



**TOWN OF IRVINGTON, VIRGINIA
TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
IRVINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH
THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023; 5:30 p.m. to be continued**

AGENDA –

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

W. Nunnally, present.
J. Brown, present.
G. del Rio, present.
J. Penniman, present.
P. Robinson, present.
J. Harris, present.
D. Patteson, late.

C. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion made by W. Nunnally to approve the Agenda for the Public Hearing
Seconded by P. Robinson.
Motion carries unanimously.

D. PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a 3-minute limit for all speakers.

CUP_Harper – for redevelopment in the RPA.

Brief synopsis was given regarding this by J. Nelson.

Meals tax.

Tax rate for FY 2023-2024.

Budget FY 2023-2024.

Planning Commission Budget

M. Chapman: Opposes meals tax as it is unwarranted for capital projects at this time. We do not have a reasonable wait and see period. This tax will never go away. Council should respect what their residents say. This is taking the cart before the horse.

H. Sheehan: Discussion regarding the above matters. Testing and understanding the meals tax does not mean public sewer or high-density development is coming to town. Talk regarding a meals tax being equated with debt or overdevelopment is a failure of logic, and lack of understanding of governmental processes and lack of faith in elected representatives. Everyone's property values will suffer if we don't keep up with modern living and community standards. Urges moving forward with the above.

D. Cheek: You need to wait for the financial feasibility study to be complete before you move forward. You should never lay a tax before feasibility numbers come in. You may



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find out it's not enough or you don't need it at all. Against the meals tax, and sewer project. I'm asking the Town to hold off on the meals tax.

B. Starrett: Supports the meals tax to help fund future projects. Updating the current amenities of Irvington does not mean you are changing the essence of the town. We cannot be afraid to update things because we are afraid of change.

L. Cline: Disagree with the meals tax and agrees that a more logical and thought-out plan is what is needed. Unless a specific project is in mind, you should not start with a meals tax. Look at the data and analytics to decide how to move forward and listen to your constituents.

T. Golden: Opposes meals tax. Tax should be tied directly to a governmental service or governmental project. There is nothing in the budget that requires a meals tax. It should not be to generate a surplus.

M. Shane: We are the only town around here that doesn't have one. It's irresponsible to not move forward with this meals tax knowing the town will need money.

M. Smith: Opposes the meals tax as it is written and in general. It is definitely putting the cart before the horse. It has been well stressed that unless there was a specific need for the meals tax it is not necessary. There needs to be a specific use.

I. Ormesher: Wanted to discuss the budget. The budget should cover the fiscal year only to be in compliance with the Code of Virginia. Concerned that if the budget is passed it will not be in compliance.

I. Cheney: Would like to step back a little bit from things that are not necessary at the current time. The downside is greater than the upside. The comprehensive plan is the guide to help with this and so I am against adding a tax at this time without having a long-time comprehensive plan. It's our responsibility to improve with an understanding of what we are doing.

M. Bradley: We need to use the data available to use and problem solve. There is more common ground than there are differences. We need to find common ground.

G. Kuper: Against the meals tax at this time. It may be appropriate in the future. In the absence of a well-defined purpose, it is not needed at this time. It's a cavalier attitude to impose a meals tax just because we are the only town without one. I oppose the budget as it stands. These actions of proposing a surplus of money before having a defined need as well as other behind-the-scenes activity gives rise to distrusting the actions of council.

M. McMahon: We need a vibrant waterfront. Concerned about negative prospects of Short-Term Rentals. I support the sewer.

K. Schaschek: Against the meals tax. I provided information that there is an alternative to a meals tax. Sunset date is appreciated. Who are we going into multi-million-dollar debt for?



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F. Westbrook: Opposes the meals tax. There is a missing component in the budget. The Tides Inn contributes 60% of the town's revenue. This puts us into the 60% risk bracket. There needs to be a contingency fund set aside should the Tide's Inn shut down for an extended period. The town council should plan for anything that could potentially affect the town's budget.

R. Simmons: Opposes the meals tax at this time. Should be considered when we need it.

B. Westbrook: Against the meals tax. It may be needed in the future and can adopt one at that time. Need to know what capital improvements are going to cost first. Need the answers to the questions first. Have a few concerns about the budget. Not in favor of an overreaching government. Comparing past budget with current budget, there are questions. We should underestimate revenue and overestimate expenditures. There are overestimates of revenue. Employee expenses - there is a big jump. Need to be reasonable and explain how these values were reached.

W. Nunnally: Thanked the crowd for coming out. We have differences but we all love this town.

E. ADJOURN

Motion made by P. Robinson to adjourn.

Seconded by W. Nunnally.

Motion carries unanimously.