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WEEKEND

Richmond Register



Photos by Brycen McWilliams | Richmond Register

Commissioner Mike Brewer raises questions and concerns over details in the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026.

Richmond Commission advances
First Reading of FY 2026 Budget

BRYCEN MCWILLIAMS
RICHMOND REGISTER

The Richmond City Commission on Tuesday discussed the first reading of the city's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2026. Finance Director Sharon Cain presented the detailed ordinance, outlining revenue estimates, appropriations, and future financial plans for various city funds.

Cain explained that the proposed budget estimates total resources of approximately \$65.3 million, with appropriations set at around \$49.4 million. She highlighted the ending balances projected across different funds, including the general fund, contingency reserve, capital projects, and ARPA funds.

"In the general fund, our estimated balance carried forward is \$20 million, with total resources for appropriation at over \$65 million," Cain stated. "Our appropriations are approximately \$49.4



Finance Director Sharon Cain reviews the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026 in the city of Richmond during the recent commission meeting. This was the first reading.

million, leaving an estimated ending balance of nearly \$15.9 million."

Cain also discussed the city's capital projects fund, which has a beginning balance of nearly \$10 million, with plans to draw down on about \$37 million for ongoing projects, including the construction of a new park.

Commissioners had the opportunity to ask questions about specific line items. Mike Brewer raised concerns about allocations for emergency management and fire services, particularly about designated funds like the \$10,000 set aside for EMA (Emergency Management Agency) activities. He inquired about how

these funds are designated and whether they are sufficient.

City Manager Rob Minerich clarified that the \$10,000 annual contribution to the EMA fund is part of an interlocal agreement with neighboring governments, with a maximum fund cap of \$200,000. He explained that the funds are meant to cover unexpected emergency costs, and that the \$200,000 cap ensures there's a reserve for emergencies.

Brewer also questioned how contributions from local governments are calculated, noting that they are based on population percentages, which could change as the population grows. Minerich confirmed that as the population increases, so could their contributions, depending on demographic shifts.

Commissioner Cole emphasized that the budget process involves multiple

See **BUDGET** on 14

Barr votes for over
\$9B in DOGE Cuts to
Wasteful Spending

SPECIAL TO THE
REGISTER

Washington, D.C.—Today, U.S. Congressman Andy Barr (R-KY), a member of the Congressional Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Caucus, voted to make permanent more than \$9B in spending cuts recommended by DOGE. The package included steep cuts to foreign aid and government funded media outlets including NPR and PBS.

"My message to DOGE is simple: keep the cuts coming," said Congressman Barr. "We saved taxpayers almost \$10B by ending the left-wing slush fund at USAID, that funded outrageous projects like building "Net Zero cities in Mexico" and LGBTQ initiatives abroad. We also eliminated taxpayer funding for media outlets that were estab-

lished to be non-partisan but increasingly have used taxpayer funding to promote a political agenda. While these news organizations have a right to promote left-wing causes, they don't have a right to taxpayer money to fund it."

Some of the foreign aid cuts that were Congressman Barr voted to eliminate today are below:

- \$167,000 for free education and healthcare to Ecuadorian and Venezuelan migrants
- \$889,000 for electoral reforms and voter education in Kenya
- \$33,000 for "Being LGBTI in the Caribbean"
- \$643,000 for LGBTQI+ programs in the Western Balkans
- \$567,000 for LBGTQI+ programs in Uganda
- \$8,000 for promoting vegan food in Zambia

See **DOGE** on 14

Madison County Board
of Education meets
for the month of June

KALEIGH ADAMS
RICHMOND REGISTER

The Madison County Board of Education met for their monthly meeting on Thursday, June 12.

The meeting began with the call to order and the mission statement.

The board then recognized two employees for reaching 30 years of service. They presented Kevin Anderson from Madison Southern High School and Genel Prewitt from Shannon Johnson Elementary School with an award for their service.

The board approved the following items under the consent agenda:

- Minutes for the meeting of May 22
- Superintendent Personnel actions

Leaves of absence

Technology surplus

Two shortened school day applications

Leslie Lily, Principal of Daniel Boone Elementary, and Donnie Hurley, Principle of Foley Middle School, presented the instruction report. Both schools received a new position and provided updates to the board on how the position was improving performance in the schools with children.

Jonathan Smith with Branscum Construction presented the construction report. Madison Middle classrooms are reaching the final cleanings and will be open for teachers soon. The gym is waiting on bleachers to

See **MADISON** on 14

Richmond welcomes New Businesses

BRYCEN MCWILLIAMS
RICHMOND REGISTER

The city of Richmond recently celebrated the growth of its small business community during Tuesday's commission meeting, where several entrepreneurs introduced their new ventures to the community.

First to present was Regina Roland, alongside Caitlyn McQueen, who shared details about their new enterprise, First Glimpse. Located at 620 Big Hill Avenue, First Glimpse specializes in elective prenatal ultrasound photography. Regina,

with over 30 years of experience in healthcare administration and HR, expressed her excitement about crossing into the personalized healthcare side. Caitlyn, serving as the manager and lead sonographer, highlighted that their studio offers 2D, 3D, 4D, and HD ultrasounds in a family-friendly environment.

Their services aim to provide expectant parents with a memorable "first glimpse" of their unborn baby, fostering early bonding moments. Beyond ultrasounds, they offer gender testing as early as six weeks into pregnancy, allowing parents to

discover the baby's sex sooner than traditional ultrasounds. They also provide keepsakes such as heartbeat stuffed animals, recording the baby's heartbeat for families to cherish for years. Additionally, the studio hosts gender reveal events with fun items like colored balloons and confetti, making the experience even more special.

Next, Kim and Paige Robbins introduced Wax and Relax, a mother-daughter duo offering beauty and wellness services at 234 East Main Street. Kim, a

See **BUSINESS** on 14



Brycen McWilliams | Richmond Register

Regina Roland and Caitlyn McQueen of First Glimpse new business recognition. First Glimpse specializes in elective prenatal ultrasound photography.

WEATHER



Today: It's a rainy day.
79 | **68**

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