



## **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.**

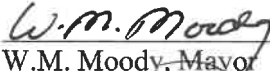
## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 20 26.

  
Leanne Feather, Clerk of Council

  
W.M. Moody, Mayor

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS  
WITHIN THE TOWN OF SOUTH HILL**

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Code § 46.2-916.3 authorizes the Town of South Hill, Virginia (the “Town”) to impose limitations and restrictions on the operation of golf carts upon public highways within the town; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Town Council of the Town of South Hill, Virginia, that Chapter 82 – Traffic and Vehicles be amended to include Article IV. – Golf Carts. Added language is included below in italics and underline.

**ARTICLE IV. – GOLF CARTS**

**Sec. 82-51. Authority to Regulate**

*Pursuant to Code of Virginia, § 46.2-916.3, (1950) as amended, the Town of South Hill is authorized, by ordinance, to impose limitations and restrictions on the operation of golf carts upon public highways within the Town.*

**Sec. 82-52. Definitions**

*The following terms, wherever used herein, shall have the respective meanings assigned to them unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:*

- (a) Golf cart means a self-propelled vehicle having at least four wheels, which is designed to transport persons playing golf and their equipment on a golf course.*

**Sec. 82-53. Insurance Required**

*Every golf cart and driver thereof operating on public highways in the Town of South Hill shall be covered by an insurance policy. Such policy shall meet the minimum liability amounts contained in Code of Virginia, § 46.2-472, as amended, and provide coverage during the operation of the golf cart upon public highways.*

**Sec. 82-54. Operation on public highways.**

*It is unlawful to operate a golf cart on a public highway within the Town of South Hill unless the following requirements are met:*

- (a) Golf carts may be operated on Town highways with a maximum speed limit of 25 mph, except on Route 1, Highway 58, or Route 47—otherwise known as North and South Mecklenburg Avenue, East and West Danville Street, and East and West Atlantic Street.*
- (b) Golf carts may not cross over the highways of the Town of South Hill that allow a speed of more than 25 mph.*
- (c) Golf carts must display a slow-moving vehicle emblem in conformity with Code of Virginia, § 46.2-916.3, as amended.*
- (d) Golf carts must be equipped with functioning headlights and brake lights.*
- (e) Golf carts shall be operated only between sunrise and sunset.*

- (f) No person may operate a golf cart unless that person possesses a valid driver's license, or operator's license for full authorization to drive independently.
- (g) Golf carts must be operated in accordance with all applicable state and local laws and ordinances, including all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the possession and use of alcoholic beverages.
- (h) Only the number of people the golf cart is designed to seat may ride on a golf cart. Additionally, passengers shall not be carried on the part of a golf cart designed to carry golf bags.
- (i) Golf carts must be operated to the extreme right of the roadway and must yield to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- (j) Golf carts shall not be operated in bicycle lanes or on sidewalks.
- (k) Golf carts shall not be operated during inclement weather, nor when visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog, or other conditions.
- (l) The Chief of Police, or his designee, may prohibit the operation of golf carts on any highway if the Chief determines that such prohibition is necessary in the interest of public safety; provided, however, that appropriate signage shall be posted in the affected area to give notice of the prohibition.

#### **Sec. 82-55. Golf cart permit fee.**

No golf cart shall be used on the public highways unless it has obtained a Town of South Hill Golf Cart Permit. No permit shall be issued until the owner of the golf cart presents evidence that the golf cart is insured in accordance with the requirements of section 82-53. The golf cart license shall be issued by the Town Treasurer. The fee for such license shall be \$10.00 per year.

#### **Sec. 82-56. Liability disclaimer.**

This article is adopted to address the interest of public safety. Golf carts are not designed or manufactured to be used on the public streets and the Town of South Hill in no way advocates or endorses their operation on public streets or roads. The Town of South Hill has no liability under any theory of liability and the Town assumes no liability for permitting golf carts to be operated on public streets and roads under special legislation granted by the Virginia General Assembly. The Town of South Hill, by regulating such operation is merely trying to address obvious safety issues and adoption of this article is not to be relied upon as a determination that operation on public streets is safe or advisable if done in accordance with this article. All persons who operate or ride upon golf carts upon public streets or roads do so at their own risk and peril, and must be observant of, and attentive to, the safety of themselves and others, including their passengers, other motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. Any person who operates a golf cart is responsible for procuring liability insurance sufficient to cover the risk involved in using a golf cart on the public streets and roads.

#### **Sec. 82-57. Penalties for violation.**

A violation of any provision of this article shall be punishable as follows:

- (a) The first violation shall be deemed a civil matter and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$150.00.
- (b) The second violation within a 12-month period shall be punishable as a class 2 misdemeanor.

(c) The third or subsequent violation within a 12-month period shall be punishable as a class 1 misdemeanor.

Sec. 82-58—100. Reserved.

Done in the Town of South Hill, Virginia, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL, 2026.

Town of South Hill, Virginia

By: W.M. Moody  
W. M. Moody, Mayor

ATTEST:

Leanne Feather  
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 13<sup>th</sup> 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;

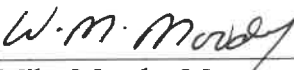
2. That the Town does hereby authorize the Town Manager to make offers for purchase of the Property to the owners thereof in amounts which represent the fair market value of that owner's portion of the Property, as determined according to law, and to negotiate with the property owners, making a bona 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