not later than April 1st. The Commissioner's office has been taking applications all along and working through those. In the event of the general reassessment, the deadline would extend to April 19th, which applies to this year.

The Vice-Chair opened the public hearing.

There being no speakers, the Vice-Chair closed the public hearing.

Mr. Garber moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the ordinance amendment as presented.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Carter, Shull, Garber, Wells, Bragg and Seaton
Nays:	None
Absent:	Slaven

Motion carried.

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April 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA (CONT'D)

CLAIMS:

Claims paid since March 1, 2024.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Carter, Shull, Garber, Wells, Bragg and Seaton
Nays:	None
Absent:	Slaven

Motion carried.

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(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Dave Zimmerman, Verona, 120 Lee Hwy, Verona, is concerned that the Fire/Rescue volunteers will be left out when it comes to the strategic plan.

Carson Holloway, 929 Patterson Mill Road, Grottoes, voiced concerns with the Fire/Rescue Strategic Plan and hopes the Board will do something with it.

Shea Lyda, 403 Winthrop Street, Staunton, is a volunteer at the Shenandoah Valley Animal Services Center. She is concerned about the shelter with staffing shortages, budget shortfalls and an aging insufficient facility. Ms. Lyda gave percentage facts regarding the animals at the shelter.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

- 1) Parks and Recreation staff have moved into their new space in the Government Center.
- 2) Demo and renovation have started in the new County Attorney and Human Resources space where Parks & Recreation vacated from. This should take six to eight weeks and then will move on to the ECC space for renovation.
- 3) The new courthouse construction has begun.
- 4) Next week is Emergency Telecommunications Week and Animal Control Officers Week.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Dr. Seaton would like the Board to consider adding the cancer screenings for Fire/Rescue into the FY2025 budget. The funding could possible be taken from each district's infrastructure.

Mr. Garber mentioned that Saturday evening there will be an 85th Anniversary

