Virginia: **At the continued meeting of the Council of the Town of Chilhowie held at the Municipal Building, June 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: **Honorable Gary L. Heninger, Mayor presiding; Councilors Shannon Donnelly, Brent Foster, Bob Jeter, and Julie Sturgill.**

Absent: **Councilors Bill Clear and P.J. Wolfe.**

Also Present: **Mr. Brian Martin, Town Manager; Mrs. Felicia Eller, CMC, Clerk-Treasurer; and Heather Carter, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer**

Adoption of 2026-2027 Budget:

Motion by Julie Sturgill, second by Brent Foster Council approves the adoption of the 2026-2027 Budget. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Bill Clear	Absent	Shannon Donnelly	Aye
Brent Foster	Aye	Bob Jeter	Aye
Julie Sturgill	Aye	P.J. Wolfe	Absent

Request to Purchase a Vehicle for Water Operations:

Quotes for both new and used vehicles were provided to Council. Over the past several weeks, staff have worked closely with department heads to improve coordination among the Water, Wastewater, and Buildings and Grounds Departments. Through these discussions, staff identified an existing Ford F-150 that is not being utilized by the Wastewater Department. The truck remains reliable and suitable for use as a Water Department vehicle.

The primary issue with the Ford F-150 truck is a non-functioning air conditioning system, which is believed to require only a compressor replacement and refrigerant recharge. It was recommended to repair the vehicle and return it to service rather than purchasing an additional replacement vehicle at this time.

The 2017 black Ford Explorer had previously been approved for surplus. Instead of moving forward with selling the vehicle it was recommended to send the vehicle to the Ford Dealership for repair. The white 2014 Ford Explorer requires a transmission repair. After much deliberation it was decided to look for a transmission from a junk yard and repair the 2014 Ford Explorer.

The 2014 Ford Explorer was listed on GovDeals twice. The first sale did not meet the reserve amount and was rejected. During the second auction, the vehicle sold for $2,888; however, both the first and second bidders ultimately declined to complete the purchase, leaving the vehicle available for retention and continued use.

Motion by Brent Foster, second by Shannon Donnelly Council approves to reinstate the 2017 Ford Explorer and 2014 Ford Explorer back into service. Take the 2017 Ford Explorer to the Ford Dealership to be worked on, fix the air conditioner on the Ford F-150, and find a transmission at a junk yard to be placed in the 2014 Ford Explorer. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Bill Clear	Absent	Shannon Donnelly	Aye
Brent Foster	Aye	Bob Jeter	Aye
Julie Sturgill	Aye	P.J. Wolfe	Absent

Any Other Business:

Mrs. Eller shared the $100,000 from the General Fund has been moved to the Local Government Investment Pool Long Term Asset Account.

Mr. Martin reported on the Double D project. It is anticipated that work will begin work on the Double D project next week, pending receipt of two certified Powers of Attorney from the County Circuit Court Clerk's Office. These documents are the final items needed before the property transactions can be recorded. All other documentation has been completed. Once the certified documents are received, the transactions will be recorded immediately, allowing staff to move forward with the project.

Councilwoman Sturgill discussed the Veterans Day banner program and expressed enthusiasm regarding the community interest and positive feedback received thus far. Participation is not limited to Town residents, and family members or relatives may purchase banners honoring Veterans.

The program is being coordinated by Mrs. Cora Welch, who has received several inquiries and distributed order forms. While no banners have been sold at this time, interest in the program has been strong since its recent announcement.

Mr. Martin discussed the importance of including a military photograph, when available, as part of the banner application. The application should request the Veteran's military rank in addition to their name, as rank is an important part of many Veterans' military service and accomplishments.

The Town is currently working with vendors to determine production turnaround times in order to establish an application deadline. The tentative plan is to install the banners during the third week of October and leave them on display through the third week of November. The banners would then be removed as Christmas decorations are displayed prior to Thanksgiving.

Appreciation was expressed for the work being done by the Chilhowie Library and its Librarian, Heather Carter. The library provides outstanding programs and community engagement;

the branch serves as a strong representation of the values and character of the Town of Chilhowie.

Following a library program held on Thursday, June 18, 2026, several patrons inquired about the possibility of installing a crosswalk connecting the library parking lot area to the main entrance of

the Old High School building. The matter falls under the jurisdiction of the Virginia Department of Transportation and is not a decision that can be made solely by the Town.

The Town Manager reported that he would contact the appropriate Virginia Department of Transportation representative to discuss the request and determine what options may be available for improving pedestrian access and safety in the area.

Councilman Foster requested that Mr. Martin address concerns regarding the drainage ditch on Church Avenue, noting that recent heavy rains have caused substantial erosion and increased the size of the ditch.

Motion by Brent Foster, second by Julie Sturgill Council adjourns this meeting at 7:15 p.m. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Bill Clear	Absent	Shannon Donnelly	Aye
Brent Foster	Aye	Bob Jeter	Aye
Julie Sturgill	Aye	P.J. Wolfe	Absent

_____Mayor
Gary L. Heninger

_____Clerk
Felicia Eller, CMC