

Town of Vinton Council Meeting

2022 Community Highlights

January 17, 2023



2022 Snapshot

- Infrastructure
- Community & Economic Development
- Events
- Administration



Roadways and Traffic Signals

- Contract executed for **GPS units and opticom**s at all eleven signalized intersections
 - Enhanced capability of Public Safety for emergency response and allow for remote operation of the signals for special events, weather or other emergency needs
- Contract executed with Advanced Traffic Solutions – **specific signal synchronization at all eleven intersections**
 - Exp. completion in February – improved traffic flow, particularly at close proximity intersections such as Lee/Pollard and Washington/Pollard and the four intersections of Niagara, Vinyard, Clearview and Bypass.
- **Large storm-water repair and improvement project** at the end of Cleveland Ave and **culvert replacement** on Madison Ave.
- **Installation of traffic signals** at Niagara, Vinyard and Bypass completed
 - Emergency purchase made for the control system at the PFG signal has been ordered. The signal-heads were replaced in 2021 at PFG.

Roadways and Traffic Signals

- All road striping has been completed
- PW has initiated a work order with AEP to relamp 16 street lamps along Washington Ave and Gus Nicks Blvd.
- PW completed the installation of Christmas Decorations in early December. Many new decorations were added this year due to the \$40,000 CIP allotment provided in the current budget for replacement. New décor at the all major intersections, street lamps, War Memorial lawn and at Farmers' Market were added.
- Gus Nicks and Hardy Road Crosswalks at 70% design. Staff has received necessary ROW from Timothy Lutheran Church and Roanoke County Schools. Projects are expected to be ready for construction bids in summer 2023.
- **\$1.1 Million in paving** – largest amount of single-year paving for Vinton
 - Anticipated \$1 Million in paving for FY'24

Infrastructure/Gateway Improvements

- **Walnut Avenue construction**
 - Phase 1 paused for winter
 - On schedule to be completed Spring '23
 - Phase 2 will rebid this month
 - Welcoming gateway connection to Downtown
 - Improved vehicle and pedestrian safety
 - New signage, repave and stripe the corridor
- **Garthright Bridge rehabilitation**
 - Preventative maintenance – substructure rehab
 - Phase 1 (\$420k) on schedule to be completed in January
 - Phase 2 planned for FY26
 - Renovations will extend bridge life another 50 years



Outdoor Recreation Assets

- **Gladetown Trail maintenance**
 - Glade Town Loop Trail has been reopened by assistance from Pathfinders for Greenways. Over a dozen volunteers worked a total of two days to remove fallen trees, improved drainage and repaired a foot bridge. Staff has reengaged with Cardinal Bicycle shop to initiate some intro to mountain biking clinics at the trail in the spring.
- Construction bids for **Glade Creek Greenway Phase 2b** has received a greenlight from VDOT to proceed and IFB will be issued to align with the re-bid of Walnut.
- **Tinker Avenue/Vale Streambank restoration**
 - MOU with City of Roanoke
- **The Stream Bank Drainage Improvement Project at Woodland Place** is underway with 60% design and staff has received necessary ROW from two impacted property owners. Construction is anticipated for late summer 2023.



Photo by Debbie Adams

Public Facilities & Assets

- **Sidewalk at History Museum**
 - PW completed a retaining wall, sidewalk replacement and installation of stairs at the History Museum.
- **War Memorial Playground**
 - Contract with Playground Guardian to resurface and paint of existing playground at the War Memorial
 - \$12,500 contract will provide a safe and visually appealing playground for an additional 3-5 years, while the new playground is designed and constructed at the former swimming pool
- **McClung Industrial property**
 - EPA Brownfields submission
 - Municipal parking lot to add approx. 80 spaces (Phase 1) in walking distance to downtown attractions
 - 60% design – ready for bid in March – Construction exp. In June



Downtown Revitalization

- **Pok-E-Joe's**
 - Backfilling Joe Goodpie's space in Vinyard Station
- **107 South**
 - Redeveloping Star City Playhouse space
 - Exp. Completion early this year
- **Dogwood expansion**
 - Exp. completion Spring 2023



Fire-affected Properties

- Staff is working with property owners to assist with redesign of their destroyed buildings. Demo of 103 and 107 E Lee Ave, as well as 206 and 208 South Pollard expected in early in 2023. Both owners are interested and pursuing 3-story structures with commercial storefronts on first floor and residential on 2nd and 3rd.
- **DR Music** relocated to 128 N. Pollard St.
- **Rustic Creations** relocated to 116 S. Poplar St.
- **Edward Jones** plans to return – temp. relocated to Mikula-Harris
- **Red Jasmine** will be impacted due to shared wall



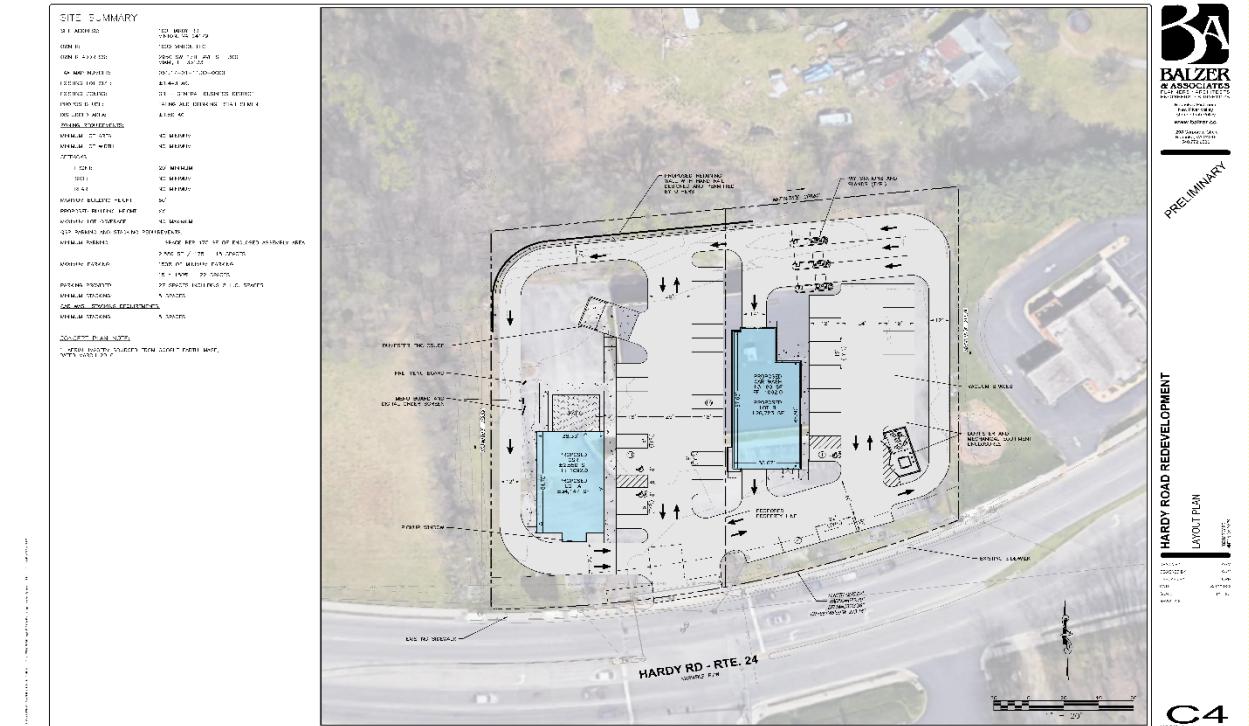
Redevelopment

- **Gish Mill**
 - Property about to close with private owner – currently waiting for Historic Tax Credits
- **Hotel**
 - Submitted federal EDA grant request for site engineering – subsequent EDA grant application for site grading
 - Environmental assessment completed on adjacent Dry Cleaner property
- **E. Cleveland properties**
 - Submitted for EPA Brownfields grant
 - Staff is working with a private developer and Balzer for preliminary engineering – proposed mixed-use project containing a commercial storefront and up to 7 residential units
- **River Park Shopping Center**
 - Staff is wrapping up a housing study for the River Park/Bypass Rd Corridor – project funded with a \$45,000 Virginia Housing grant
 - Phase 1 completed for all of Vinton



Business Growth

- **Rosie's expansion**
 - \$28 million investment
 - More than doubled existing space
 - Added 350 new games and a 280-spot parking garage
- **Starbucks**
 - to locate to former Rite-Aid building on Hardy Road, multi-use property with car wash
 - Subdivided property with separate developments



EPA Brownfields Applications

- Spending initial \$300,000 Brownfields grant has been successful – Recently applied for \$500,000
- McClung Industrial Site/Walnut Avenue Parking Lot
- Leslie/Gateway Industrial Site
 - Two key light industrial properties adjacent to Glade Creek and within a Special Flood Hazard Town of Vinton, Virginia. The site is immediately adjacent east of the old Gish's Mill



EPA Brownfields Applications

- **520 Hardy Road**
 - Former automotive site and prioritized Brownfield property - The site's prime location along this 4-lane corridor, plentiful lot size, and existing infrastructure makes the site an excellent infill redevelopment opportunity
- **Hotel Dry Cleaner** environmental assessments and conceptual plans
- **E. Cleveland Mart**
- **3rd Street landfill**
- **Billy Byrd Annex**
- **Steve's Garage**



Community Programs, Communications & Events

- 2022 Christmas Parade and Santa Crawl were once again huge successes. This year's parade was the largest on record with number and scale of the floats and organizations that participated.
- New programs such as the Festival of Trees and the Holiday Craft Fair were also well received and staff plans to expand those in 2023.
- Town Calendars were delivered by New Years.
- CodeRed went live on December 1st and response has been positive for registrations. Additional pushes to recruit registrations will continue in the New Year.



Community Programs, Communications & Events

- *All Things Vinton* videos continue to be some of the most viewed productions in their entire catalog according to RVTV. Angie and Chasity have been contacted by over a dozen additional businesses looking to participate.
- Additional video content is in the early stages of development to help narrate many of the Town's new initiatives and projects. More details will be shared as content, format and timing of delivery are determined.
- Staff is also working to create an All Things Vinton Newsletter and its first edition is expected to be available in February.
- Tourism welcome video



Organization

- **WVVA utility transfer**
 - Stabilized rates and delivery of service to residents
 - Expedited Capital Replacement Plan to update system
 - Inflow of water from Carvins Cove
 - Provided capacity to pay off debt
 - Freed up PW staff to tackle community development projects
- **Zoning ordinances updated**
 - First comprehensive update since 2004
 - Modernizes residential and commercial land use policies
- **CodeRED launch**
 - WSL coverage; press release; RVTVA PSA; Vinton Messenger
 - **194** residential registrations and **18** business registrations



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Call 540-983-0601 and select CodeRED registration assistance from the menu.

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www.vintonva.gov/CodeRED-Alert-System



Organization

Staff

- **Public Works staffing reorg**
 - Departure of Utility System
 - Capital Projects and Stormwater Focus
 - Transportation and Refuse
- **Finance department staffing optimization**
 - WVVA transfer
- **Staff salary market adjustment**
 - Near Full Employment Organization-wide
- **Vinton Police Department re-accreditation**
 - VPD has completed to implementation of **body-worn cameras**. Chief Drummond is preparing a presentation to provide additional details and a demonstration of the equipment's usage and capability.



Questions?