



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contacts

Karen Acar Thayer, APR

703-255-6330 | Office

571-263-4035 | Cell

Caleb Lester

703-255-6361 | Office

571-926-2241 | Cell

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Vote on Temporary Meals Tax Increase Postponed **1% Increase Would Fund a Recreational Pool and Fitness Center**

At its regular meeting on Jan. 27, 2025, the Vienna Town Council voted to defer the proposal to temporarily raise the Town's meals tax from 3% to 4% to pay for a new public pool and fitness facility. The Council wants to allow more time to thoroughly review and consider the facility's projected building costs and long-term operational costs along with community feedback before making its final decision. The Council is expected to reconsider the proposal at its Aug. 25, 2025, meeting.

"We've been given a great deal of information over the past few months, and it is important that we allow sufficient time to do our due diligence to ensure whatever decision we make is in the best interest of our community," said Vienna Mayor Linda Colbert. "This facility would be a big investment, and before voting on how to fund its construction, we must be sure that we will have the resources to maintain it once it is built."

This is the third time the Council has postponed the vote on the proposed 1% temporary meals tax increase. The extra 1% would be dedicated to paying for the design and construction of a new aquatics and fitness facility on the former Town Annex site located at 301 Center St., S, which the Town purchased in 2020 from the former Faith Baptist Church. The Town's current 3% meals tax is among the lowest in the region and pays for capital projects such as roads, building improvements and park projects. It applies to prepared, ready-to-consume meals, and does not apply to standard groceries.

The temporary meals tax increase was used once before, from 2002 to 2008 to pay for the Vienna Town Green, which now serves as a central gathering space for public and private events and activities. The Vienna Town Council believes a new aquatic and fitness center would further enhance the community's quality of life and fulfill a longstanding community wish. If the temporary 1% meals tax is approved, the facility would be constructed by 2030.

More information about the proposed aquatic and fitness facility is available online at www.viennava.gov/annex.

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