

Town Council Actions: February 2025

- Adopted an Ordinance to Amend Title IX of the Town Code.
- Adopted a Resolution Referring Zoning Text Amendment on Certain Short-term Recurring Zoning Offenses to the Planning Commission.
- Set April 15, 2025 for a Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission to present its Annual Report.
- Held a Budget Work Session on the Strategic Framework, eSummons, and Mamie Davis Funds for FY2026.

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

Military Tribute Banners



Beginning in March 2025 residents, businesses, friends, and visitors to Occoquan can once again sign up to sponsor a banner honoring a U.S. military veteran. This successful and popular program is a partnership between the Town and VFW Post 7916. If you are a new sponsor interested in honoring your family member, ancestor, or friend for their military service, or a former sponsor wishing to renew for 2025, visit militarytributebanners.org and select Virginia/Occoquan under the Banner Programs menu; or, stop by Town Hall or VFW Post 7916 for more information.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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March 2025

TOWN COUNCIL

Ernest 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
Matt Whitmoyer, Deputy Town Manager
Jason Forman, Deputy Chief of Police
Philip Auville, Town Clerk
Asma Rupani, Town Treasurer
Manuel Casillas, Assistant Town Treasurer
Julie Little, Events Director
Tammy Hassett, Events Coordinator
James Auville, Maintenance Associate

Mayor's Letter

It appears, knock on wood, that we have seen the last of the snow for the season as we now look forward to spring. Thank you, everyone, for your patience as staff has worked diligently with our various state and local partners, as well as our contractors, to try to minimize any disruptions. As you know, weather was a factor in the rescheduling of our February Firelight Night to March, but unfortunately, now that March Firelight Night has been cancelled as well. A plethora of events are on the horizon in April, however, with our marshmallow Peeps Show dioramas and activities and the Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) spring river clean up. Information on both is elsewhere in this newsletter and on the town web site.

March is also the month where we open up the Military Tribute Banners program in collaboration with our VFW Post 7916. This popular program is an excellent way to honor a family member, ancestor, or friend for their military service. To be a new sponsor or to renew a past sponsorship, go to militarytributebanners.org and select Virginia/Occoquan, or if you wish you can stop by Town Hall or VFW Post 7916 for more information.

The town has also begun the budget process for FY 2026, which begins July 1. Council meetings in March will include discussions of, among other things, the Events Fund and General Fund. Those who are interested in the preliminary budget figures are encourage to either attend the meetings or review the materials available on the town web site. Ample opportunity for public comment will be provided at several meetings and public hearings.

Last, for those who have been following the Mill at Occoquan project, although it is moving forward, it appears unlikely that demolition will begin this month; we will do our best to keep you informed as more information becomes available. As always, thank you for your continued support of our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any comments, questions, or concerns.



The Occoquan Peeps Show

Get ready for the Occoquan Peep Show from April 15 - 19 in historic Occoquan! Stroll through town and vote for your favorite PEEPs dioramas, made and displayed at Occoquan businesses! Plus check out the community-made dioramas in Occoquan Town Hall. Cast your vote and enter to win. Forms will be available at participating businesses and Town Hall.

Enter Your Own Diorama



Build your very own PEEPs diorama and enter to win a prize worth \$50! For the 8th year in a row, the community is invited to participate in the Occoquan PEEPs Show, by designing, creating, and submitting family-friendly dioramas.

Each category will have one grand prize winner, based on the number of votes collected by the public:

- Kids (ages 12 and under)
- Teens (13 - 16)
- Adults
- Team

To sign up visit: visitoccoquan.com/peeps

MEETINGS & EVENTS

March 1

BPOL Renewal Applications and Payment Due

March 4

Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

March 18

Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm

March 20

Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes Due

March 25

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

April 5

FOTO Clean Up

April 15 - 19

Occoquan PEEPs Show

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

FY2026 Budget Calendar

Budget Work Sessions: February 18, March 4, March 18, and April 15

Public Hearings: May 6 (Budget) and May 20 (Tax Rates)

Budget and Tax Rate Adoption: May 20

The FY 2026 Budget is effective from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. 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.

Be a River Hero: Friends of the Occoquan River Clean Up Saturday, April 5th, 9 am to 12 pm - Volunteers Needed!

Join us in April for the Occoquan River Clean Up, hosted by Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO). Meet in front of Town Hall on Saturday, April 5th starting at 9 am and collect your gloves and bags and come help us tidy the riverbank and town to prevent trash from collecting in the river. Refreshments will be in a grab-and-go style, which will include packaged snacks and bottled drinks. Make sure to wear sturdy shoes and proper attire for getting muddy. Don't forget to bring a friend!

This event will take place (light) rain or shine! To sign up and get more information, visit friendsoftheoccoquan.org.

Business License Renewal Applications and Payments Both Due March 1, 2025

Town of Occoquan Business, Professional, and Occupational License (BPOL) renewals for 2025 and the payments were both due March 1st. Renewal notices were emailed and mailed in January to businesses holding a license with the Town and reminder notices sent out in February. Please be sure to submit applications and payments on time. A penalty of 10% of the tax may be imposed upon failure to file an application or payment of the tax by the due date.

The business license fee is based on gross receipts for the calendar year 2024. Visit occoquanva.gov/doing-business-in-occoquan for more information.