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[00:00:06] Thank you very much for that.

[00:00:27] If you are able to please stand with me for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Dear God, we thank you for another opportunity to gather to provide governance to the residents of the City of Manassas. We ask for your continued protection of our staff, our council, our men and women in uniform who protect us each and every day and bless every resident who calls this city home thank you for always revealing knowledge to us that protects us from harm we remain thankful for all things amen please join me in the pledge of allegiance

[00:01:01] feedback i think mr smith went to check on that welcome everyone to the council meeting again good to see a full house out here tonight thank you all for coming out tonight and for those of you who are joining us via social media and on TV.

[00:01:34] We welcome you as well to the meeting. It's always good when we can look out and see friendly smiling faces. So thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to be with us tonight. I'd like to recognize we have our treasurer here, Patricia Ritchie, folks. I know I saw you on one side.

[00:01:49] Thank you for being here, ma'am. And we also have Sarah Brescia from the school board here. We'll be hearing from her in just a little bit as Baldwin comes up. We have a pretty light agenda tonight, but it is information packed we have a lot of videos to show as department presentations as well so i'm looking forward to that and i think we will go ahead and get started with council time and we'll start with vice mayor wolf thank you ma'am um just one quick quick uh comment these are perilous times and

[00:02:22] regardless of your beliefs or political affiliation pray for those who are serving us and defending us overseas. Thank you. Councilwoman Ellis. Thank you, Mayor. Yeah, just briefly reminding everyone that St. Patrick's Day, the parade is on Saturday, March 14th at 11 a.m. through the streets of historic Manassas. It is a big favorite in our city, so wear your green so you don't get pinched,

[00:02:56] And support our businesses afterwards to our restaurants and our shops and our art factory and our museum. We have so much to see and do in Manassas. That's it. Okay, thank you, Councilman Smith. Thank you, Madam Mook.

[00:03:12] Good evening, everyone. Welcome. Thank you. All righty, Councilman Osina. Just a few thoughts here. First of all, I had the opportunity to attend a Congo workshop on data centers.

[00:03:28] Data Centers and Water Forum earlier this month. It was a day-long meeting, a lot of interesting information. I'll be sharing with the Utility Commission. I did do a post about it on my Council Facebook page with some information there.

[00:03:47] But there's a lot to dig in as we talk about data center growth and use of water for cooling and what new emerging technologies might be on the horizon along that way. I had the opportunity to go to the Manassas Museum to see the art exhibit by Manassas City Public School students and see some of the winning entries there, and I invite residents to stop by and see some of the creative work.

[00:04:18] It was very nicely put together. I'm always humbled by how good our students are and my little scribbles along the way and stick figures when I attempt to do little cats and dogs and people, compares along that way.

[00:04:37] Yeah, you can just imagine how I'm doing it. But it was a nice evening, and to meet many of the artists along the way, that was one of the best parts in that regard. And then a reminder that next week, a week from today, we'll be doing a town hall meeting, I'm looking forward to hearing folks.

[00:04:53] We started our budget process, had a day-long budget meeting last Friday, and I'm looking forward to hearing from residents about their thoughts on the city manager's proposed budget as I, along with my fellow counselors, start to put together the FY27 budget.

[00:05:10] And with that, Mayor, thank you for the time. Thank you, Mr. Osina. Councilwoman Vasquez-Luna. Thank you, Madam Mayor. Good evening, everyone. Happy Women's History Month, And I would like to also recognize two former councilwomen and Vice Mayor, Pamela Sebastian and also Cheryl Bass.

[00:05:32] So thank you for attending today and I hope that in the future we're able to celebrate this. It continues to be an honor for me that as Manassas has elected less than 12, less than a dozen women it has been 11 so far and out of them four of them are here and two more join us in the audience so it continues to be an honorable mayor to serve with you the first woman and also the first african-american person to be a mayor and each each of you councilwoman so i'll continue

[00:06:09] looking forward and cherish this moment as we have a lot of work to do but congratulations And also, Madam Treasure, thank you also for all the great work and for working together. I want to take a time to welcome Mr. Craig Rounds' family and congratulate you.

[00:06:33] I was talking to him a little bit earlier today to say when I became a council member. You know, it was a lot of new information, and part of what gave me peace of mind is knowing that we had somebody not only with experience, but the caring and the listening ear.

[00:06:55] So I wish I could deny the retirement, but, no, I'm really happy. You deserve it, and you will be greatly missed. Thank you for your service, and I'm looking forward to hear the proclamation and your honors, and welcome to the family.

[00:07:11] And I have a few things. If you are looking into our budget, we had a great budget session on last Friday, a whole day. There is one page of the brief like we do every year, so please look into that.

[00:07:30] The website, if you go to Manasa's website, you just got to put budget or you can put FY 2027 and you will find all the information for the proposed budget. So you can have the highlights as we continue to work on that. There is also all the summer events.

[00:07:49] We have so many great events. It's called 2026 Summer Sounds at the Harris Pavilion. I know it doesn't look like it will be ready, but I hope it will be ready. Please don't forget to look. Same thing, you can go to the website. You can go on the different social media platforms, and you will find the information.

[00:08:10] So you can join these great free events. we still have the farmers market the winter's farmers market going so please if you get a chance on a saturday and stop by and support our small businesses uh all the businesses that are the farmers market and be ready for the full season that is coming along it is a beautiful day a beautiful weather with that i believe some neighbors are already working on their yard

[00:08:39] So please don't forget, if you already have your spring bug trying to do a spring cleaning and get ready at your house, we have these magnets that you can pick up from the public works when you pay or you can stop by and it will give you all the dates for the household hazard waste and secure documents shredding.

[00:09:06] So the first one will be in April 1st, and if you are putting your documents all together, the shredding will be on May 1st. I know it sounds far away, but it's never too early to be ready to take that stuff to do the appropriate disposal. The election is going on right now, so I just wanted to provide the information.

[00:09:27] There is a statewide special election, April 1st. I'm always proud to be the first one to vote, so please stop by. can vote absentee um you can request uh your ballot in the mail until friday the 10th uh there is also in voting uh in in-person voting days uh which is ongoing now from 8 30 a.m to 5 p.m the saturday voting will be april 11 and april 18 and the election this statewide special election

[00:09:59] will be april 21st so my ask is you know look up what's going on and uh show up if you can uh to vote make a difference um and continue to look at what we have i believe there is a lot of great events at the community center it's finally coming together and i believe it's starting to uh be a place uh to be i believe the yoga already has a waiting list so if you like doing zumba right now there is a class and every Monday if you like yoga you might have to sign up for a waiting list

[00:10:37] but there is a lot of events going on so please look into our great community center for all the events that they have going on um madam mayor that would be all my comments thank you so much thank you councilman hudson thank you madam mayor good evening everyone thank you for joining us i wanted to give a quick thank you to staff and also my fellow council members for a productive work session on Friday as Councilman Vasquez Luna mentioned are we are working on the budget now so absolutely open to comments and feedback as you all review that of course any of us are open to phone calls and emails at any

[00:11:13] point in time so would love to discuss and other than that madam air I don't have anything else unique to add so thank you for the time okay thank you for my time since everybody's being short we have the week conference this week I'm emceeding a panel emceeding the event and hosting a panel as well I will be chairing the mvta meeting this week um i have my sci-tech advisory board meeting this week um we have canceled the midday with the city manager mayor for this friday um as i will not be in town and then of course reminding everyone to go to the st patrick's day parade so um that's pretty much it for my time mr city manager turn it over to you thank you ma'am uh with the warm weather

[00:11:53] coming on uh the asphalt plants have reopened and are producing asphalt our street department will be repairing potholes throughout the city that developed over the winter. We appreciate your patience as this work continues, and please be aware that if you see a work zone, drive slowly through it and follow any guidance that is provided. Repairs to the rink at the Harris Pavilion are continuing. Construction is anticipated to be completed by the beginning of April. Our police department will be hosting the Parent E3 series about youth gambling awareness and

[00:12:30] Prevention at Osborne High School on Wednesday, March 18th from 5.30 p.m. to 8 p.m., and the 11th annual Prince William Manassas History Symposium will be held at the Manassas Museum on Saturday, March 21st from 8.30 to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for this all-day program. That's all that has.

[00:12:50] Okay, any questions for City Manager? Okay. If not, we'll move forward in the agenda. Number one our presentations item 1.1 is a proclamation honoring s Craig Brown city attorney vice mayor wolf

[00:13:02] We'll take care of that. So I was being given this task I think primarily I drew the short straw. No, the the real reason is I am the last member of the city council

[00:13:39] Serving that hired Craig and I have to say, you know, we'll see Pam and I think Cheryl We're here. We made a good choice. We did really really well and Craig did really, really well because he left Charlottesville in the mess that was down there to come here. Life's a lot easier in Manassas than it is in Charlottesville. On to the business at hand. Resolution R-2026-743, whereas Stephen Craig Brown was unanimously, wow, man, we did that unanimously, appointed by the Manassas City Council as the city's first in-house legal council

[00:14:19] and began his service to the city on February 20th, 2018. And whereas Mr. Brown brought to Manassas more than three years of municipal law experience with the city of Charlottesville, Virginia, where he served as assistant city attorney beginning in 1885, 1985, and later as city attorney starting in 2001.

[00:14:42] Whereas he earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Virginia and a Juris Doctor from Wake Forest University School of Law, has been admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Virginia, the United States District for the Western District of Virginia, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth District, and the United States Supreme Court.

[00:15:03] And, whereas during his tenure, Mr. Brown has provided consistent, sound legal counsel to the city council, city managers, department heads, and staff, helping the city navigate complex legal matters, ensuring that city actions were carried out in accordance with the law, and whereas his professionalism, institutional knowledge, and steady guidance have strengthened the city's governance and operations and reflect a distinguished career in public service spanning more than 40 years.

[00:15:34] Now, therefore, Michelle Davis Younger, the mayor of the city of Manassas, on behalf of the city council, does hereby commend and recognize Stephen Craig Brown for his dedicated service to the City of Manassas and extend our sincere appreciation and best wishes for health and

[00:15:51] happiness in your well-deserved retirement well done sir Vice mayor mayor council members mr.

[00:16:21] Burke thank you so much for this it it is it is really something I appreciate cherish for a long time and follow up on what vice mayor will said when i came here former vice mayor bass and former vice mayor sebesky were both on council and those three along with a number of other people including our senior most staff really made me understand pretty soon that i had made the right decision to to come here because of what Manassas is all about.

[00:16:58] And I am just very, very grateful that I chose this city as the next stop in my career. I have been incredibly fortunate to have two people that I think just epitomize dedication and hard work.

[00:17:19] And those are my colleagues, Rose Spring and Amelia May. So thank you both. You have not only given me tremendous support in my role as city attorney, but you've given me your friendship, and that will go with me in retirement.

[00:17:40] So, counsel, thank you. And I thank my wife and daughter, Vess, and my second daughter is not here tonight. They're a true blessing in my life.

[00:17:56] it has been an honor to represent you thank you and I hope I get the chance to see each one of you individually in this next few days thank you thank you moving forward in the agenda item 1.2 the MCPS school presentation for Baldwin elementary school and miss brush is gonna come up and introduce mr. Rupert principal hello everybody and congratulations again mr. Brown what a distinguished time of service you've had and it's been great the little bit of time that I've had to interact with you so congratulations to your service the

[00:18:35] city so I'm Sarah Brescia I'm from the Manassas City School Board and I am here to introduce mr. Rupert who is the principal of Baldwin Elementary School home of the Rockets and also home of the Brescia children two of my children attend there one in kindergarten and one in second grade although the second second grader is home right now with Lou B so that stinks anyway so I'll be reading today I usually like to rehearse but Lou B anyway my objective with you all this with the time I have with you now is to help you understand some of what mr. Rupert has done for Baldwin students and to showcase some of their

[00:19:11] academic success student academic success is after all the top priority of the Manasseh City Public School Board so some things I want to highlight last year the fourth grade team at Baldwin saw scores increased by 10 points both in reading and in math which is an incredible achievement in a single year and the kindergarten team at Baldwin is consistently one of the highest performing teams in the division on early literacy metrics. Baldwin earned an overall score of 77.6 on the state's new performance framework for the last school year which meant it was technically considered off-track. The

[00:19:47] threshold to be considered on-track is a score of 80 so they just missed it. So there's still work to do but the positive double-digit gains seen in the school and of course my confidence in Mr. Rupert's leadership give me a lot of hope that they will reach that on-track status very soon you also have to keep in mind this was a brand new framework with a lot of things that changed and we only found out about it

halfway through the school year so that too will help us meet that on-track status the school has seen a lot of real positive growth anyway I do not know what Mr. Rupert is about to say I have not seen his presentation but we did briefly talk in advance about how everything we need to

[00:20:25] do as a division supports student academic success so I'm looking forward to hearing his contribution tonight and allowing you all and myself more of a window into what he and the folks at Baldwin do to ensure that our students succeed. Thank you.

[00:20:50] - Thank you, Ms. Brescia. Madam Mayor, Vice Mayor Wolfe, Mr. Burke, City Council members, thank you so much for allowing me a little bit of time just to give a little snapshot at Baldwin Elementary, some of the things that we do, why we do it, and the specialness that's really there.

[00:21:07] So we're right here in the heart of old time Manassas and a lot of opportunities for our kids. So today we're gonna talk about orbiting beyond the curriculum. We are the home of the rockets, right? We're the only mascot in the city of Manassas that's not an animal.

[00:21:23] So we are the rockets and rockets are cool now. You know, we got Elon Musk and all these rocket stuff. So it's definitely a fun theme for our kids and our cadets and as they grow. So we'll talk a little bit about orbiting beyond just the curriculum. You know, the curriculum stuff is what Ms. Brescia talked a little bit about.

[00:21:41] and obviously student learning is at the top. But you can't have just student learning without great experiences and making sure kids feel loved and have a rounded out experience. So I'm gonna highlight some of those things that sometimes go unseen and unnoticed.

[00:21:58] So obviously we want our learners to have an environment that's alive, meaningful, filled with purpose. Be curious, build confidence in themselves, inspire possibility and collaborate build those interpersonal soft skills that they need as they grow. So the mission control is continuing with our rocket theme and space theme. Our mission control is the heart of everything that we do. That is our CLT process and how we plan our lessons and our teams work together to make sure that the BDOE

[00:22:32] the BDOE curriculum is being taught in a meaningful purposeful way. We're We're looking at kids by name and need and making sure that they're growing and addressing those things as a team. So we're a very collaborative team and very honored to lead this group at Baldwin.

[00:22:53] So, again, our CLTs, we meet Tuesdays and Wednesdays, one day a week, 65 minutes, and we plan for the rest of the week. And we take a look at data, we plan the curriculum, we make sure that everybody's teaching for equity and make sure our kids are getting what they need.

[00:23:09] so that is the basis of everything that we do but we're going to get into the little bit of some of the orbiting things so how do our rockets orbit beyond the curriculum we make sure that our students have authentic real-life experiences you're not going to learn by just reciting things back in the day when you know you're just being wrote you need to be in you need to be authentic maybe living things talking about things especially our learners so one of the first things I want to highlight is that we are a project lead the way school and And it's a lot of work.

[00:23:43] All of our new staff members need to go through an intensive 16-hour course to become an instructor. And Project Lead the Way, we are a distinguished school for the last five years. So Project Lead the Way have particular modules. So our kids get to, in each grade level, get to participate in two different

modules that spur their inquiry skills, just offer different opportunities for predictions, hypotheses, reflections on what they thought, they now know and what how they can take that forward so by the time they're out of Baldwin in five in the five grades with the two modules obviously that's

[00:24:20] ten different experiences they get for different different types of things that we adapt the curriculum and you know project lead the way is a big thing across the country we are one of 282 project lead the way distinguished schools in the nation that was a couple of years ago we couldn't pin down that number I know it's getting more popular and more and more schools are doing it But I just want to let you know there's some special things that are going on at Baldwin Elementary very unique Just some examples of the kids really they get to do project-based learning things that are fun and Just put put their learning into action another example just others

[00:24:59] I have two recent examples in here just to kind of show you we have activities all the time at school that are a little bit outside The the curriculum that we bring in the curriculum we had baked for good with It's a program for our fourth graders where a representative from King Arthur Baking Company came down from Massachusetts, sent pallets of flour down with the yeast and the kits, and did a demonstration in front of the kids.

[00:25:29] It almost looked like the Food Network. I never saw something like that. I said, man, I might be able to do that in my kitchen. But then the kids actually got to see it, and they see these things on TV. So they watched the demonstration, and they were able to take flour home. We sent it home, made sure the parents had approval.

[00:25:46] We sent the flour and the yeast home, and we asked the kids over the weekend to make a loaf for themselves and make a loaf for someone else and give it away. And that was another part of the message is that we need to share. We need to be able to create our own skills, create our own food, and also be sharing in our community.

[00:26:06] So it was a pretty cool event. Again, you know, when you take a look at some of this stuff, we have our CLTs where we're creating and doing the BDOE types of things. But the other life skills that they learn and we can incorporate also in, you know, there's tons of math stuff that was in there, fractions and measurement and just all of those things that kind of get in, kind of build that rounded out experience for our kids.

[00:26:28] So it was an exciting time, just something I wanted to highlight. And as you can see, there's the setup. And we had it displayed in our gym. And then we had some kiddos send pictures and families send pictures over the weekend.

[00:26:45] That's Mr. Norwin up there on the right. He's a fourth-grade teacher. He took advantage of it as well. So a very cool experience. Also, just last week, we had family science night. It's a rotation-based type of thing that kids get to come around and learn different science concepts and hands-on things, shoot some rockets, figure out how to engineer, just kind of, again, that outside-the-box, that orbiting, where it's going to, you know, motivate things, and sometimes things click, right?

[00:27:16] So the Science Night was designed to do that, and we had a huge turnout, which we were very excited about. And that was based with, in coordination with the Children's Science Center lab. Just family engagement overall at Baldwin.

[00:27:33] We have a PTO that is a small group that are very mighty, and they are just really dedicated to our kiddos and making sure that the experiences that we have at Baldwin being right here in the heart of Manassas is taken care of. So some different things that we've had for family engagement, we have a multicultural night that was based on our back-to-school night.

[00:27:55] So, I mean, it was slam-packed with all kind of really good food and celebrations and music and dancing. And then we had our holiday breakfast with the Grinch, if any of you were able to kind of hear or see about that. But it was just a major blowout, huge success. The Grinch came, not just Santa, but the Grinch, actually.

[00:28:11] So that's fun. You guys, if you're around in the fall, you know that we do Bonanza every fall. You see the tours going through the city of Manassas with the wagon. I mean, where else do you get that experience besides in the city?

[00:28:26] And we do PEP, Parents Educational Partners. Just being here, it's really special. We have walking field trips to the museum. The museum's always updating things. The museum always involves us. Our kindergartners built trees, if you saw that, for the displays over the wintertime.

[00:28:47] And our chorus sang at the tree lighting for the last few years, which is a very cool experience for kids. And not everybody gets those. And the city of Manassas is a very special place where kids get special opportunities. They really do. So here's just a few examples of our events, dances.

[00:29:08] And, you know, just overall, as Ms. Brescia says, student academic success is really where we're shooting for. And in the city, we have pillars, right? And strong family partnerships is one of them. And you can't get the student academic success just by rote things and just by teaching. You need to round out the child.

[00:29:25] So I really do think it's important to shine some of these things and highlight some of these things that we do because we have very special students and a very special staff. I'd like to thank Susie Frischhorn. She's our PLTW lead. She's here, does a lot of work, and my instructional facilitator, who is the main mission control driver of our academic success and lessons, Donna Johansson-Cross.

[00:29:46] They're very dedicated members of my team, and I just appreciate them being here. support that's all so thank you for your time thank you mr. Ruppert any comments or questions council members thank you for the presentation I've heard a project lead the way but I'm not really familiar with it what is the process to get the school to be involved in that or to be like you said a project lead the way school yeah so it happened over numerous years dr. Goldzong former school of Baldwin started the process and it takes a lot of training your teachers need to have that need to have that training so be able to build that

[00:30:25] and keep your attention and kind of when you have teacher retention and building those types of things and making sure we're matching our curriculum with the Virginia Department of Education's curriculum and modifying it to make it a great experience it takes some coordination some planning some training and different types of things and then really built from the bottom up we find the modules that fit and we think will be best for that grade level. They offer 50 modules, but we can't do them all. So making sure that we coordinate that. And then just continue the training, plan in the CLT to adapt it, and really carry out those things. And it's really, at that

[00:31:04] point, it's letting the kids be creative and you get to see all the cool stuff that their minds bring out. Thank you again, and thank you for letting me invade you on the 25th with my special guest the

governor came um absolutely wonderful day and wonderful time spent and i know it was a lot to get all the stuff ahead of time for her visit but um the letters i got today were amazing from the kids and i thought it was really timely that they would write all the why do you want to be mayor and is it hard being mayor and so it was really great getting the letters and saying also how much they enjoyed having the governor come and read to the kindergartners and then we went

[00:31:43] to the third grade and fourth grade classes so thank you so much for the effort because I know that was like a last minute she's coming and then it's like chaos so you were you just rolled right along with it and thank you so much for that it was a wonderful wonderful day and for the special gifts from me as well I really appreciate it all the support always really really love what you're doing there so you can't go anywhere you have to stay but thank you so much for everything we're always here to support you know that appreciate that it was an honor and they expect that you're gonna write them back. Oh, okay. I got a lot of work to do. I wasn't expecting that. Okay. I do have to answer the questions, right? Maybe a couple of them. All right. Thank you so much for that. Thank you so much for

[00:32:22] being here. Good. Good. Okay. Next on the agenda, we have item 1.3, which is a proclamation for Developmental Disability Awareness Month. And Prince William County Community Services Board representatives are here. I'll come down front and you can join me. Hello. Hello. Yes. I'm going to

[00:32:58] read the proclamation and then all of you can say something or one of you can speak on behalf of all however you want to do it is up to you so and the proclamation reads whereas children and adults with developmental disabilities constitute one of America's largest group of citizens with disabilities and whereas people with developmental disabilities are valuable members of society and can gain greater independence and productivity through community support and partnership with them their families community programs and elected representatives who share a common vision of improving the quality of life of all of its citizens through development of needed resources

[00:33:36] and opportunities and whereas developmental disability awareness month provides the opportunity for all to recognize the tremendous value and potential of people with developmental disabilities and to recommit and dedicate ourselves to the empowerment integration employment and inclusion of each one of these citizens and whereas the manassas city council is committed to empowering and supporting persons with developmental disabilities to achieve self-determined lifestyles through community-based living arrangements employment and other individualized support services now therefore i'm michelle davis younger mayor of the city manassas virginia

[00:34:13] and on behalf of the manassas city council hereby proclaim the month of march 2026 as developmental disability awareness month in the city of manassas and call upon all citizens community agencies faith groups medical facilities and businesses to commit to the empowerment and full inclusion of these individuals in all aspects of community life congratulations we're always grateful for the continued support of the city of manassas for the citizens that have disabilities we're grateful for the continued work that we have to do

[00:34:53] for all citizens to make sure that everything is equitable in regards to services and resources so thank you i'm i'm jacqueline turn i'm the division manager for developmental disabilities in prince william county community services and i have been there for 38 years so these are the program managers that came on board in the past two years and getting them on board for taking over thank you guys for that but

thanks to the community and all the service providers and families that we work with for working together in a collaborative manner so thank you

[00:36:08] item 1.4 is department annual report for public works mr mike is here to help us with that good evening sir good evening madam mayor mr vice mayor mr burke members of council it's my honor

[00:36:23] tonight to represent our public works department for our annual 2025 review we're sending out welcome letters at the beginning of each and every month to new utility startups explaining

[00:36:59] in the collection days, how they get their bulky items picked up, and how to request a new trash cart or replace existing broken trash carts. And we also have earned the Keep Manassas Beautiful, earned the Keep America Beautiful President's Circle Award for the third year in a row. Congratulations. And the city of Manassas also exceeded the mandated 25% recycling rate with a rate of 40%. For 2026, we're working on implementing a new web-based and mobile phone application where residents can look up their collection days, create a push reminder reminding them to send their carts out to the curb on time, schedule both the items, request to exchange their

[00:37:36] trash and recycling carts, and utilize the what goes where feature, making it easier for them to know what they can and cannot be recycled, and where to take their household as a resource.

[00:37:58] Every year 2025, what are some of the major accomplishments of the maintenance department? The major ones, we acquired four all-electric vehicles, and we put two Level 3 charges over at the safety facility, and we have two charging, Level 2 charges over here at the Public Works.

[00:38:19] Excellent, we'll see how those vehicles hold up in our fleet, sounds good. We got a new armored vehicle for the police department. What can we look for out of the 2026 from the department? We plan on investing about \$2.8 million in new vehicles. We manage the pavement of Liberia Avenue from the overpass all the way out to the city limits of Hastings.

[00:38:54] We also were oversight for the Old Town Inn parking lot pavement. Oh yeah, that extra parking is definitely needed in Old Town, so thank you. It's definitely been utilized, that's for sure. For sure. We also, Church Street, there from the firehouse up to West Street.

[00:39:11] Yep. The intersection was also paved and then 25. For in-house asphalt work, our in-house crew did over 1,400 tons of patching in Section 11 in preparation for FY26 pavement that should start this summer.

[00:39:27] Other than that, our in-house stormwater crew, we did 80-foot of 18-inch stormwater pipe. Our in-house concrete crew connected the King's Landing sidewalk along Hastings from Godwin to the Round School Handicap Ramp.

[00:39:48] This fall, we've picked up over 1,000 tons of leaves from city residents. You know, the biggest thing, I think, for the year, we navigated that big storm last January, 5th and 6th, where, you know, we got 8 to 10 inches of snow, and then the deep freeze that followed, you know, that lasted, I think that was another four or five days, you know, continuous seven-day, 24-hour shifts that our guys, you know, helped keep the residents moving throughout the city.

[00:40:18] We have a lot more pavement, a lot of streets in Section 11. Our in-house concrete crew should be back to solving some of the trip hazards. We'll be test pitting for FY27 paving, and Stormwater will continue to monitor our infrastructure for our stormwater systems.

[00:40:54] Intersection, do not record. They're just for traffic monitoring purposes for our system. if somebody complains and you know of a complaint we can pull them up and we can see what's going on next thing we have is our signal system where we can actually see monitor our intersections showing whether they're red green whether they're cycling properly we have a new update coming in 2026 that will help optimize all of our intersections and also this will be our new cloud-based hub once that system goes in effect in 2026 this year we can make modifications for timings for like we

[00:41:31] We need to extend a lot of green time due to accident reports or some reason they've got to close the road. We can go in and make adjustments to the intersection. We've upgraded two intersections, Prince William and Grant, and Grant and Center to full operational all updated intersection poles, signals, cabinets, and everything at that intersection.

[00:41:53] And we also have had upgrade to audible push buttons throughout the city at six locations as of right now, that basically for the people that are blind that can actually push and know where they're going in directions.

[00:42:08] and that's been upgraded. We did some updates to signal heads at Prince William of Wellington. We did a planned speed advisory sign on Main Street near Prince William. It's part of a project that's forthcoming in the near future for traffic calming issues.

[00:42:29] And then there's a big thing that they did this year for a big improvement for bike lanes on Dumfries Road. We also added in Orchard and Dumfries. We added in the bike lane signal heads to direct the people on each side of that bike lane because both directions had to make changes and modifications to the signal so that you stop traffic on the main line so that the bike trail could be used.

[00:42:52] We do a lot of signs every year, and we probably upgrade new signs and damaged signs probably a hundred a year, maybe. Also went into GTS and did some stop bar and some stop symbol refresh, a cross hash markings on West Street at the railroad tracks to help with identifying that there's a railroad track and you can't block the railroad tracks, and also to help where people won't turn on to the railroad tracks.

[00:43:22] We also did a crosswalk at Main Street and Bartow as a temporary until the road construction project is finished. You know, 26-year optimization and our signal system will be up and running. We'll be upgraded to full master on poles in 2026.

[00:43:49] Achievements, or for one, I'll say you can keep in the grass mode, but the city looking good as always. We had a veterans bench installed at the Roselle Cemetery. did the grounds work for that and leveled it and sod it and everything so it looked good for the presentation they had we had a windstorm taking on a sizable tree that blew into a resident's swimming pool oh my we took down a uh his decorative fence there so we had that removed and got to do our partnership work and rebuilt a pretty uh pretty nice fence well what are we

[00:44:21] looking for in 26 are you guys uh there again keeping the grass moat and uh we do have a schedule to do a lot of work in manassas cemetery and the rose hill to you know do upkeep pretty much tree trim and stuff like that to keep it looking nice in there for the city community okay so this year we built an expansion pollinator garden at fairview okay and uh just in front of the men's middle school um we are looking to expand that in years come so it'll be ever growing on that on that parcel okay um so that's for everyone to enjoy and learn something too because we're building

[00:44:59] an old path to go along with it oh nice um 2025 was a big year of tree removals a lot of storms lot of hazardous trees. 2026 is going to be replanting of those areas and then also remaining keeping up with the hazards along with them. 2025 we spent a lot of our time at the community center just getting everything ready for the public. We moved our shop over there so we're stationed

[00:45:37] over there. It's just a lot of code issues and just getting everything back up to kind of how it should be over the years we had a couple major components fail over there so there was a lot of time spent over there doing that we did a lot with the Piedmont building moving staff back and forth just kind of you know they needed to move this way we would move them around and we finally got them all situated where they needed to be several rooftop renovations HVAC renovations and to put a new unit in the council chambers to make up for the lack of

[00:46:14] cooling the renovation. Very much appreciated for sure. Yeah so we started the animal control renovation which is a major facelift for the building that's kind of been the same for the last 20 years so we started on that and then we finished our LED lighting upgrade for pretty much all the parking lots and building lights. So 2026 we started the ice rink so that's going to be that's going to be a big one early on in 2026. Gotcha. So they they closed the bathrooms we're to try to do like a bathroom renovation we'll do that in-house the ice rink is contracted out but

[00:46:51] we'll do that in-house and try to get it all nice so when they open it back up everything looks new so and then we're going to do the same thing at the museum the bathrooms didn't get down at the museum so we're going to renovate those bathrooms the old bathrooms at the museum things that we do and things that we have done in public works okay thank you thank you council members any questions comments mr smith i do have comments thank you doesn't say it all

[00:47:31] it's one of the things i've noticed i alluded to it at our meeting last friday is that we appreciate what you and your staff is doing and and so much so often that's based on what we see in our day-to-day lives just driving down the street and so forth one of a very private moment in my life occurred when they we had the dedication the veterans dedication of the bench over at rose hill cemetery and should imagine i was standing together and people walking up for

[00:48:09] the moment and stayed in the moment but they were so impressed with what the staff had done in terms of making it such a pleasant sight and decorating it was very proud because a proud moment because several people indicated man the city really has taken care of things and that's That's reinforced, again, for me in your showings, and I appreciate that the report included in a prominent way what happens to get the trucks on the street.

[00:48:41] I mean, we alluded to it, I mentioned it the other day, in January, you had staff who had to first dig ice out of their own driveways to get here at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning, dig ice out of workshop driveway, and get ice off of the trucks, and then come out and work cheerfully with the community.

[00:49:05] And so I commend you, and having had personal experience in watching it and reactions to community concerns during the last snow, I commend you and I thank you. And council members, we can be very proud residents.

[00:49:21] We should be very proud of our utility staff. Again, thank you for that report because it emphasizes what really puts a picture on how important and how valuable the work your staff does and what this entails and the kind of people that we have on our staff there.

[00:49:41] Thank you again. Thank you, Mr. Smith, for the kind words. I'll be sure to share it with the staff. Vice Mayor. Yeah, I just want to go in the same vein because every time I go visit my daughter in Baltimore, I'm reminded how good we have it here. And quality of life is a lot of things.

[00:49:59] And the addition of our facilities and our streets and mowing the grass and all that is a significant part of it. And I'm reminded of an event that happened 10 days ago, a week, two weeks ago, where we had a sinkhole develop on Godwin Drive in the evening.

[00:50:20] And I guarantee if this was Baltimore or most other places that most it would have been, oh, let's put some cones out and we'll come back and get it in two or three weeks. Your people, your team responded in time, in the evening, off hours, filled the pothole or the sinkhole, hatched it, had the road back operating.

[00:50:42] I mean, I drove, I think it started like 7 or 7.30 in the evening. I drove past it at 9 o'clock at night, and it was done. That's insanely good service. So thank you very, very much. Ms. Vasquez-Luna.

[00:50:58] Thank you, Madam Mayor. I just want to echo the Council Member Smith and also our Vice Mayor's sentiment. And I'll please say thanks to all the staff for the hard work. I do believe there is a part of it that we don't, sometimes we don't realize, is how much is done in-house and how much money is saved and how fast it can be done because it's done in-house.

[00:51:21] So I really want to, especially for the ice and storm, which it was unbelievable. But thank you for them keeping our city so beautiful, especially the downtown area and the flowers and everything on time and also for the high level of safety as well.

[00:51:42] Thank you so much. Any other, Ms. Ellison and Ms. Delcino? Thank you. Yeah, thank you for the presentation. You all are very busy people and keep our city moving forward and beautiful. And I do know that the arborist, I'm not sure who else at Public Works takes care of some of our important designations that keeps our Manassas City beautiful.

[00:52:07] We're B-City USA. That's a comprehensive report that has to be submitted every year in order to keep that designation. And I know that we, you know, actually got some recognition with the National Wildlife Federation for some photos that we had in the city of the monarch butterfly costumes of kids, and they're using it to promote their organization with Manassas City recognized, which I think is great.

[00:52:34] Also keep Manassas beautiful. That's a huge plus for our city. We participate with that. And our Tree City USA. Do we have any other designations? I was trying to think if there are any more of those. I think you just about covered them all.

[00:52:50] Okay. And I do appreciate the staff working with Solid Waste, our beautification committee, our residents that contribute their time and work with staff to keep some of those initiatives moving forward. So just to remind everyone, we have our Manassas Bee Festival June 20th.

[00:53:08] And I do – this is starting. But I know that we have our historic gardens at Liberia House that need a lot of you know tending to and i think that the the public works comes through for us to get that to where it needs to be to bring in those thousands of visitors to our city um so just wanted to thank everyone for keeping our city beautiful from your department thank you mr osina thank you mayor um so you know i think one of one of the things that our our residents always appreciate

[00:53:45] is how your department gets our city ready for various festivals and change of seasons. You know, when Fourth of July comes, putting up the American flags, when Christmas is coming, putting up the various ornaments and decorations in Old Town and the various banners for Veterans Day and other occasions there, and that takes some time and effort, but all of that being done, And that kind of changes the seasons for our city and also kind of shows that, you know,

[00:54:22] all the different things that are going on in our little town like that here. I also wanted to, one thing you neglected to put in there, which was pretty thorough, is the continuing education that many of your department employees go through here.

[00:54:43] I left several of them down in Richmond today at an IMSA traffic training, traffic control training program along the way. And that the city is able not only to send them, but they do go to be certified and be trained to recognize that there's a lot more involved than just jumping on a truck and driving around isn't there in that case.

[00:55:09] And for them to invest the time to do that sort of thing. Off the top of your head, and if not, do you know the longest-serving employee? How long, how many years some of our employees, or give us a range?

[00:55:28] I'm going to have to say Fred Brown in our utilities department is probably one of our longest-serving members down at the Public Works Complex. And just guessing? Forty years. Forty years. Wow. Just a tad younger than me on that.

[00:55:44] But that's pretty good to be working at the same place. And that does say a lot about their work here. So please convey, I'm sure you just heard all of our thanks and appreciation for everything that they do along the way here. Thank you. I'll be certainly shared with the team.

[00:56:03] Ms. Vasquez-Luna. Thank you, Madam Mayor. My apologies. Two things. You still have the inter working at the maintenance? Yes, ma'am. I think, you know, it's great that, you know, one student, hopefully in the future we can do more but it's already, you know, a lot and I thank you. I know it takes extra work but it's also getting that person ready to do the work that you guys do all the years. So thank you.

[00:56:30] And then I thought the council member Rosina was going to say it but I have to say thank you to the staff. The app works great. I'm able to, whether it's a street light that got to be fixed or it's a pothole or anything that is going on, I go on the app and I upload the, you know, the address and all the information that I can.

[00:56:52] So please, please thank them for that and also for keeping us informed as the ticket is resolved. They send e-mails and they let us know if that is resolved. So please, you know, I would like to make sure that we share that because sometimes, you know, we can't reach in the phone, the department, But we're able to upload everything, and then the appropriate staff get to see it.

[00:57:16] So I just want to make sure that you thank them for the great job they do in that. Yes, ma'am. We'll do. Thanks so much. Any other comments, questions? Thank you very much for everything. Thank you for your time. Thanks for being here. Next on the agenda is Item 1.5, Department Annual Report for Social Services.

[00:57:37] Ms. Curvin is here. Good evening, ma'am. Good evening, Madam Mayor.

[00:57:54] Davis Younger, Vice Mayor Wolfe, City Council, and City Manager Burke. I just wanted to let you know that, needless to say, I thought about this long and hard as to what was I going to come up here and tell you about this year. Social services, we've done a lot in the last couple of years.

[00:58:10] And needless to say, looking at FY25, I kind of pondered for a moment because there were so many things that we did. But it was really Friday that I actually took a moment, took a pause. I got to the community center a little early, and I was kind of watching, and I was walking down the halls, and I was listening to folks.

[00:58:28] And they were talking about, you know, how this is a great place, how, you know, back in the day it used to be a school, and the kids that were there, and the wonderful things that they were taught, and the lessons that they learned. And I sat for a moment, and I thought to myself, and needless to say, a flood of different phrases from poems started to hit.

[00:58:50] And I said, you know what, I'm going to go with that today. So as I was listening to that chatter, I thought, let's think for a minute. What did I get as a child in growing up? What was the things that was most important to me?

[00:59:06] And I'm not going to give you a whole bunch of phrases. Why? Because I'm not going to date myself too much. But I'll give you a little bit. I'll give you two. Rather it be, life for me ain't been no crystal stair. Or it be, I'm the master of my fate. I'm the captain of my soul.

[00:59:23] Needless to say, these were things that we looked at as kids in learning along the way. The community center is now giving that next step of hope. And so particularly as kids, we were taught to dream, to persevere, to have hope, empathy, and passion, and to live, to overcome, and to succeed.

[00:59:47] That comes along with a lot of failures. That comes with a lot of work, two steps forward, one step back, trying to make it work. But you know what? Our Department of Social Services office continues to do just that in providing that level of service, giving that individual, that resident, the needed ability to persevere through trying times.

[01:00:11] So I just wanted to acknowledge and make certain that everyone has the opportunity to see my staff. This is the Department of Social Services. If you could raise your hand. Come up here, I present, but guess what? All that work is done by that team.

[01:00:33] They work day in and day out, quietly behind the scenes and making certain that things get done. And needless to say, I truly value and I appreciate that from them. And when I say I truly value and appreciate, I have to ask myself, what are some of the things that we have done?

[01:00:51] So our customer service team received 14,330 calls last year. They also had 15,576 walk-ins. This is being able to have that smiling face, being able to make certain that individual gets what they need, being connected with the right services at the right time.

[01:01:14] We had our benefit program specialists. They, throughout the entire year, kept at a 97% compliance rate of ensuring that folks were able to eat, utilizing the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program. Last year was a different year. We also had an emergency program, the Virginia Emergency Nutrition Assistance, the VENA.

[01:01:34] So on top of not just processing cases to ensure that they had regular services, they also had to process cases to ensure that they actually had emergency services. And then on top of that, being able to

ensure that they were still monitoring Medicaid so folks could go to the hospital when they needed.

[01:01:53] They did all this without any additional support, any additional overtime hours. They worked through the adversity. Our family services team returned a child home, making certain that there was reunification, which is something that we try to ensure. But when we can't, our family services steps up to the plate again.

[01:02:11] They ensured that two children were adopted last year as well. We also had a new program that came online, which was opioid abatement. And we all wanted to know, what are we going to do about this fentanyl? Well, our opioid abatement harm reduction specialist got in there, was able to navigate getting bags out to let folks know about overdose information flyers and post overdose bags. What do you need? The Narcan. How to use the Narcan. They also participated in the National Fentanyl Prevention Awareness Day. And then we've also created a strong relationship with the schools in making certain that we have a voice when it comes to Manassas City Public Schools safe and healthy at

[01:02:50] School Advisory Committee. Our housing team, you know what, they stepped up to the place again one out of 121 localities within the state of Virginia they were able to pilot a program here in looking at a voucher base and then being able to look through which has been our most difficult hurdle is our children's services act csa that team has worked to ensure that every child has been served in the city of Manassas there has been no wait list we have made certain from day in and day out if there's a child that's in need that we have provided those services and it has been

[01:03:30] through the support of city council we have also ensured that looking at it all different ways of measurement and ensuring how to financially kind of meet the needs of these children looking at it from outside the box from revenue outside of DSS to revenue within DSS being able to look at it as to how we could meet those children's needs now as a whole they didn't miss a beat you always saw us out there for a community event from the Bee Festival to school resources those were some of the things that we did and on top of that as stated before that was during building renovations

[01:04:09] making certain that we moved from one spot of the building as they renovated to the other spot of the building so although life for our vulnerable residents ain't been no crystal stairs our officials have our office have had solid stairs in which we teach residents to climb our officials have been able to step and support us along the way to ensure that those steps are there.

[01:04:32] We now have a renovated elevator and lights to fight against the dark. Utmost, we have the team to support and encourage the most vulnerable residents in our community to be the masters of their faith. As I close, I'll offer the video as a tool that captures the essence of the DSS work that we do.

[01:04:57] The presentation in the video is awesome.

[01:14:02] Good work. And you're a consultant on it, so you got a second job. Go back to the beginning of your presentation. You gave a couple of statistics. Number of walk-ins, phone calls.

[01:14:22] That's 30,000 interactions a year, which is 120 a day, every day. You all deserve a raise. God bless you. Thank you. Thank you. Mr. Smith.

[01:14:38] Thank you. Mike, you notice that part of the film with the balloon, the ribbon cutting, I mean, there were smiles throughout the film, but trust me, the smiles on the day of ribbon cutting was in full appreciation for what your staff did.

[01:14:55] They tolerated the moving up and down, moving ahead and out and all of that, but they fully appreciated it on that opening day. Madam Mayor and staff, that group across the back row there and the group, the people that they represent tonight, just a bunch of tremendous people.

[01:15:15] So as you may know, my career of federal government was overseeing a national network of service providers and so forth. And in doing that, I interacted with not every state's Department of Social Services, but many, including Manassas back then.

[01:15:37] And I would have to say that the group that I've worked with over the last two years ranked very, very high, if not on the top. I don't want to boast too much, but they're very high in the services they provide, the number of interactions per day. And we don't know how they feel internally, but at the end of the day, when they come out the door, you don't see the frustration on their faces.

[01:16:02] It's just incredible, the dedication that the staff has. And I've observed many staffs doing that kind of work. And it works on you emotionally because you feel bad for the people you have to serve, and it wears on you, trust me.

[01:16:18] But I have to attribute it to your leadership, your co-leadership, and your dedicated staff, that you do things like the trinkets and the Halloween and stuff to show them that they matter. Because trust me, they matter.

[01:16:36] And I know people who are receiving the benefits from it fully appreciate it. And you make them feel as human as they deserve to be treated. So thank you so much. Thank you, Madam Mayor.

[01:16:52] Well, I want to say thank you. know you bring dignity and you know you provide all the services that you can and all your staff and it's great to see them here supporting you i wanted to ask you do you have a number i believe in the winter you know it's always cold but you do account for the homeless uh and sometimes you know that is i mean to me that is important do you have a number for that we're waiting on the official number at this point in time but i can get that over to you um it was for all different territories we did have a wonderful team and one of our advising board members who actually went out

[01:17:28] in the middle of the night and counted um ice and green coal um needless to say we uh they went out with socks they went out with hats blankets to make certain that individuals would be able to stay warm and to feel the dignity implied that knowing that someone is out there and someone I think I appreciate it. And the last thing, I know that some of the residents are concerned when it comes to social services and the changes, whether it's from Washington, D.C. or from the state.

[01:18:03] and as we go through the budget process, that's going to be, you know, in the top of the priorities. I might ask if, and I hope I don't overstep, you know, I know that our manager has already presented, but is there anything specific that worries you that might be coming down, a big change?

[01:18:27] The one thing that I would say about change, that's the only thing that's constant. At the end of the day, we have learned to navigate. We do more but less. When we have extra resources, guess what? We get them out there as much as we best can.

[01:18:44] Our biggest thing is partnering with the community. So our worries is making certain that we are remaining linked hand-in-hand in getting this goal done, and we've been able to do that. I feel very supported by city council. Definitely have much support from our city manager as well as our deputy city

manager in trying to ensure that we meet those needs so at this point in time our biggest thing is just it's the unknown it's always that scared that's there but guess what they're prepared they're ready they're confident they're stable we've seen these faces throughout the years we will be here

[01:19:19] we will get it done thank you and my last comment will be thank you to the three departments that our chief actually leaves because uh they work together in the time of need whether it's a fire or any need, and I, you know, I truly appreciate it because it doesn't matter the time of the day, you know, or the weather, you're always there and you're working together, and I believe one of the special places that you make, the money lasts or extends so much is when you're

[01:19:51] working with a non-profit, and, you know, you do so much to make sure that people get as much as possible and i i just wanted to say so the residents uh see that because you know when i learn about that you know how everybody's working and doing their best you know it just makes me so proud in the necessary way thank you thank you any other comments questions well thank you miss pervin you know the love is all around for social services it really does take the right people in the right time in the right place and you have to have the right heart for it as well

[01:20:27] which i believe all of you do um you wouldn't be doing it if you didn't want to be there and to help and it really is so greatly appreciated you already know i reach out to you sometimes midnight one o'clock in the morning when people are texting me i'm like let me get in the cold and you say that's what i'm here for mayor that's what i'm going to do and you always consistently step up and then your team as well we're just so so grateful to have you and all of the dedicated people in social services and and just can't say enough about all the work that you all do

[01:21:02] you're amazing you're amazing people amazing team and i hope the elevator is working good now because i i remember how horrible that was glad the elevator got done we're doing good good good okay well thank you so much for for being here and for the presentation it was really good and thorough thank you so much all right madam i mean i just mr smith has something else social service people

[01:21:31] I just want to leave you guys with a quote that I thought about you when I came across it several months ago.

[01:21:52] And if I may, Madam Mayor, I've taken it. Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity.

[01:22:12] It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, and a stranger into a friend. That was Melody Beatty some time ago. That's how I feel you guys approach your task.

[01:22:32] Thank you. All right. Moving forward in the agenda, next up is, sorry, my iPad jumped on me, on Fire and Rescue, Item 1.6, Department Annual Report for Fire and Rescue.

[01:22:52] I think Mills is going to come down for that.

[01:23:03] Good evening, Madam Mayor, members of the City Council, City Manager Burke, citizens and guests.

[01:24:03] I'm Edward Mills, Fire Chief for the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue System. Tonight, I will highlight some of our accomplishments from 2025. While we cannot cover everything, our dedicated members serve the community every day, responding to emergencies, training, conducting safety inspections, visiting our schools and businesses, updating pre-plans, and maintaining our equipment.

[01:24:33] As part of the FY2026 budget, Council approved an EMS Battalion Chief to oversee the EMS operations, regulatory compliance of our pharmacy, training, and quality improvement, along with one funded firefighter position to support Engine 501 staffing as we continue to work towards full 24-hour staffing.

[01:25:08] Despite seven resignations and one retirement in 2025, we currently have only one vacancy, the closest we have been to full staffing since 2011. From the 97 applicants who applied, we ultimately hired 16 firefighters, evenly split between advanced life support and BLS basic life support care providers.

[01:25:35] In addition to these positions, we also hired our new operational medical director, Dr. Andrew Forgash, who has hit the ground running and already introduced new advanced skills for our providers who are currently providing those new skills and services to our citizens.

[01:25:55] Volunteer staffing remains a challenge, with both the Greater Manassas Volunteer Rescue Squad and Manassas Volunteer Fire Company facing recruitment and retention difficulties. Despite this, volunteers continue to play a vital role through emergency response, community outreach, food and toy drives, and public events.

[01:26:21] The contributions our volunteers make to our community are second to none. Our Fire Marshal's Office has remained extremely active, completing over 1,000 inspections, 128 plan reviews, 115 investigations, and generating \$165,000 in permit revenue that helps support the funding for the Fire and Rescue Department.

[01:26:48] Our fire marshals also made four arrests and handled all investigative and court responsibilities independently. Our emergency management conducted 37 exercises, supported special events, completed a full web EOC transition, trained new planning section chiefs, updated the planning T operational guide, and supported regional incident response.

[01:27:20] Our cert team added four additional new members and expanded their role in community outreach. In 2025, the department responded to 7,473 calls, with 81% of those being EMS-related.

[01:27:41] Our average response time was 5 minutes and 3 seconds. Mutual aid remains essential. We provided mutual aid over 3,000 times and received aid nearly as often in return.

[01:27:58] Our EMS performance metrics show strong outcomes including community CPR involvement and continued monitoring of our patient care indicators. Training remains the foundation of our success.

[01:28:14] members have completed extensive training in EMS, technical rescue, leadership and development skills, along with aircraft, airport, rescue, firefighter training, strengthening our operational readiness and regional partnerships. Community outreach also remained a priority. Members participated in smoke alarm campaigns, public education events, summer camp, and numerous community programs, all reflecting our shared commitment to protecting and serving the city

[01:28:52] of Manassas. In closing, whether career or volunteer, every member of our system serves with pride and dedication to this community. Thank you for your continued support and I stand ready to answer any questions. Thank you. It's just a snapshot of a lot of what we do. I could have stood up here for two or three hours and told you about everything And that has happened this year.

[01:29:24] Thank you. So ready to answer any questions you have. Council members, any? Mr. Osin. Is there anyone from the Greater Manassas Volunteer Fire Company here?

[01:29:41] Yes. We have Jason Lesnick, who is the president, Dave McAndrews, who is the chairman of the board. They also both sit on the Volunteer Fire Company Foundation, who is very instrumental in supporting us with many events, being able to support us with furniture needs, equipment needs, things like that, that are small cost items that we can go to and ask for their support, and they graciously give it to us.

[01:30:14] Good to see you folks. I know you do a lot. I understand the Easter Bunny's coming, right? Okay, over to the Station 1 along the way.

[01:30:30] A little plug there for you. Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, I should say, right? Yes. All right, I'll see you there, Chief, okay? I'll be there. We'll have pancakes or something. So, you know, we've certainly heard about, you know, what's going on over at the airport and the various, you know, fire preparedness that has to take place.

[01:30:53] Has there been any necessity to do any kind of specialized training for data centers? So part of what we're doing with our technical rescue, because of the size of the data centers, the batteries involved in there, the equipment, we have done an internal risk assessment, taking a look at what things are going on in the city with the growth of the city, with the data centers, with the combined space entries, And we did an internal risk assessment to identify what else we need to be prepared for.

[01:31:28] And the technical rescue aspect, the high angle rescues with rope, confined space rescue, trench rescue during a lot of the construction, being able to understand what happens in the data centers with a lot of the servers, the batteries that are there.

[01:31:48] A lot of what we found out is they have specialized equipment and they're highly secure. They're not that easy to get into, and a lot of times the best thing we can do is ask to go to the control room first because of the security systems they have within those centers, and we can see the area that's involved, and they have internal suppression means they have carts that you can take their specialized fire extinguishers for their equipment and enter these areas to put the fire out,

[01:32:26] or they have already installed extinguishing agents that would displace the oxygen that also helps preserve their equipment because we're not putting water on them and we're not putting a lot of corrosive material on them.

[01:32:45] So working with them is essential and being able to get in those fire control rooms and identify what's going on and be guided by the experts on the scene about what needs to be done. And there may be a time that they say, we'll just stand by for right now and let the systems work and go from there.

[01:33:04] And that way we're not exposing people to extremely oxygen-deficient atmospheres unnecessarily. Even though we have air tanks, it can expand beyond that room as far as the oxygen depletion because of the systems they use.

[01:33:23] Okay. Thank you, Chief, very much. Thank you, folks, for being here, too. Any other questions, comments for Chief? Yeah. So yesterday at the grocery store, I ran into some of the guys, and I noticed we had borrowed a ladder truck from Fredericksburg this time.

[01:33:43] We had to go all the way to Fredericksburg. And I understand why and everything, but I will throw this out as the wish list for the future. At some point, does it make sense where we acquire a second used ladder truck so that we're not borrowing ladder trucks up and down the mid-landing?

[01:34:03] So that's always something that we look at. I don't know what the market is for a used ladder truck, but I know even now. A lot less than a new one. Oh, absolutely. It is. And I think that's something we always need to look at. But even now, the reason we had to go to Fredericksburg, where normally we utilize Prince William County as one of our partners, all of their reserves were in use due to their units being out of service.

[01:34:32] One of them, which was fairly new, was involved in an accident. And maybe totaled, I think it was in service less than two years. Well, again, I'm not trying to get into your business, but I've noticed it as I'm thinking into the future and, frankly, budgets.

[01:34:49] Well, I can certainly start looking at what one would cost. Oh, no, no. Don't worry about it right now. I don't want us to be in a situation where we can't borrow one. And, you know, as we, frankly, have more and more high buildings, it's an ever more critical piece of apparatus.

[01:35:08] for us so don't want us to get caught me neither thank you thank you chief for the report i see that you're so close in your average response time to your goal and that is you know that is great i know it's out of your hands but you know it's so great to see that uh uh your um your time is really good as a labor leader i want to make sure that we acknowledge i think you're the president of the labor union yes so you know please you know as a union member thank my union brothers and sisters

[01:35:44] uh and uh no thank you for the hard work i'll continue uh working uh to support you know the mission and i know the new time save lives and making sure that not only the equipment but the staff is ready uh i believe we talked plenty at the budget session when it comes to the overtime and the things that are needed and to me continues to be a priority i hope none of the residents need the uh services but when they do you know it is so good to know not only that your time is great but you have everything that you need when you go there so thank you i appreciate

[01:36:21] seeing the staff here and i appreciate the video and i i would be remiss if i didn't point out these are the individuals that are the backbone of the organization they're the face of the organization every day uh i truly should be standing behind them because they're the ones that are out front doing the work and i appreciate everything thank you all for being here thank you thank you chief mills oh mr smith yeah i want to add my thank yous to to the gentleman in the back so often when when you come not so often once in a while when you come they get a 911 call and they

[01:36:59] They don't get to hear from us how much we appreciate them. I recognize, though, that in the kudos I was giving to utility and public works and all of that, they also had to come through as champions last month during the snowstorm, and they went through a lot, as they do actually daily on their jobs.

[01:37:18] They carry a lot in them, home with them, and yet they show up the next morning ready for full service. And I offer my full heartfelt thank you to them for their service. and to stand here with you tonight, and thank you for leading them.

[01:37:36] And one other thing, I am impressed, and I tell you that often, is that I appreciate you not being hesitant and having requests or giving us frank analysis of the situation.

[01:37:53] We do need to know things like what Councilman Vice Mayor will point it out, and I appreciate your willingness and very candor for telling us the realities of what's needed and what's going on. And yet, be willing to work with and do your best and be very successful with what we end up providing.

[01:38:14] So, thank you, sir. Well, I appreciate that, and I do believe that it's my responsibility to provide you information. And if I don't, then I'm failing you and the citizens who I've been sworn to protect. Thank you.

[01:38:30] Thank you. Thank you so much, Chief. Thanks, Jim. Okay, next up, Chief Keene's making his way to the podium. Item 1.7, Department Annual Report for Police Department.

[01:38:46] Well, Mayor, I think I hurt my back jumping out of my seat. Mayor. Vice Mayor was offering to buy things. Calm down. Calm down. Before I get started, we're the last group of the public safety and health.

[01:39:03] I want to thank Chief Mills and Nicole Curvin, you know, as the partners in public safety and health. You'll see a lot of bleed over in our presentations because we all work for the same mission. There's a lot of overlap of the programs we put in place and I think the community services side and the reach out is one of the things we all work together as a team.

[01:39:25] So thank you both of them and their teams as well. For my team that is here, although our report is a body of work of everybody, there's three people that put in the workload to make this thing really come together. Ashley, our crime analyst, Terry, administrative assistant, and Mason, our accreditation manager.

[01:39:48] So thank you to each of them who put in the heavy work to put the full annual report together. With that, we did try to get this thing down as short as we can. It has been shortened from years past. We tried to concentrate on the information that our residents have been asking about.

[01:40:08] So in years past, a lot of data came out in this. so really knocked it down just to those things of interest that we thought the residents would want to hear tonight and that you may want to hear but in the full report if you're a data person there's there's a lot of information in there as well city council mr burke manassas residents and businesses i'm pleased to provide you with a brief presentation of the police department's annual report for 2025 the purpose of this report is to help you better understand crime and manassas

[01:40:48] review organizational changes and to highlight the good work we do every day to keep the city safe internally it provides the necessary analysis to help the police department focus on goals and objectives customize unique enforcement programs and initiatives with changing demographics and crime priorities. Presentation will be an overview and not a page by page review but a full copy is posted to our webpage. I will begin with a visual of how our strategic planning is developed

[01:41:26] in conjunction with the city's overall strategic plan. The budget, staff and our residents all have input. When developing the strategic plan I ask four questions. Where are we now? Where do we want to be in one three and five years how will we get there or the plan how will we know when we get there performance measure as i mentioned in the opening there have been significant organizational changes in 2025. a review of the organization was conducted to plan for the future of policing in

[01:42:05] manassas with the onboarding of passenger service at the airport they continued concerns about traffic safety and several other components within the department we created a fourth division the special operations division we should be more efficient and it increases accountability in addition to the reorganization the mission vision and value statement was updated our primary mission continues to be the prevention of crime while maintaining the excellent level of police services

[01:42:40] our residents and businesses have come to expect. We also added a leadership statement that captures the expected behavior and actions of our leadership. This ensures we are building a culture where people want to work. We try to recognize staff in front of you and our residents to demonstrate and share the commitment to our community in the work they do. We appreciate the fact you allow us to do this. As I go through these promotions, I would be remiss not to add

[01:43:16] that Marcus Hyde, Brett Stump, Connor Lane, and Brittany Alexander are all graduates of Osborne High School. With the reorganization came opportunities for promotions. We promoted three captains, Marcus Hyde, Gio Barahona, and Andy Brooks. Four members were promoted to lieutenant, Brett Stump, Connor Lane, Greg Daisy, and Jonathan Castellan.

[01:43:48] Four members were promoted to sergeant. Sean O'Muller, Patrick Crossy, Anna Brown, and Brittany Alexander. Next, I will go through awards and recognition.

[01:44:04] We have recruits attend two academy sessions this year. Seven in session 152 and three in session 153. Captain Brooks graduated from the FBI National Academy Session 296, the premier law enforcement training for leaders.

[01:44:31] We had Munis also recognized at the Prince William Chamber of Commerce Battle Royale. Master Police Officer Barrett was recognized by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and awarded the Medal of Ballot.

[01:44:46] Master Police Officer Barrett was selected by his peers as Employee of the Year, and Master Police Officer Claude Felter was selected as Field Training Officer of the Year. We want to congratulate all promotees, graduates, and award winners.

[01:45:07] We will now move into the statistical data portion of the report. Again, I will only highlight the main portions, and there is more detailed information within the full report published on the website. I want to remind all of our viewers about the new interactive crime mapping, Citizen Connect, that is also available on our webpage.

[01:45:31] This enables our residents to customize their searches for crime and police service data. Next is our crime table, and as you can see, our crime per 1,000 persons decreased by 15%, going from 21 crimes to 17 crimes per person.

[01:45:51] Well, this is great news, and I believe we should all celebrate because it is a collaborative effort between government and residents. I want to remind you how quickly these numbers can change. As you can see from this chart, most of our crimes are crimes against property.

[01:46:12] As an example, larceny. This is a good example of how quickly things can change. A two-week rash of larcenies, such as catalytic converters, could change these numbers greatly. In this slide we detail the arrest data we show it two ways arrest or persons and charges or the number of charges placed as an example one person may be charged with numerous larceny charges

[01:46:44] as you can see reduced crimes also correlates to decrease in the number of arrests we will now move on to what we call the quality of life offenses as you recall we have dedicated all officer that reviews every domestic violence report we take. His analysis determines if there are repeated calls, connects them to resources, and ensures we are following policy. While the number of reports has decreased, the number of arrests has increased. Arrests are made when there

[01:47:21] are signs of physical violence and ensures the parties involved get in front of the court to mandate services. We also have an officer dedicated to reviewing and analyzing our mental health reports. Similar to the domestic violence officer, it connects our residents to resources and ensures we are following policy. While reports have increased, detention orders have decreased, getting compliance and resources to residents before detention orders are needed. We include

[01:47:57] parking in the quality of life data because as you know, parking impacts almost every community in Manassas and can lead to quality of life issues. While there is a 5% decrease in the number of tickets issued, we believe there are two driving factors in that. The parking district changes you have put in place, public service communication about guidelines or rules, and enforcements have resulted in better compliance we will now move on to traffic data utilizing the citizen connect

[01:48:34] software in the heat map version you can see that most of our crashes occur in the liberia avenue corridor and centerville road two of our busiest roadways when you break it down by the numbers four of our top five accident locations are on liberia avenue we did have one fatal accident in 2025, and that was at the intersection of Ashton Drive and Godwin Drive. This slide provides traffic ticket data, photo red light, school zone speed, and general traffic. We have added intersections

[01:49:14] to the photo red light program, and if there is good news in this data, it is that school zone speeding has decreased, meaning we're getting more compliance with posted speeds in school zones. traffic enforcement continues to be one of the top requests i receive we have put an emphasis on this and the traffic services unit is part of the new special operations division next we will review our calls for service data the total calls for service is essentially unchanged but we have

[01:49:51] averaged approximately 68 000 calls per year over the last four years this year is 65 818 calls for service. This slide is important to us and our residents. It enables us to determine our efficiency in responding to calls. While we look at it numerous ways internally from call taking to data input to officer response, this slide shows what our residents care about, how long it took an officer to arrive when called. As you can see, we have reduced the time it takes us to

[01:50:29] to respond to priority one and two calls, which is great news for our residents. However, we will be doing a deeper dive to determine why the priority three call time has increased. As a reminder, priority three calls are past crimes and non-emergency.

[01:50:51] This slide really comes down to customer service and internal workload assessment. It tells us the average time an officer spends on a call. As you can see, the average call makes an officer unavailable for over 45 minutes and could be a contributor of why priority three calls response time has increased here we show you the animal control and animal shelter data we have a very efficient and well maintained shelter while calls are down also initiated calls are up meaning our

[01:51:29] animal control officers are in the community before residents call here we highlight our community Services section. I think you and our residents would agree. They do an outstanding job with community outreach and programs from our award-winning Parent E3 series, Elder Care Training, Youth Camps, and Community Police Academy. Do you know we are a CALEA award-winning agency which shows your and our commitment to professionalism. In 2025, we finished our

[01:52:08] year two review. As a reminder, in year four there will be an on-site review. Part of CALEA and state mandate is an analysis of traffic enforcement stops to ensure unbiased enforcement. This data is

reported to Virginia State Police and CALEA and there have been no concerns. The other mandated reporting is use of force. I can tell you and as I demonstrated in the full report, we capture more data than any agency around. In fact, we have been used as an example of how to fully capture

[01:52:47] use of force. It is a lot of work and a lot of analysis. Again, the independent reviews have not flagged any concern. The final data review is the demographics of ulcers by both ethnicity and gender.

[01:53:06] There is a national effort in policing to have agencies at 30% women by 2030, better known as a 30 by 30 initiative again we have been a leader in our profession and have been over 20 female for years we believe it is by developing and maintaining a culture that all feel welcome at again revamping our mission vision values and leadership statement ensure all understand the culture we are building

[01:53:37] unfortunately in 2025 we lost our last surviving retired chief of police chief chris tutko Chief Tutko was a longtime city resident raising his family here and spent his entire career with Manassas City Police. He was a very kind man and will be missed. Our faults are with his family.

[01:54:04] I will celebrate 16 years as your Chief of Police in May. I am proud of the accomplishments we continue to share as an organization in these challenging times. As an agency we have achieved the highest level possible within national accreditation or CLIA process and had high ratings in the manager's community survey. I want to thank the staff for their tireless efforts, hard work, professionalism, and support of me and the initiatives I continue to bring forward as the

[01:54:38] chief of police. I still believe we are fortunate when many communities struggle with their relationships with law enforcement we continue to receive support from ours this cannot and should not go unnoticed by practicing and embracing fair and impartial policing and setting high professional standards we will continue to build these relationships and make manassas a great

[01:55:03] community i'm staying ready to answer any questions i know you received the full report by email so there may be other data you have questions about.

[01:55:24] Thank you. Council members, any questions or comments? You scared them. Well, Saturday, the parade, we will not have the fortune of seeing the kilt and the knees. I think you said you were going to be at CALEA training?

[01:55:42] I'll be at CALEA, yes. Yeah, so we will miss you at the parade. You're not going to make anybody else wear a kilt? No. Okay. Well, thank you. We can't have the tank. we can't we can't have the tank yeah you can have that if you want okay no other questions and thank you so much for the report very comprehensive thank you so much all right next next on the agenda is our public comment time at this time we welcome residents and community members who wish to speak about services policies and affairs of the city of manassas anyone who has not requested

[01:56:18] additional time four days prior to this meeting from the city manager we have a timer and your comments will be limited to three minutes we appreciate the time you have taken to be here a reminder that council does not engage in back and forth conversation with speakers during this time the lack of an immediate response to your comments should not be taken as a lack of interest or concern as we have staff present taking notes and we will respond to your concern in a timely manner when you approach the podium we ask that you give us your name and we would appreciate it if you would state if you are a city resident and you may provide your address if you so desire it is not required we ask that you please be respectful when presenting your

[01:56:56] comments to not only council members but to those residents and community members who are also present with that I have the sign-up sheet no one is signed up but we will not miss anyone if you are here and wish to address council at this time please come forward Vice Mayor Wolfe I'd like to thank you for your comment to our troops are in

[01:57:32] harm's way right now. I know it's important to you and it's important to me. Thank you. I just have my prayer. It seems to be working. Things seem to be doing a little bit different. The presentations tonight were very informative and I appreciate them. Father, you are the just administrator.

[01:57:51] Thank you for the public servants involved in governing our cities, our states, and our country. Help them to understand the importance of their work for the flourishing of our shared life. Please keep them from abusing their power or exploiting their position.

[01:58:08] Lord, may all of us as citizens demonstrate civility, speak up for righteousness, and stand up against evil. Teach us how to honor and pay our debt of love toward those with whom we disagree. As we engage in public life, keep us from snarky attitudes and hateful speech, which is unbecoming of a child of God.

[01:58:29] Remind us that each person working in these sectors of public service is created in your image. Lord, may our disagreements help us flourish rather than wither and come together rather than divide. Thank you, Lord, for your dominion and reign over every living thing and over the entire universe.

[01:58:48] There is not one square inch of creation over which you do not cry, mine, nor is there any leader's heart beyond your reach. We ask for you to accomplish your divine will through these public servants. Turn their hearts so that your will be done on earth, in our cities, county, and state, as in heaven.

[01:59:11] This we ask in the name of the world's true king, Jesus Christ, amen. Amen. Thank you, Ms. Clefney. Anyone else? Hello, Mayor and Council.

[01:59:31] Lynn from Calgary, Manasseh City resident. Yes, I wanted to thank everybody for their presentations tonight. I think you got lucky. They're all videos, a lot more engaging, I think, for our residents. I would like to say there was a little bit of an issue with some of the sound, so I hope when the video is uploaded, that is corrected.

[01:59:50] I wanted to make a comment about your retreat. I know, maybe Mr. Burke, maybe the video has been uploaded since I last checked. But it's taken a long time for the retreat video to be uploaded for the residents to view. And I'm a little bit disappointed about that. That's not transparent, and that's not cool.

[02:00:08] I have made this statement before, and I don't know if many of you remember, that if we just go into recess when you guys take your breaks, then there won't be that editing. So I want to put that on public record, that that should be considered, because I am sure it's taking a lot of time to make those edits, but it would be a lot nicer if you just wanted to recess to avoid that, and then we didn't have the delay.

[02:00:32] I myself couldn't be at most of that meeting this year, which was a little disappointing for myself, so I look forward to looking at that video, and if it is there, I apologize. I also want to just talk about the consent agenda for tonight. There's the outdoor dining design guidelines, and I'm sure this doesn't

mean much to most people, But I wanna make sure that when we have things like this on the consent agenda, one of you is pulling them forward and making sure that the rest of us know about it.

[02:01:00] The reason being is because that's a really important change that happened in our city due to COVID. Half of the people who have restaurants who have licenses for outdoor dining did so because of COVID. And so I would wanna make sure, I'm sure you are, but I would just wanna make sure that you are working with our restaurant if there are any changes that would pose issues or cost them time and money to change themselves.

[02:01:26] So the piding in the consent agenda means most people won't see it. That's all I really have for today, but I did want to also note that I do appreciate you moving public comment time up. I know that it's not time certain, but when I noted, it was just a little bit after seven when you started and probably took a long presentation.

[02:01:47] So I, for one, think this is a great positive change And I'll be looking forward to feedback from our community. Thank you. Anyone else? Great evening, council members. Thank you so much for the work that you do day in and day out.

[02:02:06] I really, really enjoyed the presentations tonight. I absolutely love coming to the council member meetings every single Monday if I could. And our police department, thank you so much, Chief Keen, for an amazing report. And to all members, of course.

[02:02:24] Thank you so much once again. Thank you. anyone else wishes to address council if not we will move forward to item four to call on amelia i guess for the resolution to authorize our closed meeting oh i'm sorry consent agenda mr oh i skipped right over it i was ready to do that too madam mayor i move the consent agenda to be approved in the reading of the ordinances dispensed with second was that ashley is that you okay we have the motion by vice mayor will seconded by councilwoman hudson to approve

[02:03:02] our consent agenda any discussion hearing and seeing now mr smith please call the roll vice mayor wolf yes council member hudson yes council member ellis council member smith yes council member alcina yes council member vasquez luna yes the motion carries thank you very much mr brown saving us right up until the end here miss amelia you want to come forward for item four authorizing our closed meeting resolution so much madam mayor and council the next item on your agenda this evening is a closed meeting there are two items for discussion and those are the qualifications of candidates for appointment to city boards and

[02:03:40] commissions and the qualifications of candidates for appointment to the position of city attorney both items may take place in a closed meeting under Virginia code section 2.2 3711 a1 to convene a closed meeting I would recommend for your adoption resolution number are 2026 735 resolution authorizing a closed meeting of city council so moved second we have the motion by councilman Lucina seconded by Councilwoman Vasquez Luna approving resolution number our 2026-735 authorizing a closed meeting of city

[02:04:17] council any discussion hearing and seeing them mr. Smith please call the roll councilmember Lucina yes councilmember Vasquez Luna yes vice mayor Yes. Council Member Ellis. Yes. Council Member Smith.

[02:04:33] Council Member Heston. Yes. The motion carries. Requires a certification by City Council that such closed meeting was conducted in the manner required by law.

[02:04:51] Council must certify that to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the 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 City Council.

[02:05:10] Council in order to certify the closed meeting this evening I recommend for your adoption resolution number R 2026 756 resolution certifying a closed meeting so move second we have the motion by Councilman Lucina seconded by councilman Vasquez Luna to approve resolution number R 2026-756 certifying our closed meeting any discussion hearing and seeing them mr. Smith please

[02:05:37] call the roll yes yes all right thank you mr. Alcina thank you mayor I move the following resolution R dash 2026 dash 734 making the following appointments to city boards committees and commissions point Kevin Willis to the airport Commission as a regular member for a term beginning March 9th, 2026, and ending June

[02:06:10] 30th, 2030. Appoint Irma Meha-Lewis to the Commission on Aging as a regular member for a partial term beginning March 9th, 2026, and ending June 30th, 2027. Appoint Victorine Latimer to the Architectural Review Board as an alternate member for a term beginning March 9, 2026, and ending June 30, 2030. Reappoint Robert Keller to the Planning Commission as a regular member for a term beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2030. And reappoint Jeremy Rue

[02:06:47] to the Board of Equalization as a regular member for a term beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2030. I seconded. We have a motion by Councilman Lucina, seconded by Councilman Vasquez-Luna to approve resolution number R2026-734 appointments to boards committees and commissions any discussion hearing and seeing them Mr. Smith please call the roll Councilmember Osina yes Councilmember Vasquez Luna yes Vice Mayor Wolf yes Councilmember Ellis yes Councilmember Hudson yes the motion carries all right thank you so

[02:07:24] much anything to come before the council for the good residents if not we are adjourned thank you



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