

Heather Jenkins

From: Steve Ainsworth
Sent: Sunday, April 20, 2025 12:22 PM
To: Heather Jenkins
Cc: Denise Harris; Ryan Stewart; James Lawrence; Darine Barbour; Terry Lasher
Subject: April 22nd PC Meeting

Heather,

I apologize for not being able to attend the April 22, 2025 Planning Commission meeting. My plans for travel in April were set when the only meeting listed on the online agenda for the month was on April 15th.

Regarding the proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment change to remove Data Centers as a Permissible Use in the Industrial District, it appears that the basis for the requested is due to the opinion of new council members and not the introduction of new safety concern. This new opinion seems to disregard the fact that the meeting notices, agendas, online meeting broadcasts and emails relating to the town business is accessed through switches, servers and devices housed in data centers.

I liken these data centers to the older telephone exchange buildings that are placed in cities and towns so that residents living in the bygone era of "land line" telephones had the convenience of calling their local Council member from home. Verizon's building is still on W. Lee St and Comcast has a building on East St. Additionally, there is a data support building below the water tower on N. 4th St. for the antenna systems on the tower.

Today, just about all Town of Warrenton government utilizes the convenience (or necessity) of the internet and associated data centers to conduct business. Additionally, most town businesses and citizens utilize these systems to access information regarding government services, healthcare, news, finances, shopping, schools, recreation and a multitude of other services. In my opinion, to suggest that data centers and therefore the internet does not further the health, safety and welfare of the public nor promote public necessity and convenience is absurd.

The actions by the current Council seem arbitrary and counter to the previous council assessment of the value of Data Centers without any additional clarification or new concerns. This action is taken without consideration of the impact on previous decisions and considerations made based on the faith and trust in the town government. Therefore, I propose recommending that the Town Council rescind the direction to remove Data Centers as a Permissible Use as listed in the Zoning Ordinance until new information is provided regarding the impact on the health, safety and welfare as well as the necessity or convenience to the citizens if the Town of Warrenton.

Sincerely,
Steven Ainsworth