

Town Council Actions: January 2023

- Appointed new Town Council through December 31, 2026.
- Held a Public Hearing on CIP Budget Amendment for FY23 to Incorporate Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) and DEQ 2022 ARPA Appropriation Grant Funds Revenues and Projected Capital Expenses into the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- Amended the CIP Budget for FY23.
- Accepted Councilmember Fithian's resignation as the Council Representative to the Architectural Review Board (ARB) and appointed Councilmember Daubresse as the Council representative to the ARB.

The above items are extracts of recent actions and are not official meeting minutes. Minutes and agendas are posted at occoquanva.gov.

Business License Renewal Applications Due March 1

Town of Occoquan Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) renewals for 2022 are due March 1st. Renewal notices were emailed in January to businesses holding a license with the Town. Please be sure to submit applications and payments on time.

- A 10% penalty may be added if your **application** is received after March 31st.
- A 10% penalty will be added if your **payment** is received after May 31st.

The business license fee is based on gross receipts for the calendar year 2022. Visit occoquanva.gov/doing-business-in-occoquan or contact the Town Treasurer at (703) 491-1918 or treasurer@occoquanva.gov.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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Occoquan, VA 22125

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OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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February 2023

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnest W. Porta, Jr., Mayor
Jenn Loges, Vice Mayor
Nancy Freeborne Brinton
Theo Daubresse
Cindy Fithian
Eliot Perkins



TOWN HALL STAFF

Adam Linn, Town Manager & Chief of Police
Manuel Casillas, Town Treasurer
Philip Auville, Town Clerk
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Matt Whitmoyer, Management Fellow

Mayor's Letter

Long-time Occoquan residents know February is the month where we tend to be surprised by major snow storms, sometimes more than one in succession, and sometimes that block sidewalks and result in power outages that can last for days. So, let's all keep our fingers crossed that we will escape heavy storms this month, but let's prepare for them all the same. Consistent with that message I ask that you review the town's Emergency Snow Removal Routes and your own obligations with regard to snow removal. Streets in Occoquan are a combination of VDOT, town, and private HOA responsibilities. Additionally, I encourage all of you to consider signing up for OCQ Alerts. These email and/or text message alerts provide information from the town on emergencies as well as on town events. Information on all of the above is available elsewhere in this newsletter or on the town's website.

Speaking of events, as you know, after catching our breath in the late winter months we begin the process of gearing up for all the enjoyable family-friendly activities we offer throughout the year. I encourage all of you to regularly check the events section of the town website (www.occoquanva.gov) and the site of our collaborating business partners (www.visitoccoquanva.com) to stay up to date on the exciting things we have planned.

Last, starting in February the town staff begins the process of developing a budget for fiscal year 2024, which begins July 1. The Town Council will simultaneously be developing a strategic framework for the coming four years. These two processes start to come together in March with public work sessions and a variety of opportunities for public input. As some of you are aware, thanks to funding secured by Delegate Luke Torian we have been able to dredge the sediment deposited in the river from our two stormwater outlets. That has been followed by good news about grant funding that will help us plan our stormwater improvements. So, a great deal of planning and budgeting is in the offing.

As always, I thank you for your continued support and encourage you to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any comments, questions, or concerns.

Emergency Snow Removal Routes

As a reminder, the Town has established snow emergency routes. When snow is expected, on-street parking will not be permitted on the following roads to allow for snow removal: Mill, Commerce, Ellicott, Union, and Washington Streets.

During inclement weather, if you normally park on-street, please consider parking under the Route 123 bridge. Timed parking restrictions will not be enforced under the bridge during snow emergencies. For more information, visit occoquanva.gov.

Please Clear Your Sidewalks

Help keep your community safe during the winter season and clear sidewalks of snow and ice. Residents and businesses are responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property. Please do not use salt on brick sidewalks. For more information, visit occoquanva.gov/snow-removal.

Trash and Recycling Collection Reminders

Please place refuse to the curb no earlier than 4pm on Tuesdays, but before 7am on Wednesdays, and remove your containers as quickly as possible after collection. Ensure that there is a pedestrian path available at all times by not blocking public sidewalks and right of way with refuse containers. **Do not place household refuse in/next to Town-owned trash receptacles.**

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR OCQ ALERTS?

Register to receive email and/or text message alerts about emergencies and town events! Go to occoquanva.gov, scroll to the link for OCQ Alerts and complete the form.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

February 7
Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

February 15
Real Estate Taxes Due

February 20
President's Day
Town Hall Closed

February 21
Town Council Meeting
Cancelled

February 21
Meals and Transient
Occupancy Taxes Due

February 28
Planning Commission
6:30 pm
Architectural Review Board
7:30 pm

March 1
Business License Renewal
Applications Due

Meetings held at Town Hall, 314 Mill Street, unless otherwise noted.

Reminder: Town Real Estate Taxes Due February 15

The 2022 Real Estate Taxes are due on February 15, 2023. Most homeowners pay real estate taxes through their mortgage services company. If you do not utilize a mortgage services company, then you must pay your tax directly to the town. **If you need or did not get a bill**, contact us to update your mailing address. Send payments to Town of Occoquan at P.O. Box 195, Occoquan, VA 22125 or pay online. For more information go to occoquanva.gov/living-here/tax-information or contact the Treasurer at (703) 491-1918 or treasurer@occoquanva.gov.

Tax Relief Programs for Elderly and Disabled Persons

Senior citizens and disabled persons who meet certain criteria may be granted relief from all or part of real estate and personal property taxes. Tax Relief is granted on an annual basis and a renewal application must be filed each year by April 15 with Prince William County.

Application forms for these programs are available at the PWC Real Estate Assessments Office or by mail. You may request an application form by calling (703) 792-6780 or visiting www.pwcva.gov/department/tax-administration/elderly-and-disabled.

FY2024 Budget Calendar

Budget Work Session: March 7, March 21, and April 4, 2023 *if needed*

Public Hearings: April 18 (Budget) and May 2, 2023 (Tax Rates)

Budget and Tax Rate Adoption: May 2, 2023

The FY 2024 Budget is effective from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The budget guides the Town's daily activities, as well as larger capital improvement projects over the next year. The public is encouraged to attend work sessions, as well as provide feedback and comments during the public hearings. All meetings are held at Town Hall, 314 Mill Street, beginning at 7 p.m. Budget work sessions presentations, and once finalized, the proposed budget, are available online at www.occoquanva.gov.

Volunteer as an ARB Alternate

The Architectural Review Board (ARB) is seeking two volunteers to serve as alternates. The Town relies on volunteers from the community to serve on the ARB. To learn more about the Architectural Review Board, visit occoquanva.gov/architectural-review-board. If interested please complete the short application and submit to Town Hall M-F, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 314 Mill Street. Applications are available at Town Hall or online at occoquanva.gov/government/boards-and-commissions.