



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Town Council Seeks Community Input on Proposed Meals Tax Increase**

After receiving the final recommendation for future use of the now-vacant, three-acre Annex property on Center Street at a work session on Sept. 30, 2024, the Vienna Town Council is exploring funding options for a new aquatics and fitness center.

At its work session, the Town Council expressed interest in pursuing the new facility sooner rather than later with an option of funding the project by a temporary, one percent meals tax increase dedicated specifically for the aquatic/fitness facility construction, which would enable it to open by 2030. Without the temporary meals tax increase, the earliest the facility could open is 2040 through traditional capital planning processes.

“The Town Council implemented a temporary meals tax increase once before from 2002 to 2008,” said Vienna Mayor Linda Colbert. “During this time, overall restaurant revenues increased, and the extra penny tax on the dollar paid for the Vienna Town Green, which is now the central gathering place for beloved Town events in the heart of our community.”

Before voting on the proposal, the Vienna Town Council is seeking community input on the proposed temporary meals tax increase. Residents will have an opportunity to learn more and ask questions in person at a town hall meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Vienna Town Hall, 127 Center St., S., Vienna Va. The meeting will also be shown live on the Town of Vienna Community Network (Cox 27 and Verizon 38) and online at [www.viennava.gov/TVCN](http://www.viennava.gov/TVCN). Additionally, residents can speak at the public hearing on the proposed meals tax increase at the Town Council’s regular meeting on Monday, Nov. 18, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at Vienna Town Hall.

Feedback can also be provided anytime by emailing the full Council at [council@viennava.gov](mailto:council@viennava.gov) or by calling the Town Clerk’s office at 703-255-6304. All community input will help inform the Town Council’s final decision about the increase on Monday, Dec. 9, 2024.



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The Town bought the Annex property at 301 Center St., S. in 2020 from the former Faith Baptist Church for \$5 million. The church building served as a temporary police headquarters from 2021 to 2023 while the new police department was being constructed next door. The Vienna Town Council voted to demolish the building to make way for a new use after bringing the church building up to code was deemed to be too costly.

For more information and project updates, visit [www.viennava.gov/annex](http://www.viennava.gov/annex).

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