

What did Town Council say about funding an aquatics center?

Response when sources include the formal Town Budget document:

The sources indicate that the Town Council has been involved in discussions regarding the funding of a proposed aquatics and fitness center

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The Economic Development Department has assisted with communication around a Town Council-driven issue: a proposed aquatics and fitness center in the Town of Vienna, as well as the mechanism to fund its construction, maintenance, and operations

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The proposed funding mechanism discussed involves a meals tax increase

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Economic Development staff supported efforts to communicate with businesses about this proposed meals tax increase and provided forums for dialogue and feedback. They also encouraged attendance from the business community at Town Council meetings and work sessions regarding the aquatics center

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The Town Business Liaison Committee (TBLC) has also done outreach to the business community to gather feedback about this proposed project

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There have been discussions regarding the timeline for the construction of the aquatics and fitness center

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These points suggest that the Town Council has taken a leading role in proposing and exploring funding options, specifically a meals tax increase, for a potential aquatics and fitness center and has been actively seeking input from the community and businesses on this matter

Response using only the materials at that Work Session (no formal budget doc):

Based on the sources and our previous conversation, the Town Council has continued to discuss the potential funding of an aquatics and fitness center, primarily in the context of the annex property

. Here's a summary of what the Town Council has said or what has been discussed regarding this matter:

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Long-range plans for the annex property on Center Street, where the aquatics center is proposed, have been completed

. The Town Council is at a decision point regarding the future of this property, with a decision expected around August at the earliest

. This implies that the aquatics center project is tied to the overall decision for the annex property.

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There is ongoing uncertainty regarding the timeline for the construction of the aquatics and fitness center

. The timeline discussed ranges from potentially starting construction in two years to a longer timeframe of five to ten years. This uncertainty affects planning and discussions about the use of the annex property in the interim

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A council member expressed the sentiment that the town should try to secure ("garnish") funds to support the annex project and build the aquatics center as an amenity for residents

. This suggests a continued interest within the council in moving forward with the project if funding can be obtained.

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There has been discussion about Fairfax County's potential role and financial contribution to the annex project, given that the county uses the library located on the potential site

. One council member suggested charging the county rent for parking on the site during library construction as a way to generate funds for the annex. However, concerns were raised about potential retaliation from the county and the practicality of such an approach

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The Town Manager acknowledged the partnership with Fairfax County on the library project and emphasized that protecting the town's interests regarding the use of the annex property is a consideration during discussions with the county

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These points indicate that while the Town Council has made progress in long-range planning for the annex property, the funding and timeline for the aquatics center remain subjects of ongoing discussion and depend on decisions related to the broader use of the annex property and potential partnerships or funding sources

. The previously discussed meals tax increase was not mentioned in these latest excerpts, suggesting the council may be exploring or considering other funding avenues as well.

