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**Town of Louisa**  
**Town Council Monthly Meeting**  
**December 16, 2025**

**Present:** Ashley Michael, Mayor;  
Vicky Harte, Vice-Mayor;  
Danny Crawford, Roger Henry, Sylvia Rigsby,  
John J. Purcell IV Council members;  
Jeff Gore, Legal Counsel.

**Also in Attendance:** Stuart Turille, Town Manager;  
Franchesca Mall-Padilla, Treasurer;  
Stephanie Dorman, Clerk;  
Anthony Larry, Director of Public Works;  
Martin Nachtman, Chief of Police.

**All copies, including reports, handouts, and documents  
can be found following the minutes.**

Mayor Michael called the Louisa Town Council Meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led the Invocation as well as the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

- Added under "New Business":
- Town Planning Commission Liaison
  - Cutler Avenue Water Project
- Motion to adopt as amended.  
Motion made by Harte, Seconded by Purcell.  
Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

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**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

Motion to adopt consent agenda items as presented.  
Motion made by Rigsby, Seconded by Purcell.  
Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

No public comments.

**PRESENTATION:**

**Louisa Arts Center Presentation**

Ms. Karen Welsh provided a presentation to Council regarding the Louisa Arts Center. Ms. Welsh described the Arts Center as the “heart of the arts” in the community and provided an overview of the wide variety of programs and activities offered, including art exhibitions, concerts, theatrical productions, and other cultural events.

Ms. Welsh noted that the Arts Center currently has only one full-time staff member, herself, with all other assistance provided by part-time staff and a strong base of volunteers. She emphasized that the organization relies heavily on volunteers to operate effectively. Youth programming was identified as a top priority for the Arts Center.

Ms. Welsh further discussed the Center’s fundraising efforts, specifically noting current goals to raise funds for additional storage space and the purchase of new chairs for the upstairs art room. She highlighted the strong positive impact the Arts Center has on the community, including its ability to attract visitors from surrounding areas and beyond, bringing people to the Town of Louisa.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discussion and Action: Holiday Schedule**

Motion to approve as presented.  
Motion made by Harte, Seconded by Henry.  
Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

1 **Strategic Needs Assessment**

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3 The Town Manager presented his Strategic Needs Assessment to Council. He discussed  
4 the importance of long-term planning and expressed a desire to develop a Capital  
5 Improvement Plan (CIP) that would extend over a five- to ten-year period.  
6 The Town Manager requested that Council consider scheduling a special meeting in  
7 January to further review and address the identified strategic needs and to allow for more  
8 in-depth discussion outside of a regular meeting agenda.

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10 **Discussion and Action: County Planning Commission Appointment**

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12 Council Member Purcell advised Council that he will be stepping down from his position as  
13 the Town's liaison to the County Planning Commission. He noted that the bylaws require  
14 the Town to maintain a representative in this role.

15  
16 Council discussed whether the Town Planning Commission liaison should also serve as the  
17 liaison to the County Planning Commission. During the discussion, Council Member  
18 Purcell added that, historically, this position has been held by the Mayor.

19  
20 Motion to appoint Ashley Michael as the Liaison to the County Planning Commission.  
21 Motion made by Purcell, Seconded by Henry.  
22 Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

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24  
25 **Discussion and Action: Police Department Surplus Vehicles**

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27 Chief Nachtman submitted a list of vehicles which are ready to be auctioned.

28  
29 Motion to proceed to surplus the vehicle list provided.  
30 Motion made by Rigsby, Seconded by Purcell.  
31 Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

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33 **Discussion and Action: Land Use Resolution**

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35 Vice Mayor Harte presented the proposed Land Use Resolution to Council. She explained  
36 the reasons she believes the resolution is necessary and noted that its intent is to provide  
37 support for the County.

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2 Council discussed the language of the resolution, seeking clarification on what the  
3 resolution specifically covered and whether it fully addressed Council's intentions.

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5 Motion to approve the resolution as presented and forward to legislators by the end of the  
6 month.

7 Motion made by Harte, Seconded by Henry.

8 Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

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10 **Town Planning Commission Liaison**

11

12 Council Member Purcell advised Council that he will be stepping down from his position as  
13 the liaison to the Town's Planning Commission.

14

15 Motion to appoint Roger Henry as the liaison to the Town's Planning Commission.

16 Motion made by Purcell, Seconded by Crawford.

17 Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Purcell, Rigsby.

18 Voting Absentia: Henry

19

20 **Cutler Avenue Water Project**

21

22 Council Member Crawford raised concerns regarding the Cutler Avenue Project,  
23 specifically questioning whether funding has been allocated for the project. He stated that  
24 the project has been outstanding for some time and expressed concern that its been  
25 overlooked.

26

27 Council and the Town Manager discussed the project's timing, including considerations  
28 related to weather conditions and where the project currently falls on the Town's priority  
29 list. It was noted that the Cutler Avenue Project is scheduled to be discussed further at the  
30 Water and Sewer Committee meeting.

31

32 Council Member Crawford requested that this item be followed up at the January Council  
33 meeting to ensure continued progress and attention.

34 **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

35 **Personnel Committee**

1 It was reported that the Personnel Committee will need to meet to discuss employee  
2 benefits for Town staff.

3 **Legal Matters Committee**

4 Council was advised that the Town Code has been rewritten. The committee did not bring  
5 the revised Code forward to Council at this time, as there was uncertainty regarding  
6 whether newly appointed committee members, who are expected to be appointed in  
7 January, would prefer for the revisions to be presented after their appointments.

8 **Trash, Recycling & Litter Committee**

9 Council was informed that the Town's trash collection contract will expire next year and will  
10 need to be reviewed in advance of expiration.

11 **Finance Committee**

12 The committee noted the need to meet at the beginning of the year in order to begin the  
13 Town's budget process.

14 **Cemeteries Committee**

15 Nothing to report at this time.

16 **Streets & Sidewalks Committee**

17 There was nothing to report at this time. It was noted that the committee is scheduled to  
18 meet tomorrow.

19 **Water & Sewer Committee**

20 There was nothing to report at this time. It was noted that the committee is scheduled to  
21 meet tomorrow.

22 **Police Committee**

23 The Police Committee reported that it met last week. Topics discussed included potential  
24 salary adjustments and various methods for recruitment. It was noted that these matters  
25 will be forwarded to the Personnel Committee and the Finance Committee for further  
26 review and consideration.

27 **STAFF REPORTS:**

28 **Police:**

1 Martin Nachtman, Chief of Police, provided the Police Report.

2 Council Member Henry inquired about the possibility of setting up the radar trailer. The  
3 Chief advised that the equipment is outdated and will need to be evaluated, noting that  
4 repairs will likely be costly due to the age of the unit. The Chief stated that he will look into  
5 whether the equipment can be repaired at a minimal cost and will report back with  
6 findings. Additionally, the Chief reported that he has spoken with VDOT regarding the  
7 possibility of painting a “Do Not Block” section in front of the Police Department, as it is  
8 currently difficult for police vehicles to exit the station during peak rush hour traffic.

9 **Public Works:**

10 Anthony Larry, Director of Public Works, provided the Public Works Report.

11 Public Works reported that routine maintenance activities are ongoing. Staff have also  
12 been hanging Christmas lights and wreaths throughout Town. In addition, Mr. Larry  
13 attended a VDOT meeting with the Town Manager. It was further reported that  
14 disconnection notices have been handed out.

15 **Counsel:**

16 The Town Attorney reported that the pending lawsuit has been continued to January 2026  
17 for docket call.

18 **Treasurer:**

19 The Treasurer reported that tax bills have been mailed. Council was advised that a draft  
20 financial report will be provided by Friday. Additionally, the VML representative reviewed the  
21 Town’s finances and advised that the budget is in good shape and that the General Fund  
22 remains strong.

23 **Clerk:**

24 Stephanie Dorman, Clerk, provided the Clerk report.  
25 In addition to her written report, she advised the new website has officially launched.  
26

27 **Town Manager:**

28 Stuart Turille, Town Manager, read his submitted report and added that addressing  
29 speeding concerns will be included as part of the Town’s traffic management plan.

30

1 **Comments by Members of Town Council**

2 Vice Mayor Harte reported that she dropped off the old May agenda. The Clerk advised that  
3 old meeting minutes for May have been located and will be submitted for Council  
4 consideration at the January meeting.

5 **ADJOURNMENT**

6 Motion to adjourn.

7 Motion made by Crawford, Seconded by Purcell.

8 Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

9 Council adjourned at 7:58 PM.

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13 Mayor



14 Clerk

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