

January 14th, 2025
Town Council
Regular Meeting
RES-25-01-08

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH WARRENTON COMMISSION
ON OPEN AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT**

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Warrenton is a governing body of a municipal corporation in the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to Subtitle 1 and Subtitle 2 of Virginia Code §§15.2-100, et. seq.,

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 15.2-1411 provides that the governing body of any locality may appoint advisory boards, committees, and commissions as necessary to advise the governing body with regard to any matter of concern to the locality

WHEREAS, such members shall be appointed to serve at the pleasure of the governing body,

WHEREAS, the governing body may appropriate such funds as necessary to pay for direct expenses incurred by such members, including legal expenses, and may be equipped to use discovery tools including subpoenas issued under Virginia Code §15.2-409;

WHEREAS certain controversies and litigation have arisen over the past two years relating to development applications voted on by the Town, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Warrenton has at this time concluded that the citizenry of the Town deserves a comprehensive review of the process used to evaluate and decide such development applications, particularly as pertaining to high-intensity commercial uses;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WARRENTON SHALL HEREBY ESTABLISH "THE WARRENTON COMMISSION ON OPEN AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT" WITH THE FOLLOWING AUTHORIZATIONS, DUTIES AND OBJECTIVES AIMED AT REFORMING AND IMPROVING TOWN PROCESSES:

1. Review the development applications process as managed by the Town of Warrenton, with specific focus on facilitating the public's timely awareness and understanding of said applications;
2. Review any application that has been before the Town in the past six (6) years that the Commission deems appropriate for review (i) so as to promote increased transparency and openness; and/or (ii) may reveal defective, or potentially improper, practices by Town government which require further investigation. Of initial and particular interest by the Town Council is the Town's approval of Special Use Permit 22-03 issued on February 14, 2023, to Amazon Web Services.
3. Conduct its review with the support of the Town Attorney and such outside experts and counsel as the Town Attorney may deem necessary to develop a record of relevant correspondence, applications, meetings, news reports and any other materials relevant to the selected application;
4. Prepare a report to Council within twelve (12) months of its formation, that provides the Commission's findings and recommendations regarding *inter alia* improvements to procedure, process and/or the Town's Code of Ethics to ensure that all communications with applicants are timely, open and transparent;

5. Appropriate such funds as necessary for the Commission to discharge its duties.

6. The composition of the Committee shall consist of two members of the Town Council, one of whom shall be the Vice Mayor, and three town residents selected by them and confirmed by the Council.

ATTACHMENT:

Votes:

Ayes:

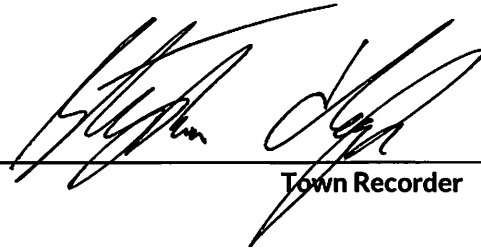
Nays:

Absent from Meeting:

For Information:

Town Attorney

ATTEST: _____



Town Recorder