**A REGULAR MEETING OF**
**THE TOWN COUNCIL**
**OF**
**THE TOWN OF LURAY, VIRGINIA**

**Wednesday, October 14th, 2026**

The Luray Town Council met in regular session on Wednesday, October 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Luray Town Council Chambers located at 45 East Main Street, Luray, Virginia at which time there were present the following:

**Presiding:** Mayor Lillard

**Council Present:**
Ron Vickers
Jerry Dofflemyer
Ryan Dean
Jason Pettit
Chuck Butler

**Council Absent:**
Joey Sours

**Also Present:**
Bryan Chrisman, Town Manager
Bow Cook, Assistant Town Manager
Danielle Babb, Clerk Treasurer
Danielle Alger, Deputy Clerk Treasurer
Chief Lonnie Foster, Luray Police Department
Brooke Fox, Planning and Zoning
Jason Botkins, Town Attorney, Litten & Sipe
Jackie Wood, Luray Downtown Initiative

A quorum being present, Mayor Lillard declared the Council to be in session for the transaction of business. All present stood for a moment of silence. Mayor Lillard led everyone in the United States Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Sours was absent.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion:** Councilman Vickers motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, motion seconded by Councilman Butler with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Dean, Pettit, Butler. **Approved 5-0**

*Consent Agenda*

**(A) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting –09/14/2026**
**(B) Minutes of the Work Session Meeting- 09/29/2026**
**(C) Accounts Payable totaling- $160,242.99**
**(D) Financial Reports will be available after audit review.**
**(E) Proclamation for designating Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

## BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

### Luray Downtown Initiative

LDI Director, Jackie Wood, stated the Business Appreciation on October 8th at Porch and Vine went well. Ms. Wood appreciated everyone who attended. Ms. Wood stated the Trick or Treat event is coming along great and has lots of folks signing up to participate. This event will be held on October 31st from 5-7pm. Ms. Wood stated Stone and Sparrow is now open and encourages everyone to go. Ms. Wood reminded that the last LDI Farmers Market is this Saturday. Ms. Wood said she is looking forward to building and growing their market next year. Ms. Wood added that the Greenway Foundation will be at Ruffner Plaza to give tours to Yagers Spring this Friday at 5pm and encourages everyone to attend this event.

Mayor Lillard inquired if Ms. Wood had heard anything from the Virginia Main Street project since last month's meeting and if any businesses seemed interested. Ms. Wood stated she has heard from several businesses who have requested information on these project ideas. Mayor Lillard also inquired about the funding. Treasurer, Danielle Babb, stated the CDBG Grant Funding has approximately $25k available. Ms. Wood stated LDI's façade program has about $2,500 available.

Councilman Dofflemyer inquired about Dolce. Ms. Wood stated that it is stunning and is very close to opening. She is hoping they will be able to open by the end of October.

## ACTION ITEMS

### Resolution of Referral – Special Event Venues

Town Manager, Bryan Chrisman, requested Council review, discuss, and take action on a Resolution of Referral to the Planning Commission for Code of Ordinance changes to include definitions and requirements related to Special Event Venues.

A copy of the Resolution and proposed elements are included in tonight's packet for reference.

Councilman Pettit stated he appreciated Town Attorney, Jason Botkins for cleaning up the Ordinance. However, Mr. Pettit had a few concerns he would like Council to consider. Mr. Pettit stated from a

business perspective that he didn't think new businesses would want to go through with getting a Special Use Permit. Mr. Pettit also had concern about the restrictions on event venues. Mr. Pettit stated that he and another local business owner would like to see the well-maintained structures versus temporary structures.

Mr. Chrisman stated that only B1 and M1 locations would require an SUP.

Mr. Dofflemyer inquired if the Mimslyn had to get an SUP every time they had an event. Mr. Chrisman stated no, because they are a hotel/restaurant.

Councilman Pettit made a motion to get more business owners input before a draft for Planning Commission. Council members changed the motion verbiage to defer action until further research.

**Motion:** Councilman Pettit motioned to defer action until further research be obtained. Councilman Dofflemyer seconded the motion with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Dean, Pettit, Butler. **Approved 5-0**

**Proposed Taxation Amendments**

Treasurer, Danielle Babb, requested Council receive information regarding proposed taxation amendments.

Mrs. Babb has been working with Jason Botkins, Town Attorney, to finalize these changes.

Mrs. Babb's recent correspondence with the Town Attorney has included discussions regarding the Town's Business License Ordinance and how it relates to festival vendors who sell domestic items that they have personally produced. **Va. Code 58.1-3703 (c)(2**) offers exemption *for those selling farm or domestic products or nursery products, ornamental or otherwise, or for the planting of nursery products, as an incident to the sale thereof, outside of the regular market houses and sheds of such county, city, or town, provided such products are grown or produced by the person offering them for sale*. The term domestic goods could potentially include items that are sewn, crocheted, or handcrafted generally. **Town Code 30-96** currently provides only for exemption for an itinerant merchant who sells wood, charcoal, meats, butter, eggs, poultry, game, vegetables, fruits, or other family supplies of perishable nature of farm-grown products produced by them. The proposed revision would provide greater clarity regarding when the business license is required for individuals selling products they personally have produced and is especially helpful for vendors participating in festivals, farmers markets, and other similar events.

Additionally, an ordinance amendment is proposed to create an exemption for itinerant merchants conducting business at an event that is hosted by and benefits a nonprofit organization. The $500 annual permit fee for itinerant merchants has received increased attention in connection with nonprofit events. Requiring vendors participating in these events to obtain an annual Itinerant Merchant permit creates a financial and administrative burden for nonprofits seeking to host community events. Under the proposed amendment, the exemption would only apply to merchants conducting business at an event that

is hosted by and benefits a non-profit organization. Additional language has been added at the request of Council to state that net proceeds will be shared at a rate of at least 25 percent with the hosting nonprofit organization. An itinerant merchant claiming this exemption shall provide the supporting documentation in advance as may be reasonably requested by the Town Treasurer.

Mrs. Babb stated she attached for Council's review a draft Ordinance amending Town Code 30-96 to address two items.

Mrs. Babb added that additionally Councilman Sours inquired about the fiscal impact and that was provided in the Council's weekly report last Friday.

**Motion:** Councilman Butler motioned the proposed Taxation Amendment Ordinance be approved, as presented. Councilman Dofflemyer seconded the motion with the vote as follows: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Dean, Pettit, Butler. **Approved 5-0**

**~Recess~**

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Discussion about the Disposition of Public Properties**

Town Council is requested to conduct a Closed Meeting for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by the Town Attorney. Also, the disposition of real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating strategy of the public body, as authorized by Section 2.2-3711 (A)(8) & (3) respectively. The subject matter of the meeting are the lease documents for 18 Campbell Street and 18 Vogt Place, and real property at 18 Campbell Street.

**Motion:** Councilman Pettit motioned to convene and go into Closed Meeting for the consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by the Town Attorney. Also, the disposition of real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating strategy of the public body, as authorized by Section 2.2-3711 (A) (8) & (3) respectively. The subject matter of the meeting are the lease documents for 18 Campbell Street and 18 Vogt Place, and real property at 18 Campbell Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Butler with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Dean, Pettit, Butler. **Approved 5-0**

***~Closed Meeting~***

**Motion**: Councilman Pettit motioned the closed meeting be adjourned and the Luray Town Council reconvene in open session. Motion seconded by Councilman Butler with the vote as follows: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Dean, Pettit, Butler. **Approved 5-0**

**Certification:** Councilman Pettit asked members of Council with respect to the just-completed closed session and to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted

from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard discussed or considered in the meeting by the Town Council. Motion seconded by Councilman Butler with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Vickers, Dofflemyer, Dean, Pettit, Butler. **Approved 5-0**

## TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Botkins stated he had nothing further this evening.

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Dofflemyer stated the VML conference was very nice and obtained a lot of information.

## MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Lillard stated LDI was looking for judges for the costume contest at the Halloween event. She stated herself and Councilman Dofflemyer would be participating and needed one more member volunteer. Mayor Lillard reminded everyone of the Town Christmas Dinner that will be held on Friday, December 18th at the Mimslyn.

## ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

_____
Stephanie Lillard
Mayor

_____
Danielle Alger
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer