



Town of Burkeville
Council Meeting Agenda
April 14, 2026
7:00 p.m., Train Station

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer

Welcome of Visitors

Approval of:

- Agenda for April 14, 2026 Council Meeting
- Approval of the minutes of March 10, 2026 Council Meeting
- Approval of the minutes for March 31, 2026 Special Council Meeting/Public Hearing
- Approval of the minutes for the April 8, 2026 Special Council meeting
- General Funds Account Statement
- Funds Available Statement
- Accounts Payable for March 2026

Fire Report: Included in packet

Police Report: Included in packet

Public Hearing

- **Amending Utility Tax ordinance 2-4**

Guest Speakers

- **Chris Page**
 - Tourist Grant

Committee Reports:

- **Emergency Services (Knight, Cummings)**
- **Water & Sewer (B. Weltch- Simmons)**
- **Buildings (Oliver, Jones)**
- **Personnel (Oliver, Simmons)**
- **Parks & Grounds (D. Weltch- Knight)**
 - Porcelain concrete- approx. 15\$ per bag.

- Finance & Purchasing (Simmons-B. Weltch)
- Planning Committee (Simmons, Cummings)
- Cemetery (D. Weltch-Oliver)
- Streets & Town Signage (Jones-D. Weltch)
- Zoning Committee (Knight, Cummings)
- Treasurer Report (Treasurer-Jamie Osborne)

New Business:

- Welcoming new Council member
- Cigarette Tax Ordinance
- Utility Consumption Tax Ordinance
- Municipal Building Surplus

Old Business

- Birdsong Property
- Grant committee
- Dimmick St.

Update:

- Library Broken Pipe
 - Has been "fixed" temporarily.
- Animal Shelter- grand opening date is tentative.
- Water/Sewer Update

Old Business:

- 26-27 Budget Preparation
- Boundary Adjustment
 - Public hearing will be held at the Board of supervisor meeting on April 16th.

Citizens Comments to the Council: TBD

Council members Comments:

Economic Development Committee Representative Comments:

Mayor Comments:

*****Closed Session****

-personnel

Motion to Adjourn:

**Town of Burkeville
Council Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2026
7:00 p.m., Train Station**

Present: Ivory Oliver, Lee Simmons, Kevin Jones, Gerald Smith, Jamie Osborne, Brian Weltch, Debbie Weltch, Josh Knight

Meeting Started 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer lead by Councilman Josh Knight

Welcome of Visitors

Approval of:

- **Agenda for March 10, 2026 Council Meeting**
 - Motion made by Councilman Josh Knight and was seconded by Councilwoman Debbie Weltch. Unanimous approval, no opposition. Motion carried.
- **Approval of the minutes of February 10, 2025 Council Meeting**
 - Motion was made by Councilwoman Debbie Weltch and was seconded by Councilwoman Ivory Oliver. Councilman Josh Knight abstained from voting, as he was not present at the February 10, 2026 council meeting.
 - Aye- 5, Nay- 0, Abstain – 1
 - Unanimous approval, no opposition. Motion carried.
- **Approval of the General Funds Account Statement**
 - Motion was made by Councilman Josh Knight and seconded by Councilman Josh Knight. Unanimous approval, no opposition. Motion carried.
- **Approval of the Funds Available Statement**
 - Motion was made by Councilwoman Debbie Weltch and seconded by Councilwoman Ivory Oliver. Unanimous approval, no opposition. Motion carries.
- **Approval of the Accounts Payable**
 - Motion was made by Councilwoman Ivory Oliver and seconded by Councilwoman Debbie Weltch. Unanimous approval, no opposition. Motion carried.

Fire Report:

- **Chief Brian Weltch**
 - Total number of calls answered- 72. 0 missed in 1st due area.
 - In town 3; In 1st due area (not including in-town or state)- 20; State facilities- 29; Mutual aid- 20; EMS and EMS assists- 57; Fire related- 5; Motor Vehicle crashes- 1; Cancelled enroute and false alarms- 9.
 - Hours:
 - Paid- 1271.12 – 94.58% of shifts
 - Volunteer- 292.75 = \$10,076.46 savings to taxpayers.
 - Average response time is down approximately 4 minutes

- Last month response time was 15 minutes 52 seconds over 88 calls, this month was 11 minutes and 29 seconds. A lot of that has to do with the increased amount of staffing in the station.
- The county has given 2 checks to the Town to help with the offset of the payroll costs. That seems to be going well and Clerk/Treasurer Jamie Osborne has been going a pretty good job getting everything handled. Believes that there has been some delays from the fire department getting payroll reports completed, because of the differences in the pay weeks.
- There has been 1 full time person who resigned for a better opportunity elsewhere. He will remain as a volunteer. There has been advertisement for that position, as well as a couple of part time openings.

Police Report:

- Nothing to report. Chief Herlong and Auxiliary Officer Wyne said everything was going great.

Guest Speakers:

- **Mike Gentry**
 - Waterworks inspection- Everything went well.
 - Most prior deficiencies from the last inspection 3 years ago have been resolved, including the overfilling issue at the tank (which was fixed by the automated pressure switch)
 - MSDS Sheets, PPE and eye wash stations were all reviewed and passed without issue.
 - Will need to come up with a backflow policy ordinance, as we do not currently have one in place.
 - Will need to put a long term power outage plan in place.
 - Would like to see if there is money in the budget to order another soda ash pump to have as a spare since we recently had to use our spare.
- **Councilman Brian Weltch**
 - Asked how far along we are on the animal shelter.
 - Mike advised that they are going to be taking samples the next day and that the only things that are left are to install the meter, sew grass, and then pace the manhole.
 - Discussion about getting a mobile generator to move between sewer pumps if needed.
 - Discussion about talking to the current paving company that is in town about repairing the road on Agnew St.
- **Kathy Parker- I rock my scars**
 - I rock my scars is a 501c3 that helps families with cancer, trauma, loss and mental health needs with direct support and housing revitalization. They have did numerous recently blightment reduction and new reconstruction projects in Blackstone. Would like a formal partnership with Burkeville to expand services for property clean-up, affordable housing, mental health support network/programs.

Committee Reports:

- **Emergency Services (Knight- Dr. Wolven)**
 - **Councilman Josh Knight**
 - Would like to thank the Fire Department for coming on as town employees.
- **Water & Sewer (B. Weltch- Simmons)**
 - **Councilman Lee Simmons**
 - No additional report, Mike Gentry covered all information in his presentation.
- **Buildings (Oliver- Jones)**
 - **Councilwoman Ivory Oliver**
 - Would like council to schedule the public hearing for the municipal building to be surplus.
 - Mayor Smith advised getting with Clerk/Treasurer Jamie Osborne when there has been a date established and it will be published.

- **Mayor Gerald Smith**
 - The Fire Department thrift store came over and requested permission to patch the roof, at the expense of the thrift store. Mara was given written permission patch the roof.
- **Personnel**
 - **Councilwoman Ivory Oliver**
 - Would like to have the photo on the town page updated to something that represents the Town of Burkeville. Currently it is only a generic photo and recommends having the welcome sign as the photo on the webpage.
- **Parks & Grounds (D. Weltch & Knight)**
 - **Councilwoman Debbie Weltch**
 - The driveway is starting to get bad, would like to see the driveway to the Town office fixed.
 - Mayor Smith advises that he will get public works to come and fix it.
 - Would like to know if the crack in the pavilion will be fixed soon, while it's not an emergency, would not like to see it get worse.
 - Asks about update on the lights going on the back of the pavilion now that it is getting warmer.
 - Mayor Smith reports that one of the picnic tables are broken. It is approximately \$200 to replace.
- **Finance & Purchasing (Simmons & B. Weltch)**
 - **Councilman Lee Simmons**
 - Has been working on the budget for next fiscal year with Clerk/Treasurer Jamie Osborne. Has gone through each line item and have made some adjustments. Believes that they are to a point where it is noticeable where the budget will fall.
 - States that he was never a budget guy but has a new appreciation for how money flows.
 - Plan is to have some sort of draft made or recommendations for the budget at the April meeting. Current goal is to have all rates, tax and utilities, stay the same.
 - **Councilwoman Debbie Weltch**
 - Does not have specific projects at the moment that she wants, and unsure if Councilman Josh Knight has any, but would like to know if she sends an amount over to Councilman Simmons if he would be able to build it into the budget.
 - Councilman Simmons advises that he will take any suggestions, even dollar amounts, that councilmembers would like built into the budget.
- **Planning Committee (Simmons)**
 - **Councilman Lee Simmons**
 - Has not met as previous Councilwoman Ann Wolven has resigned, and she was an interval part of that committee, and she performed a lot of the work. Will do his best to reform the committee.
- **Cemetery (D. Weltch & Oliver)**
 - **Councilwoman Debbie Weltch**
 - Over the last few months, there have been a lot of issues with people being buried in the cemetery without the Town's knowledge. Discussed with Clerk/Treasurer Jamie Osborne that she would like a way to hold funeral homes accountable. Clerk/Treasurer Jamie Osborne researched burial permits, spoke with the attorney, and was advised that the Town is able to place a burial permit fee as long as it is reasonable. She does not want to add any extra burden to the families, but as soon as a portion of the cemetery is figured out, someone new is buried and the Town has no idea about it.
 - Councilwoman Debbie Weltch makes a motion to implement a burial permit charge of \$25, and if a permit is not obtained start with a \$250 fine. Motion was seconded by Councilman Lee Simmons. Unanimous approval, no opposition. Motion carries.
 - Clerk/Treasurer Jamie Osborne states that any monies that are received for burial permits will go toward the maintenance and grass cutting for the cemetery.
- **Streets & Town Signage (Jones-D. Weltch)**
 - **Councilman Kevin Jones**
 - Slurry paving is in town, they are sealing and paving streets.

- Will need to go through and check streetlights to make sure there are none that are out.
- Would like to look into putting Christmas decorations into the budget for next year.
 - Councilman Lee Simmons advised that if Councilman Kevin Jones had an idea for how much he wanted to budget for the decorations, to send him an email.
- **Mayor Smith**
 - VDOT sent a list of all the roads that are going to be done, but not before they started to the road work. Some are going to be resurfaced; some are going to be entirely redone. The new supervisor does not follow the same schedule as other VDOT supervisors, and we initially thought it was going to be later in the spring before the road work was going to be completed.
- **Zoning Committee (Knight- Simmons)**
 - **Councilman Josh Knight**
 - Has nothing to report, the last meeting was in the beginning of February.
- **Treasurer Report**
 - **Clerk/Treasurer Jamie Osborne**
 - Auditor sent over the line-item adjustments that needed to be made to finalize the 22-23 fiscal year budget. Those adjustments were made, and the 22-23 fiscal year has been closed in our system.
 - We are starting into the 23-24 fiscal year budget. Waiting for the auditor to send over the list of items that need to be pulled for them to do the audit.
 - All bank reconciliations have been completed for the 23-24 fiscal year, so will now be starting on the 24-25 fiscal year bank reconciliations.
 - United Site services were contacted, and they will be honoring the same agreement that we had with Edmonds services where they charge us for 1 and alternate servicing the portable toilets each week.
 - Business licenses are due March 31. If anyone needs the forms, please contact the town office to get a copy.

New Business:

- **26-27 Budget Preparation**
 - Already discussed in finance committee report
- **Councilmember Resignation**
 - Dr. Ann Wolven submitted her resignation from the council effective February 26th. She cited family problems, which is understandable. Mayor Smith would like to thank Dr. Wolven for all of her time and service on the Council. She has been a valuable asset to the family. The Town Council appreciates all that she has done for the town, and she has brought a lot of insight into the council.
 - We have 2 letters of interest for the vacancy from citizens. One of the citizens who wrote a letter of interest is present at the meeting.
 - **Brandon Cummings**
 - States that he is new to the town and really thinks that he could be an asset to the Council. He does not have a whole lot of experience in council, but he served 23 years in the military, was a police officer for Richmond and Prince Edward and has lived in many different places. He believes that he is able to bring different perspectives to the table.
- **Grant Proposal Team**
 - Would like to start looking at grants for the town. There are a lot of projects in town that need to be done and would like to assemble a team to start looking for grants to help. Would like to have the grant proposal team to put together a list of what is needed first.
 - Councilwoman Ivory Oliver would like to suggest Ms. Kathy Parker with I Rock my scars to help, as she has a lot of insight on how to write grants.
 - Councilman Brian Weltch and Councilwoman Debbie Weltch state that they would not mind helping with the grant committee.

- Discussion on various grants that would benefit the town. (Sewer, revitalization, water, drainage)
- **Birdsong Property**
 - Miss Lizzie owns a property beside Macedonia Baptist church; the property has a lien against it. Mayor Smith has spoken with the owner of the property, and she would like to forfeit the property to the town.
 - Town Attorney has been contacted and gave instruction on how to proceed. There will need to be a letter stating that she forfeits the property. Macedonia Baptist Church is interested in purchasing the property from the town after it is forfeited.
 - There will need to be a title search completed on the property. Once the letter is received, then the Council will be able to decide on how much they would like to proceed.
- **Spring Clean up**
 - Mayor Smith will reach out to Blackstone and ask if they would be willing to help with the Spring clean-up again this year.
 - Would like to have the clean-up the end of April to early May time frame.
 - A citizen had reached out asking if there would be a free bulk item disposal location. Mayor Smith advised Clerk/Treasurer Jamie Osborne to reach out the County Administrator and see if we are able to coordinate a dumpster at the convenience center.

Update

- **Library broken pipe**
 - The plumber that was contacted has been busy and unable to get the pipe fixed yet. Will be attempting to reach out again to see when he intended to complete the job.
- **Animal Shelter**
 - Mike updated on this already. Should have the water turned on next week.

Old Business

- **Boundary Adjustment**
 - Has been pushed back by the county due to a lot of ongoing projects in the county. The county is required to have a public hearing on the boundary adjustment proposal, and vote if they approve the proposed boundary adjustment.
 - One citizen did not agree with the adjustment and requested to be fully removed out of town limits during the adjustment. This request was granted, and their property was completely removed. There was an agreement with the citizen from previous administration that if there was a boundary adjustment in the future, that their property be removed from being in town limits completely.
- **Burkeville Elementary School**
 - There was a meeting with the County Board of Supervisors regarding the use of the Burkeville Elementary School. A lot of citizens would like to see it used as a community building, for education, events, etc. There were a lot of good ideas presented for a proposed use of the building, and the Board of Supervisors seemed open to a lot of the suggestions.
 - Councilwoman Ivory Oliver asked what the plans are for the playground equipment that is currently at the school.
 - Mayor Smith advised that Clerk/Treasurer Jamie Osborne presented a request asking to relocate it the Town Office to replace our current playground equipment.

Citizens Comments:

- **Randolph Miller**
 - Questions about the Veneer plant and its future use.
 - Would like to know if we are collecting taxes for Luck Stones minerals. If that is not included into the boundary adjustment, thinks that it should be.
 - He was advised that Luck Stone is included in the boundary adjustment.
 - Suggests giving the planning committee insight on property values for future listings.

Councilmembers Comments:

- **Councilman Brian Weltch**
 - States that a citizen complained about the business hours, that customer came to the office and the office was closed during the hours that were posted.
 - Addressing Mr. Miller's inquiry about the rock quarry, we will continue to maintain the same amount of tax revenue. However, if the boundary adjustment is not approved, we would loose that tax revenue if they are to move the scale house.
- **Councilman Josh Knight**
 - No comment
- **Councilman Lee Simmons**
 - No comment
- **Councilwoman Ivory Oliver**
 - No comment
- **Councilman Kevin Jones**
 - No comment
- **Councilwoman Debbie Weltch**
 - No comment

Council will be going into closed session, in regard to personnel matters.

Pursuant to VA code 2.2-3711 Public bodies may hold closed meetings only for the following purposes: Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals.

Motion was made by Councilman Josh Knight to go into closed session in regard to personnel matters. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Debbie Weltch. Unanimous approval, no opposition.

Time in closed session: 8:44 p.m.

****CLOSED SESSION****

Motion was made by Councilman Josh Knight to come out of closed session. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Debbie Weltch. Unanimous approval, no opposition. Each councilmember certifies that to the best of their knowledge, only public business matters that are lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements, and only personnel matters were heard, discussed or considered.

Roll call: Brian Weltch, Josh Knight, Gerald Smith, Lee Simmons, Ivory Oliver, Kevin Jones, Debbie Weltch.

Time out of closed session: 9:06 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Debbie Weltch that the town will not reimburse the public works supervisor for his personal cell phone. Motion was seconded by Councilman Brian Weltch. Unanimous approval. No opposition. Motion carries.

Motion was made by Councilman Josh Knight that the Town of Burkeville keeps Ellett Services as the Town's contracted grass cutting service, at his current rates. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Debbie Weltch. Unanimous approval, no opposition. Motion carries.

Motion was made by Councilman Lee Simmons that water meters are to be read in 2 separate trucks, one employee is to start on one side of town with book 1, and the other is to start on the other side of town, with book 2. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Debbie Welch. Unanimous approval. No opposition. Motion carries.

Economic Development Committee Representative Comments: None

Mayor Comments: None

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion was made by Councilman Josh Knight and seconded by Councilwoman Debbie Welch Unanimous approval, no opposition. Motion carries.

End of meeting: 9:10 p.m.

Jamie L Osborne

Jamie L. Osborne, Clerk/Treasurer

April 14, 2026

Date approved by council

Town of Burkeville
Special Council Meeting /Public Hearing Minutes
March 31, 2026
7:00 p.m., Train Station

Present: Brian Weltch, Josh Knight, Jamie Osborne, Gerald Smith, Lee Simmons, Ivory Oliver, Kevin Jones, Debbie Weltch

Call to Order – Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer was lead by Councilman Josh Knight

Welcome of Visitors- Mayor Smith welcomed all visitors.

Approval of:

- Agenda for March 31, 2026, Special Council Meeting
 - Motion was made by Councilman Josh Knight and seconded by Councilwoman Debbie Weltch. Unanimous approval, no opposition. Motion carries.

Appointment of Interim Councilmember

- There were 2 letters of interest submitted, Brandon Cummings and Joseph Ramsey.
- Mr. Cummings was present at the meeting, Mr. Ramsey was not. Mayor Smith advised council that even though Mr. Ramsey was not present at the meeting, he is still eligible to receive votes.
- There are no additional nominations made to fill the vacancy for council.
- Following a ballot vote, Brandon Cummings received 6 votes, Joseph Ramsey received 0 votes.

Public Hearing- Surplus of Municipal Building

- Motion was made by Councilman Josh Knight to open the public hearing for the Surplus of the Municipal Building. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Debbie Weltch. Unanimous approval, no opposition.

- **Time in public hearing: 7:04 p.m.**
- There were no comments from the public in regard to the Surplus of the Municipal Building.
- Motion was made by Councilman Brian Weltch to close the public hearing for the Surplus of the Municipal Building. Motion as seconded by Councilwoman Ivory Oliver. Unanimous approval, no opposition.
 - **Time out of public hearing: 7:05 p.m.**

Public Hearing- Proposed Cigarette Tax Ordinance

- Motion was made by Councilman Josh Knight to open the public hearing for proposed Cigarette Tax Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Kevin Jones. Unanimous approval, no opposition.
 - **Time in public hearing: 7:05 p.m.**
- Councilwoman Debbie Weltch states that we live in a very poverty stricken area, and she does not believe that many of our citizens are able to handle many more taxes. She is glad that if we are going to do something, that it will be something like this instead of raising water bills or something because she does not know how much further people are able to stretch.
- Motion was made by Councilwoman Ivory Oliver to close the public hearing for the proposed Cigarette Tax. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Debbie Weltch. Unanimous approval, no opposition.
 - **Time out of public hearing: 7:07 p.m.**

Adjournment

- Motion was made by Councilman Josh Knight to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Ivory Oliver. Unanimous approval, no opposition.

End of meeting: 7:07 p.m.

Jamie L. Osborne

 Jamie L. Osborne, Clerk/Treasurer

April 14, 2026

 Date approved by council

Town of Burkeville
Special Council Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2026
7:00 p.m., Train Station

Present: Ivory Oliver, Lee Simmons, Kevin Jones, Gerald Smith, Jamie Osborne, Brian Welch

Meeting Started 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order

- Mayor Smith would like to skip the Pledge of Allegiance, prayer and welcoming of visitors to expedite the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer

Welcome of Visitors

Approval of:

- Agenda for April 8, 2026 Council Meeting
 - Councilman Brian Welch makes a motion to approve the agenda, with the corrections of omitting the Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer and Welcoming of Visitors. Motion was seconded by Councilman Kevin Jones. Unanimous approval, No opposition. Motion carries.

Appointment of Interim Councilmember

- At the council meeting on March 31, 2026 council submitted ballots, unanimously approving Brandon Cummings for council, however there was not an official motion made to appoint him.
- Motion was made by Councilwoman Ivory Oliver to appoint Brandon Cummings to the position of Interim Councilmember. Motion was seconded by Councilman Lee Simmons. Unanimous approval, no opposition. Motion carries.

Aye: 4

Nay: 0

Absent: 2

Abstain: 0

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Ivory Oliver and seconded by Councilman Brian Welch Unanimous approval, no opposition. Motion carries.

End of meeting: 7:01 p.m.

Jamie L. Osborne

Jamie L. Osborne, Clerk/Treasurer

April 14, 2026
Date approved by council