

City of Virginia Beach
Agricultural Advisory Commission
Annual Report to City Council
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

John Cromwell, Chair
Due by August 31, 2025

Executive Summary

During the fiscal year covering the period of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, the Agricultural Advisory Commission (AAC) and liaison met 4 times.

Our most significant accomplishments are detailed below.

Mission Statement

The Commission shall serve in an advisory capacity for the purpose of providing recommendations to the City Council concerning issues of special interest to the rural/agricultural community of the City, and to that end, shall have the duty to investigate and determine the needs and interests of the rural/agricultural community.

Accomplishment of Goals and Objectives

Over the period of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, the agency, through its appointed volunteers and its liaisons, worked on the following key matters in furtherance of its mission:

1. AAC was introduced to the new Deputy City Manager, Amanda Jarrett on July 8, 2024.
2. Planning & Community Development presented 2040 Comprehensive Plan updates to AAC at quarterly meetings.
3. Max Bartholomew from Dominion Power presented to the AAC regarding their most recent offshore wind project, Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) that is located 27 miles offshore of Virginia Beach.
4. Dean Bowels, Parks & Recreation, PDD Manager Planning, Design & Development briefed the AAC on the Interfacility Traffic Area (ITA) Master Plan Updated that was given to City Council on October 1, 2024.
5. Rachel Miller from Planning and Community Development updated AAC on the Comprehensive Plan. Series of 4 workshops with can be viewed online.
6. Chris Tan, President and Chief Executive Officer of Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore gave a presentation to the AAC on October 14 of the new facility being built on Dam Neck Road.
7. Proposed FY26 Budget update given by Kevin Chatellier, Director of Budget and Management Services. Updated the AAC on the interest earned in the ARP Fund was \$682,000.
8. AAC was given staff updates at quarterly meetings on the Agriculture Reserve Program (ARP), Farmers Market, Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and Director's updates.

Membership and Attendance –

Per City ordinance reporting below is calendar year. Please note the AAC meets quarterly on the second Monday of the first month of each quarter (January, April, July, and October). If Commissioners participate P/V, it must be annotated in the Minutes where they remotely participated from and the reason – does not apply to City Council or Staff Liaisons.

- Attendance records for 2024 and 2025 are attached.

Financial Report

N/A

Goals and Objectives for the Coming Year

The AAC will continue their focus on the growth and sustainability of agriculture by representing and working with farmers and citizens with “on farm” marketing and growth opportunities, agricultural education, farmland preservation and the Agricultural Reserve Program.

Closing

This 2024/2025 Agricultural Advisory Commission Annual Report was approved by the Agricultural Advisory Commission on October 13, 2025.

If you have any questions or would like to request a formal City Council briefing from our commission, please contact David Trimmer, Director of Agriculture, and staff liaison to the Agricultural Advisory Commission.

City of Virginia Beach

Agricultural Advisory Commission

2024/2025 Attendance Record

Members Attendance

Name	Term Expires on:	Jan 8 th	Apr 1 st	Jul 8 th	Oct 14 th	Jan 13 th	Apr 14 th	Jul 14 th	Oct 13 th					Total Present
John Cromwell	9/30/2025	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					8
Jason Dawley	9/30/2025	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					8
Ryan Horsley	9/30/2025	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P					7
Ryan Dudley	9/30/2028	NA	NA	NA	P	P	P	P	P					5
Betsey Morris	9/30/2027	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					8
William 'Billy' Vaughan	9/30/2024	P	A	P	R									2
This row indicates if there was a quorum; total number of members in person/total number of appointed members														

City Council Liaisons/Department Staff Liaisons

Council Member Liaison	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A					7
Staff Liaison	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					8

Key: Present (P) Present/Virtually (P/V) Absent (A) Resigned (R) Excused Absence (E) Canceled (C)

City Council and staff liaisons should be marked either P or P/V, if not in attendance, the block should be blank

If commissioners participate P/V, it must be annotated in the minutes where they remotely participated from and the reason – does not apply to City Council or staff liaisons.

Meetings lacking a quorum of members attending in person should be designated with an asterisk (*)