



**TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WARRENTON
TOWN HALL
21 MAIN STREET
WARRENTON, VIRGINIA 20186**

MINUTES

**A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WARRENTON WAS HELD ON
July 12, 2022, AT 6:30 P.M. IN WARRENTON, VIRGINIA**

WORK SESSION

PRESENT

Mr. Carter Nevill, Mayor; Mr. James Hartman, Vice Mayor; Mr. Sean Polster; Mr. Kevin Carter; Mr. Brett Hamby; Ms. Heather Sutphin; Mr. William Semple; Mr. Renard Carlos; Ms. Brandie Schaeffer, Town Manager; Mr. Olaun Simmons, Town Attorney

ABSENT

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT

Mr. Carter Nevill, Mayor; Mr. James Hartman, Vice Mayor; Mr. Sean Polster; Mr. Kevin Carter; Mr. Brett Hamby; Ms. Heather Sutphin; Mr. William Semple; Mr. Renard Carlos; Ms. Brandie Schaeffer, Town Manager; Mr. Olaun Simmons, Town Attorney

ABSENT

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M.

AGENDA REVIEW

Mayor Nevill said that Council would add agenda item two after the agenda review as a closed session to discuss the Town Manager's resignation.

Ms. Schaeffer reviewed the agenda with the Council. She noted that Tommy Cureton was with her at the staff table today.

Ms. Schaeffer explained that staff expected a large turnout for citizens' time this evening. She informed the mayor that the Center District Supervisor was unavailable and would not be joining tonight for a presentation. She noted that all the public hearings for this evening had been shown to Council at least once before this meeting. She then invited Ms. Harris to discuss the public hearing on Ordinance 2022-09 Voting and Polling Locations.

Public hearing information and presentation notes can be found further in the minutes under the public hearing section.

Ms. Schaffer continued on with agenda review to the consent agenda.

Vice Mayor Hartman suggested picking dates for the Strategic and Budget Retreat now.

The Council checked their calendars and discussed options.

Councilman Carter suggested a Saturday option.

The consensus dates were February 18th, 2023, for the budget retreat and September 24th, 2022, for the strategic retreat.

Mayor Nevill suggested moving this item from new business to the consent agenda, assuming that the consultant also had these dates available.

Councilman Carlos inquired about the structure of the strategic retreat and its agenda.

Mayor Nevill noted that that would be on the August Town Council meeting agenda.

Ms. Schaeffer asked for guidance from the Council on the location of the retreats.

The Path Foundation and Fauquier Hospital were suggested, noting that the Retreat should be held within the Town borders.

Councilman Hamby suggested rotating between the Hospital and the PATH Foundation for future retreats.

A brief recess was called to wait for the Town Attorney to be present to read into the closed session.

At 9:50 Council was reconvened.

Closed Session under Va. Code §2.2-3711 (A)(1) to discuss the Town Manager's Resignation

Councilman Hartman moved to convene a closed session pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) and 15.2-2907(D) to discuss specific Town officers, appointees, or employees, for the purpose of considering such person's assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salary, disciplining, or resignation. Specifically, the Town Manager's Resignation. Councilman Carlos Seconded.

Ayes: Mr. James Hartman; Mr. Sean Polster; Mr. Brett Hamby; Mr. Kevin Carter; Mr. Renard Carlos; Ms. Heather Sutphin; Mr. William Semple

Nays:
Abstention:
Absent:

Upon reconvening from the closed session, Town Council adopted the following Certification of Closed meeting:

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Warrenton has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3172 E of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each members knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Town Council Councilman Carter seconded, the vote for the motion was unanimous, as follows:

Ayes: *Mr. James Hartman; Mr. Sean Polster; Mr. Brett Hamby; Mr. Renard Carlos; Ms. Heather Sutphin; Mr. William Semple; Mr. Kevin Carter*

Nays:
Abstention:
Absent:

Recess at 11:30 a.m.

The Town Council reconvened in regular session at 6:35 p.m.

INVOCATION

Wally Smith, Chaplin of the Police department, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Nevill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS TIME

Cindy Burbank, 3647 Barn Owl Court, addressed the Council regarding Amazon data center / Dominion.

Ken Alm, 194 Culpeper Street, addressed the Council regarding the data center.

Dana Wright, 6250 Brighton Court, addressed the Council regarding the data center.
Kevin Kask, 7911 Lake Plant Dr. Springfield, VA, addressed the Council regarding Amazon.

Marilyn Brown, 5621 Sinclair Drive, addressed the Council regarding data center / Amazon.

Lynda Lavache, 6274 Red Winged Blackbird, addressed the Council regarding Amazon.

Josephine Gilbert, Scott District, addressed the Council regarding BLM & School Board.

Tim Hoffman, 4191 Cray Drive, Vint Hill, VA, addressed the Council regarding Amazon data center / powerlines.

Jeanne-Marie Tufts, 226 Falmouth Street, addressed the Council regarding Main Street weekend closures.

Dave Winn, 7960 Wellington Drive, addressed the Council regarding the data SUP.

Ann Kehoe, 7000 Beaconsfield Lane, addressed the Council regarding the data SUP.

Jin Kehoe, 7000 Beaconsfield Lane, addressed the Council regarding the data SUP.

Anne Ziegler, 577 Old Busthead Road, addressed the Council regarding no data center.

William Ziegler, 577 Old Busthead Road, addressed the Council regarding no data center.

Brandi Norrell, 92 Main Street, addressed the Council regarding RollOutWarrenton!.

Sean Hagerty, 6565 Bos White Drive, addressed the Council regarding data center.

Anne M. Walsh, 450 Ridge Court, addressed the Council regarding Amazon

Mike Fultz, 7020 Beaconsfield Lane, addressed the Council regarding data centers / power tower.

Jim Mills, 4068 Von Newman Circle, addressed the Council regarding the power towers in Vint Hill.

Laura Presley, 5235 Ambler Drive, addressed the Council regarding power lines.

Christen Crow, 5443 Wembley Drive, addressed the Council regarding trust / Amazon / transparency.

John Perfili, 7392 Boom Willow Drive, addressed the Council regarding ZNA.

Scott Pisit, 5475 Rosenak Mount, addressed the Council regarding Amazon Data Center application.

Jean Boenish, 5743 Camelia Court, addressed the Council regarding special Event application / power towers.

Luunda Repass, 6801 Caitlin Court, addressed the Council regarding Power Line / Amazon Prop.

Bill Hodge, 6297 Robin Lane, addressed the Council regarding Power Line / Amazon.

Andrew Hirsch, 4284 Buckminster Lane, addressed the Council regarding power towers.

Barbara Amster, 726 Acorn Court, addressed the Council regarding power towers.

Sandra Sites, 6642 Riley Road, New Baltimore, VA, addressed the Council regarding power towers.

Suzy Watkins, 6691 Colonnades Drive, addressed the Council regarding power lines.

COUNCILMEMBERS TIME

Mr. Carlos- Thanked the folks that came out and talked with Council during Citizen's Time. Noting that he hears their concerns, there is a process to evaluate all the information and make a judgment based on the facts and the views based on the voice of the constituents. He said it was important to note that he was a representative of you. He said that his job was to take in information and produce results that reflect the community's needs. Stating it was not his job to twist your arm and make you try to accept something that you're telling Council you don't want for any project whatsoever. We're at a point in our Town and our County where we will begin to see projects that may be fantastic and may not be. The need for a coordinated approach with the County is incredibly important. He noted that Council has Town / County Liaison meetings that you as residents should be updated on. We should have an opportunity to discuss what is going on and coordinate with the county on these projects. He said that he had talked about it for quite some time. The question of what growth sector growth looks like in Warrenton is one that we have not answered. You see a need for it and debating on and addressing how we will solve our revenue issues. Projects like this may seem like good options, but we must follow all of the data and the facts to ensure that it reflects the needs; any project reflects the constituents' needs. You deserve answers. It is our responsibility to answer every question you ask us, your representatives, either I'm not sure, but I will get you that answer, or I don't know. Stonewalling any project or question from a duly elected individual on where we are is unacceptable. As residents who elect us to office, anytime we cannot provide you with answers to your questions. Tonight, I am glad that our sign-up sheet now includes the email and phone numbers that I asked to be put in there so that we can be sure to talk to you. Your voice matters. Pay attention to what your elected officials are telling you and what they're not telling you. A to B thinking. Process matters. Strategic thinking and budgeting matter; I appreciate your comments and concerns and look forward to conversing with you over the weeks.

Mr. Carter- I'm grateful that we had so many Citizens come out tonight to speak on the potential power lines coming through our Town and County. When you look at the people on this dais, it affects every single one of us as well. We are also citizens; we enjoy this Town and love this County. I think you should rest easy knowing that we are ultimately affected by those decisions as much as anyone else. We will consider it carefully, and there's a long haul ahead of us. We have many public hearings and opportunities for the public to engage, so I encourage you to do so, and we will continue to listen.

Mr. Hartman- I was born and raised here, I live here, I work here, I retired here, and now I'm on this dais. My colleague here was born in San Diego, he could have been a surfer, but that does not mean he loves Warrenton any less than I do. Again, I hear everybody, I appreciate the effort to come out to talk with us tonight about this, and I look forward to more engagement with the

community. I'd like to point out that this is Ms. Schaeffer's last meeting. I'd like to thank her for her service to the Town, its citizens, the staff at Town Hall, and us here on the Council. Thank you.

Mr. Hamby- I'd like to reiterate. Also, to all the citizens who showed up, this is a forum where everybody should be able to speak their mind. As we continue through most of the information that's out, it acts like we're at one end of the process, but this is just the beginning. This will go through the planning commission phase before it moves forward, so it's not a decision that will be before Council for the next few months as it winds its way through the process. I would also like to thank Ms. Schaeffer for all her service; planning commission, com dev, Town Manager, farmers market, roll out, and on. But I would also like to thank her for her service, and if no one objects, I'd like to add proclamations back on the agenda after Councilmember's time.

Mr. Semple- I have a personal connection to the challenges faced by our neighbors. I came to Fauquier County in 1949; my grandparents bought a farm in 1938; in 2016, dominion mapped out a 500KV rout that went right down our farm road. So, we spent two and a half years as respondents in a major case that would have built those power towers right down rt. 66, so I feel your pain. That said, Fauquier County's future and the Town go hand in hand. What benefits the Town and the county as a shared experience? With that balance in mind, I look forward to reviewing these applications, taking my only sense of what Fauquier County really is, its beauty its charm, and doing what I can to accommodate all of our needs in an appropriate way.

Ms. Sutphin- I came to Warrenton in 1968 through Fauquier hospital. I've lived here my whole life except for a short time in Bristow. When I was born, we lived in the basement in Leeds square, the old hospital, in apartments. Even before the meeting, I was talking about the old Warrenton and how there was nothing to do in Fauquier County when I was growing up. But we had Hugo's skate rink and the bowling alley; both are gone. Over the years, we've seen many things come and go. We've seen things come that we wish hadn't happened, things that didn't come that we want could have happened. I think that each of us comes from different times in our life, different points, different areas, and different parts of the sections; we're not all from Warrenton. Many aren't from Warrenton. But if anyone doubts for two seconds that we're not all emotionally attached to the Town and love it every bit as everyone who spoke, then you're wrong. Everybody here is here because we're emotionally tied to this Town. So, no matter if we make a decision you disagree with or hate. Or that you madly agree with and think we're the best thing ever. But we live here and pay taxes here too. Each decision that we make is very hard. So, you can guarantee that we will all have many meetings and arguments over the next few months because we all have different ideas. But when we make the decision, it's not something that will be lightly taken. I also wanted to say it's unfortunate that today is Ms. Brandie's last day. She has taught me many things and has brought this Town through some of its most challenging points. I never thought I'd live to see a pandemic. This woman came in here and said this is what we're going to do. The team followed her as one. When we had that horrible storm the other night, this woman was here till one in the morning. There have been times when I'm out on main street and see her working late into the night. She is very dedicated and never refuses to take calls, even on vacation. She will be missed greatly.

Mr. Polster- I want to thank everybody that came. I spent about an hour and a half last night working with a boy scout on his community citizenship merit badge. The topic he chose was the power lines. And one thing I think the mayor said more elegantly was that this process has not been approved yet. All we've done is approve the zoning for them to occur in that particular zoning area. He couldn't really wrap his head around it because he kept saying well the newspaper said

the newspaper said. So, understanding the process, and like I said, the mayor said it better than I did, we sat down and talked about the legislative process and how government worked, and by the end, I think he really understood. Again, I think the onus is on us to engage with the community and ensure people understand the process. I'd like to thank Jeanne Marie and Brandie for coming to talk to us about the Main Street closures and their impact on their business. I look forward to working with the rest of the Council on opportunities there. Number three, Ms. Schaeffer. I talked to Gilbert Godfrey earlier, I thought we were doing a roast tonight, so I'll leave some things out. One of the things I'm most grateful for is your introduction to Chris Stapleton. About seven years ago, you knew Chris before Chris was cool. Number 2, never take Ms. Schaeffer hunting in Virginia; we'll talk about that later. Number 3, I always thought In and Out was something you did at the grocery store, but apparently, it's a burger place in Texas, so I appreciate your opportunity of education there. And when we used to have tacos or BBQ here, she always said nothing's better than the food in Texas. So, when I went down to Houston, I brought back ten pounds; that was my body weight, not ten pounds of food. First and foremost, thank you. Thank you for being an amazing planner and an amazing friend. One of the things I'll take away from you is that you have the ability to see things as they can be, not as they are, and we will miss your visionary ability in Town. You led the Town through some rough times and accomplished some amazing things. You led the Town to get a presidential award, one of the few communities in Virginia to receive the award and the only community under 10,000 to receive it. We received a platinum award for move and get healthy; only two other communities at the time received it. She was even there with Mr. Hamby and I when the storm came through, and she realized what emergency management was when we had to clear everybody out. And most of all, the farmer's market. It would not be where it is today without you. As Ms. Sutphin said, many a Saturday, you were there moving cones in and out when that defiantly was not part of your job description. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your service, and I look forward to what you're going to accomplish in the future. Thank you, Ms. Schaeffer.

Mayor Nevill- Everyone has pretty much touched on what I wanted to say; I wanted to echo Councilwoman Sutphin and Councilman Semple's statement about the process that we will take and our dedication and care for this community. We would not be sitting in these chairs if we did not believe in and deeply care for and want to seek to preserve everything that makes this Town and this county special. As this process moves forward, we will be in careful deliberation, very cognoscenti of the concerns that were brought forth, hopeful that solutions can be found, and if not we will measure this accordingly. That decision will be driven by our care, concern, and love. To anyway insulate that there is a recklessness to our approach, I think it is unfair to each and every person that has chosen to serve and to staff as well that the character of this community and who this Town is first and foremost in all of our decisions. We hear you; we are listening to you, and I think, as I said, we share your concerns and what to ensure that whatever the outcome, it is beneficial to all, and I think that is a unified commitment that we've all made with our service. I want to thank parks and rec for a fabulous fourth of July. It was a loud and noisy weekend, but the fireworks set off by the WARF were a highlight of the weekend for me. Thank you for all the efforts put forth to make that happen. At the request of Ms. Schaeffer, we will hold her proclamation till next month. Tommy, if I can come down to the WARF, we can present it through a ceremony there to expedite the evening. To Ms. Schaeffer, it has been an absolute privilege to work with you. You have been an inspiration, a visionary leader. I think others may speak better to this as I'm a little emotionally caught up in the moment. I've known you since before I got on Council. I think your dedication to what service can be is one of the motivating factors that lead me to where I am now, first through the position on ARB and now this position as mayor. You have been able to adapt to a changing environment with vision, aplomb, and sense of purpose. Your commitment and dedication to staff has effected the environment of this Town Hall; the

positivity, the dedication, the amount and willingness that people are willing to put forth through your inspiration is unparalleled. It's going to be incumbent on us to find someone; uh, those high heels are going to be hard to fill, but we will endeavor to sustain the momentum that you've put behind us, the winds behind our sails. Again, personally speaking, I have learned so much from you, and I continue to, and I hope that this opportunity exists. You were the right person at the right time for this Town; I don't know how we could have ever accomplished what we did without you. I think for every one of us who serve, you have been an inspiration. We will continue to carry forth your enthusiasm, your vision, you have set a very high bar and I certainly, will in everything I do, will continue to keep that spirit alive in what I do, how I serve, and what my commitment to the future of this Town is about promise and possibility. You're the first person, I think, in that seat that took steps to move us towards that, and for that, I think you.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Ordinance 2022-09 – Voting and Polling Locations

Work session-

Ms. Harris gave a presentation to Council outlining that this Public Hearing was to end the comment period and close the Public Hearing for the change in voting and polling Locations. She gave a brief history of the timeline of this ordinance and reminded the Council of the proposed voting location changes. She requested action tonight on the proposed location to continue coordinating with the County and take the necessary steps to implement this before the November elections.

Mayor Nevill asked Ms. Harris about the process Council would need to adhere to if the Department of Justice opposed the changes.

Ms. Harris stated that the County attorney was handling that, noting they feel pretty confident that they have met the requirements of the Department of Justice.

Ms. Schaeffer stated the Staff had participated in the discussions and site visits to evaluate the locations to meet the standards from the Department of Justice and that the Town has a good chance that this will go through.

Councilman Semple asked if there were any reason this would not go through.

Ms. Schaeffer said that there was a whole list of standards that need to be met, but we believe that the locations set forward have met the standards, but that it is up to the DOJ if they have a challenge to that.

Evening session-

Ms. Harris presented a recap of the Ordinance and stated that this would conclude the Public Hearing. Staff recommended adopting the proposed locations to forward the location changes to the County.

No questions from Council.

Mayor Nevill opened the public hearing at 8:18 P.M., but no one spoke.

Mayor Nevill closed the public hearing at 8:19 P.M.

Mr. Carter moved to approve Ordinance 2022-09 – Voting and Polling Locations; Mr. Semple seconded. There was no discussion;

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: *Mr. James Hartman; Mr. Brett Hamby; Mr. Kevin Carter; Mr. Renard Carlos; Ms. Heather Sutphin; Mr. William Semple; Mr. Sean Polster*

Nays:

Abstention:

Absent:

Ordinance 2022-09 was adopted

B. Ordinance 2022-10 Special Events

Work Session-

Ms. Schaeffer noted that Legal Council was in charge of this item.

Mayor Nevill noted two changes from the last time it had come forward that Council requested.

Councilman Polster questioned with the revised changes if this ordinance would negate the Fauquier Highschool homecoming parade since it takes place on exempted streets.

Mayor Nevill stated that the Chief of Police clarified that rolling parades and closures would be allowed.

Councilman Semple had inquired about the removal of an application fee for any group of over 20 persons and that group not being charged a renewal fee.

Ms. Schaeffer said that it had not been removed and was a standard of the use of the space because it has the option to afford it to others. Noting that there had to be a permit renewal option by code so that one group could not take the Town Square indefinitely.

Mayor Nevill said that the permit application fee had been waved for anything deemed political speech, and a safety plan is required if an event is deemed to require such a fee. He elaborated that if the need of the safety plan was from those in opposition to the event, that would fall upon the Town as a need for public safety.

Ms. Schaeffer said that was how staff had handled that to date.

Councilman Carlos questioned if this Ordinance was in line with other jurisdictions.

Ms. Schaeffer said that Mr. Crim would need to respond to that, but the definition of Political speech was tied to State Code.

Mayor Nevill stated that this Ordinance has been before Council several times, and he was hopeful that all concerns had been addressed to be able to put this to rest this evening.

Evening Session-

Councilman Carlos thanked the Town attorney and the participants who weighed in on this item, noting that he was grateful for all the work that had gone into getting this item to the right spot.

Mayor Nevill opened the public hearing at 8:20 P.M.,

Scott Christian, 7514 Sunny Ln, The Plains 20198, addressed Council on the topic.

Josephine Gilbert, Scott District, addressed Council on the topic.

Mayor Nevill closed the public hearing at 8:22 P.M.

Mr. Semple moved to approve Ordinance 2022-10 - Special Events as presented; Mr. Carlos seconded. Mr. Carlos reiterated his gratitude to Council and Staff, who worked with everybody to preserve folks' constitutional rights. Whether or not we agree with them, it's important to uphold the rights of the constitution. Thank you to everyone in the community and the Town Attorney for the work on this. Councilman Semple thanked those reviewing the ordinance for their perceptive analysis, and additional thoughts, and we've worked on this quite a bit. I think we've come up with an excellent ordinance that will stand the test of time.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: *Mr. James Hartman; Mr. Brett Hamby; Mr. Kevin Carter; Mr. Renard Carlos; Ms. Heather Sutphin; Mr. William Semple; Mr. Sean Polster*

Nays:

Abstention:

Absent:

Ordinance 2022-10 was adopted

C. Ordinance 2022-11 Emergency Management

Work Session-

Michael Potter, Emergency Services and Risk Manager introduced the topic with a brief history of the requested changes from the Council.

Council had no further questions.

Councilman Polster stated that this was a herculean lift and something that the Town had needed for a long time. He thanked Mr. potter for bringing this forward.

Mayor Nevill agreed and thanked Mr. Potter for all of his hard work to bring it forward to this point.

Evening Session-

Mayor Nevill opened the public hearing at 8:25 P.M., but no one spoke.

Mayor Nevill closed the public hearing at 8:25 P.M.

Mr. Hamby moved to approve Ordinance 2022-11 Emergency Management; Mr. Hartman seconded. There was no discussion;

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: *Mr. James Hartman; Mr. Brett Hamby; Mr. Kevin Carter; Mr. Renard Carlos; Ms. Heather Sutphin; Mr. William Semple; Mr. Sean Polster*

Nays:

Abstention:

Absent:

Ordinance 2022-11 was approved.

D. VDOT Smart Scale Applications for Round 5

Work Session-

Denise Harris presented a history of the topic. She noted that in the intervening years from round 4, the scoring system has changed, meaning the previously submitted projects would have a better chance of being selected for Round 5. She highlighted the projects that would be part of the Round 5 submissions, including visual examples from other municipalities.

Councilman Semple inquired about pedestrian signalization and if it had been incorporated into these projects.

Ms. Harris said that it had not yet been at this time. If Council requested it, Staff could look at it specifically. She noted that the sketches had been worked on until the last minute.

Councilman Hamby asked to ask if there would be changes to the pedestrian patterns we have currently.

Mayor Nevill said that these were not final engineered sketches; these were more napkin sketches for the general idea. Council could focus on pedestrian safety as we work through the project.

Evening Session-

Ms. Harris recapped the smart scale applications for Council. He was noting that guidance had come from Richmond on the pedestrian signals.

Mayor Nevill opened the public hearing at 8:29 P.M., but no one spoke.

Mayor Nevill closed the public hearing at 8:29 P.M.

Mr. Hartman moved to adopt the three resolutions in support of the VDOT Smart Scale Applications for Round 5; Mr. Carter seconded. There was no discussion;

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: *Mr. James Hartman; Mr. Brett Hamby; Mr. Kevin Carter; Mr. Renard Carlos; Ms. Heather Sutphin; Mr. William Semple; Mr. Sean Polster*
Nays:
Abstention:
Absent:

VDOT Smart Scale Applications for Round 5 were approved for submission

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Hamby moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Vice Mayor Hartman. Mayor Nevill noted that since the Town Manager's resignation was on the Consent Agenda, Council would take a roll call vote.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: *Mr. Sean Polster; Ms. Heather Sutphin; Mr. William Semple; Mr. Brett Hamby; Mr. James Hartman; Mr. Kevin Carter; Mr. Renard Carlos*
Nays:
Abstention:
Absent:

Emergency Operations Plan
Approved as Presented

Acceptance of the Town Manager's Resignation

Approved as Presented

A Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2023 Adopted Budget by \$25,000 to Fund an Executive Search

Approved as Presented

Authorization of the Installation of a Street Light in Oliver City

Approved as Presented

Setting Strategic and Budget Retreat Dates

Approved as Presented

Staff Reports

Approved as Presented

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Acting Town Manager

Mayor Nevill sought a recommendation for the appointment of the Acting Town Manager.

Vice Mayor Hartman motioned to adopt the resolution to appoint Tommy Cureton as Interim Town Manager. He clarified that this appointment and the Town Recorder would be separate points of business. Seconded by Councilman Carter.

Mayor Nevill stated how pleased he was with Tommy stepping up into this leadership role and hoped that this would be a positive opportunity for him too.

Vice Mayor Hartman introduced Tommy Cureton.

The vote was unanimous as follows:

Ayes: *Mr. Brett Hamby; Mr. Kevin Carter; Ms. Heather Sutphin; Mr. William Semple; Mr. Renard Carlos; Mr. Sean Polster; Mr. James Hartman*

Nays:

Abstention:

Absent:

Tommy Cureton was appointed as Acting Town Manager for a period of 30 days.

Appointment of Town Recorder

Mayor Nevill sought a motion.

Vice Mayor Hartman motioned to adopt a resolution to appoint Tommy Cureton as the Town Recorder. Seconded by Councilman Hamby.

The vote was unanimous as follows:

Ayes: *Mr. Brett Hamby; Mr. Kevin Carter; Ms. Heather Sutphin; Mr. William Semple; Mr. Renard Carlos; Mr. Sean Polster; Mr. James Hartman*

Nays:

Abstention:

Absent:

Tommy Cureton was appointed as Town Recorder for an indefinite period.

Appointment of FOIA Officer

Mayor Nevill sought a motion.

Councilman Hamby moved to appoint Stephanie Miller as the FOIA officer for the Town of Warrenton. Seconded by Councilman Carter.

The vote was unanimous as follows:

Ayes: *Mr. Brett Hamby; Mr. Kevin Carter; Ms. Heather Sutphin; Mr. William Semple; Mr. Renard Carlos; Mr. Sean Polster; Mr. James Hartman*

Nays:

Abstention:

Absent:

Stephanie Miller was appointed as FOIA OFFICER for an indefinite period.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Schaeffer congratulated Tommy on taking on this challenge and stepping up to help Council take on the task of appointing a new Town Manager. She offered some final remarks from her time with the Town. We've overcome many challenges together, and there are a lot that remain. The credit really goes to those who have contributed. That includes all of you up there and everybody in the back room as well. I've never built a parklet, but you'll hear my name mentioned when people talk about them, good or bad. I never picked up a hammer and built that parklet; I want to be clear as we move forward. Those who got this stuff done are not sitting right here. Numerous times through this process, I got questions from other Town Managers about what I said to get things approved, and I told them that I didn't say anything; they supported me, they trusted me through this process, and I was given a platform to try things and to be ok to fail, and I've failed. I appreciate the community support in pointing those things out as well. I know there are things that I could have done better. I've never seen a comment on Facebook that didn't mention Waterloo and the ski slope that it is, and I know Councilman Carter is working on overcoming the speeding there. We tried to do something without funding, and we tried to be creative and innovative with the financing we had, and I appreciate Council allowing us the avenues to try that and be fiscally responsible but also know that if we fall a little short, we can sit and correct it. That atmosphere allowed for a lot of innovation and creativity but it really has been by the staff; they bring the ideas forward, they come up with them, they pitch them, so I have no doubt Warrenton is going to keep moving in that direction with everybody that's employed here, and I'm very thankful to have the opportunity to serve them., it has definitely been a highlight of my career. In conclusion, I'd like to say that everybody sitting up here cares. You're the ones that appear in the paper, the comments that listen to the citizen complaints and comments when they come in ,so just remember that when we were working together and with the staff, we're all here serving together because we're the people who care. It's really hard sitting up there, I know firsthand from the planning commission and other reasons, but it's not easy., You all have served because you care. Unlike most jurisdictions, most people who work here live here too and lived here first. No one gets a degree in government and wants to see an empty room. I love it when we have to pull more chairs out,; I love it when there is more citizen comment because if people truly understand things, and it's reported, it leads to better engagement. Numerous times during COVID ,it was so hard to be here by ourselves. Moving forward, I think you all are in a great position, and I think that you have each other to thank for that and your hard work together. No decision is easy because everyone cares. Just remember everyone you're working with, and everyone here too cares. And that will lead to a better outcome. We really came together during COVID and I hope that continues. Thank you for allowing me to serve for five years here in Warrenton, it's been a great honor, and I really appreciate it.

Ms. Schaeffer received a standing ovation from Council, staff, and citizens.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

I wanted to thank Ms. Schaeffer on a job well done. Glow fiber has reached out to the Town to provide telecommunication services to the Town. We're working on the franchise agreement with them, we will bring it to Council as soon as we finish it.

Mayor Nevill noted that Council is beginning the search process for an Interim Town Manager, and the search process will also begin shortly for a permanent replacement of the Town Manager. He noted that there might be a need within the next 15 days for a closed session interview for the Interim Town manager, with this announcement serving as the required advertisement time to expedite the process of appointing an Interim Town Manager.

ADJOURN

With no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

I hereby certify that this is a true and exact record of actions taken by the Town Council of the Town of Warrenton on July 12, 2022.

Christopher E. Martino
Town Recorder

From: [Liza Phillips](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Amazon data center and power lines
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 7:13:23 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I live in Fauquier County outside the town limits.

I am opposed to above ground power lines. And question the location of the data center.

I hear Amazon says they will cover the cost of infrastructure but Dominion states they will have to put that infrastructure cost onto all customers.

Have Amazon pay and add internet to our county. A data center and people in Fauquier still don't have reliable internet.

Environmental issues with cooling water into and out of this data center is also very concerning.

There are just too many unanswered questions.

Thank you your time.

Liza Phillips

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kami Whitney](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Amazon Data Center Special Use Permit
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 10:09:19 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Warrenton Town Council,

I am writing regarding the Town Council's upcoming vote on the Amazon Data center's special use permit. As a concerned citizen of Fauquier County that spends a significant amount of time and money enjoying the idyllic small-town atmosphere that currently permeates the Town of Warrenton, I am deeply concerned about the impact of accepting this special use permit and urge you not to approve it. Not only will the acceptance of this permit bring monstrously hideous power towers through our beautiful county and the backyards of my neighbors, they will possibly travel along the recently completed Cedar Run Greenway trail and associated wetlands ruining the beauty of this area and well certainly cast an ominous shadow across the main corridors leading into the Town of Warrenton depreciating the beauty and overall feel of the entire town (let us not forget the value of first impressions). I would like to remind the Council of the Town's stated mission, published prominently on your website to provide "...quality public services in an attractive, well-planned community for the benefit and enjoyment of all." I believe we can all agree that the addition of these towers directly contradicts this mission.

The community would be better served by rejecting this special use permit which is not needed in an area so close to two other planned commercial industrial districts including Vint Hill and Remington that would be more appropriate sites for this type of building.

While the special use permit states that it will bring significant tax revenue to the community, it does not provide any details on actual value, and transfers the responsibility for supplying the data center's gluttonous need for energy to not only Warrenton citizens, but also the surrounding area without bringing any jobs.

Thank you,

Kami Whitney

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kami Whitney, PA-C

From: [Elisia Milrod](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Amazon data centers
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 11:52:50 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

As a Fauquier county resident, for many years now, the proposed data center is very concerning and something I would like to not see come to our community. I do understand that growth and additional tax revenue can be good, but would like to see that come to the county in different ways and not through data centers.

- The proposed HB791 legislation in Richmond will tie data center tax revenue for the community to property/asset depreciation, NOT commercial income. This likely means a significant reduction in expected tax revenue for our community from this initiative.
- Approval of Amazon's SUP would place a great burden and battle on your constituents to contend with Dominion about the power line routing location, and above ground vs. below ground lines.
- Amazon's SUP is lacking significant required information and detail per the established Special Use Permit Requirements. WTC should not even entertain this application until a complete and detailed application has been submitted for approval.
- The SUP cites that "significant tax revenue" will be generated for the community, but provides absolutely no details or specifics on amounts.
- No details have been given on the environmental impacts, and no Environmental Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the application (to include the source and usage of water for cooling needs, as well as the disposal plan for the water).
- It does not include a Load Letter, and therefore we cannot verify power need of the Data Center and are unwilling to accept Dominion's calculations (as that is a conflict of interest, given they are the sole source provider of the electricity). The Load Letter should be provided from an independent party. Also, are there other lower sleepy impact options like solar that could be looked at?
- Noise calculations are lacking in the document
- Includes a height precedent, which if approved, gives Amazon an open door to build vertically--is that truly acceptable to our community?
- The SUP states that "the applicant [Amazon] will bear the cost of new infrastructure that will be needed and any upgrades to existing facilities" and yet, there is absolutely no analysis provided to determine what those infrastructure costs might be.

Thank you,
Elisia Tindle

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Samantha Wingo](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Amazon Proposed Data Center
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 11:17:50 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

I have some concerns that I would like to be noted as part of the proposed Amazon Data Center.

Amazon's SUP is lacking significant required information and detail per the established Special Use Permit Requirements. The application should not be considered until a complete and detailed application has been submitted for approval. In addition, no details have been given on the environmental impact and no Environmental Impact Assessment was completed as part of the application.

The Dominion power lines that are being proposed to run through the county, as we are being told, are directly related to the data center. The amount of concern from county citizens around these powerlines is substantial. Warrenton Town Council does not get to decide where the high tension power lines will be placed to service the Data Center (two of the proposed options run directly through my neighborhood). The SCC will determine where the lines run and approval of the Amazon Data Center places a huge burden and battle on Fauquier constituents to contend with Dominion and SCC about power line routing locations as well as above ground vs. underground.

To summarize, I am highly opposed to the proposed Amazon Data Center, as well as the power lines that would be required along with it and would like the town council to take their constituents' concerns into consideration and deny the Amazon SUP.

Thank you,

Samantha Handlin

From: [KATHY DOVE](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Amazon SUP
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 9:55:06 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

My name is Kathleen Dove and I have been a homeowner in Fauquier County, specifically New Baltimore, since June 1992. I am writing to you concerning the Amazon Data Center and subsequently the Dominion Transmission Lines.

If approved, those of us that live here will see our property values decline, in turn being less tax revenue for the county. There was new legislation passed this year that would decrease the amount of tax revenue you would receive from these centers. There are two industrial zones in our county for these types of things. Why is the WTC even considering this since the data center will not be in the correct space nor will it bring in tax revenue as expected? We haven't approached the subject of environmental impacts or health impacts.

We, the citizens of Fauquier, pride ourselves on being small town America – people buy homes here for that reason. Please do not destroy this by allowing data centers and the awful towers to dot our beautiful, rural landscape. We do not want tech giants in our county. We see the cancer this becomes in our neighboring counties.

Please deny the Amazon SUP.

Thank you.

Kathleen Dove

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [David Roddy](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Comment for July 12 meeting
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 8:14:02 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As of now, 1,345 residents have signed a petition I started that opposes the above ground lines, and the Data center all-together. As someone heavily involved in the opposition of the Data Center and its power lines, I believe we're both very familiar with the project at this point.

My question today is, how can we help you? I do not think the WTC actually wants Amazon and the power lines to be here either. Of the thousands of people I've spoken to, not one was in favor. Therefore, you all must be on our side as well. Which begs the question - What else can we do?

I also understand that most Northern Virginia counties are covered with these data centers and the towers required to power them. We would end up being the first to say no. With even more land being purchased by Amazon, it seems inevitable. However, I must ask the question - if it's possible at all, how?

For example, do we need 10,000 signatures, 5,000 comments, 2,000 letters, legislation, etc. Who do we need to get in touch with?

We've put together an incredible team to help stop Amazon, and have already been on the news. Share with us how it's possible to stop them. Then, we can battle this together.

From: [Sallyalahm](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Comment for official record of the Town Council meeting, 12 July 2022
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 4:23:08 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

12 July 2022

Dear Members of the Warrenton Town Council,

As a citizen of Fauquier County for 13 years, I am writing to you today to express my grave concern and opposition to the approval of a Special Use Permit (SUP) for a Data Center within town limits of Warrenton. I moved to this county from Manassas in 2013 to escape intolerable noise, pollution, deforestation, crime, increasingly hot climate, and rapid development.

Warrenton is MY town which I share with many others who cherish the aesthetic quality, peace, expanses of forest, safety and security, historic preservation, and high quality of life provided by living in Warrenton and its environs. There is so much development in counties to the north and south of Fauquier County. A large data center will not only destroy the character of Warrenton, but will result in construction of power substations and mega power lines for miles in the county. Below is a list of reasons for my opposition to granting the SUP for the Amazon Data Center.

- WTC (Warrenton Town Council) amended the Zoning Ordinance on short notice last summer to allow Data Centers to be within town limits. It was done quickly and with minimal community input. This is a serious breach of trust between the community and the elected Town Council, and the WTC should prioritize restoring trust with their citizens, not accommodating tech giants.
- Remington & Vint Hill are Planned Commercial Industrial Districts, and Data Centers should be kept there to protect our natural landscape and habitats.
- The proposed HB791 legislation in Richmond will tie data center tax revenue for the community to property/asset depreciation, NOT commercial income. This likely means a significant reduction in expected tax revenue for our community from this initiative.
- WTC (Warrenton Town Council) does not get to decide where the high-tension power lines will be placed to service the Amazon Data Center. The SCC (State Corporation Commission) will determine that. Approval of Amazon's SUP would place a great burden and battle on your constituents to contend with Dominion about the power line routing location, and above ground vs. below ground lines.
- Amazon's SUP is lacking significant required information and detail per the established Special Use Permit Requirements. WTC should not even entertain this application until a complete and detailed application has been submitted for approval.
- The SUP cites that "significant tax revenue" will be generated for the community, but provides absolutely no details or specifics on amounts.
- No details have been given on the environmental impacts, and no Environmental Impact

Assessment has been completed as part of the application (to include the source and usage of water for cooling needs, as well as the disposal plan for the water)

- It does not include a Load Letter, and therefore we cannot verify power need of the Data Center and are unwilling to accept Dominion's calculations (as that is a conflict of interest, given they are the sole source provider of the electricity). The Load Letter should be provided from an independent party.
- Noise calculations are lacking in the document.
- Includes a height precedent, which if approved, gives Amazon an open door to build vertically--is that truly acceptable to our community?
- The SUP states that "the applicant [Amazon] will bear the cost of new infrastructure that will be needed and any upgrades to existing facilities" and yet, there is absolutely no analysis provided to determine what those infrastructure costs might be.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Sally A. Lahm

Sally A. LAHM, Ph.D.

"Con paciencia y saliva, un elefante se puede meter dentro de una hormiga"

"With patience and saliva, the elephant can be put inside the ant" "

Avec de la patience et de la salive, l'elephant peut etre mis dans la fourmi"

From: [William Ziegler](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Comment for the Record for the Warrenton Town Council Meeting, 12 July 2022
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 10:07:14 PM
Importance: High

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I want to strongly express my 100% opposition to both the proposed Amazon data center in Warrenton and the disastrous high voltage power lines that would slash through our county to provide electricity for the data center. I request that the town council disapprove the Amazon proposal (SUP). There are so many reasons why the data center and power lines are a bad idea, too many to put in one public comment. Here are a few that I hope will resonate with the town council.

Most importantly, the data center and power lines that will certainly come with it will cause huge and irreversible damage to what makes our county and the town of Warrenton special. The scenic, rural, agricultural, and small-town appeal of Warrenton and the eastern part of the county will be significantly degraded forever by unsightly 130-foot tall power lines and the 100-foot clear-cut easement that comes with them. This is not just a problem for county residents but also for town residents who will also be impacted by these monstrosities. Warrenton will be a far less inviting and attractive place to visit or live. Property values will certainly suffer over a wide area of the county and town. You will be turning part of Warrenton and much of the eastern part of Fauquier County into an industrial zone.

If you think that you can approve the SUP and the power lines will be magically buried, think again! It is highly unlikely that they would be buried, given the State Corporation Commission's consistent opposition to burying power lines for cost reasons. If you approve the Amazon SUP, you are almost certainly signing up for 130-foot tall power lines with huge clear-cuts going along US-29, by or through housing developments, farms, businesses, churches, forests, and right into Warrenton.

If you approve the Amazon SUP, you are signing up everyone for these horrible above-ground power lines, and not only that, you are transferring the burden directly to your constituents to fight, as best they can, the routing of the power lines, the battle for above-ground vis-a-vis buried, fighting against big corporations' attempts at seizing private property in the abuse of eminent domain, and all aspects of this battle, for battle there will certainly be. Talk about serving your constituents and having their best interests in mind!

Furthermore, the Amazon SUP is woefully lacking in so many details that it should be dismissed out-of-hand. There are no details on supposed tax revenue to be generated, no information

on environmental impacts, no noise calculations, no load letter, and the list goes on and on.

In summary, if you approve this SUP, you are going to help turn Warrenton and adjacent parts of Fauquier County into Gainesville and Prince William County. Is that what you want for this town or for this county? Is that what your constituents want? I implore you to do the right thing and vote against the Amazon SUP. You have it in your power to do the right thing and help preserve and protect what makes Warrenton and Fauquier County special. Please do the right thing and vote NO.

Respectfully,
William Ziegler

From: [Kate Reidenbaugh](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Comment for WTC meeting
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 6:47:16 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi, I have just purchased a new home in Warrenton. I am very concerned about the proposed Amazon data center. I am specifically concerned with the power lines that will be associated with this project and the lack of say the town will have as to where these unsightly lines will be placed and the fight that the citizens will be up against with dominion to get the lines buried. In my opinion, this project should not be approved for a multitude of reasons.

Thank you for your time.

-Kate Heasly

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sean](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Concerns for Warrenton DATA center
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 8:37:51 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings,

This is Sean and Kali Hagerty of:



I would like the email to be an official letter of concern. Our concern is the Data center that is proposed to be built in Warrenton, VA.

On a personal note. I just moved from Loudoun County to the historic town of the Warrenton for the beautiful landscape and rural community feel. South Riding, Ashburn and the surrounding communities have been destroyed by the eye soars that are Data Centers. You have the power to stop this before it ever happens. Please act on the best interest of the community you represent and that's not big tech.

- WTC (Warrenton Town Council) amended the Zoning Ordinance on short notice last summer to allow Data Centers to be within town limits. It was done quickly and with minimal community input. This is a serious breach of trust between the community and the elected Town Council, and the WTC should prioritize restoring trust with their citizens, not accommodating tech giants.
- Remington & Vint Hill are Planned Commercial Industrial Districts, and Data Centers should be kept there to protect our natural landscape and habitats.
- The newly signed HB791 legislation in Richmond will tie data center tax revenue for the community to property/asset depreciation, NOT commercial income. This likely means a significant reduction in expected tax revenue for our community from this initiative.
- WTC (Warrenton Town Council) does not get to decide where the high tension power lines will be placed to service the Amazon Data Center. The SCC (State Corporation Commission) will determine that. Approval of Amazon's SUP would place a great burden and battle on your constituents to contend with Dominion about the power line routing location, and above ground vs. below ground lines.
- Amazon's SUP is lacking significant required information and detail per the established Special Use Permit Requirements. WTC should not even entertain this application until a complete and detailed application has been submitted for approval.
- The SUP cites that "significant tax revenue" will be generated for the community, but provides absolutely no details or specifics on amounts
- It does not include a Load Letter, and therefore we cannot verify power need of the Data

Center and are unwilling to accept Dominion's calculations (as that is a conflict of interest, given they are the sole source provider of the electricity). The Load Letter should be provided from an independent party.

- Includes a height precedent, which if approved, gives Amazon an open door to build vertically--is that truly acceptable to our community?
- The SUP states that "the applicant [Amazon] will bear the cost of new infrastructure that will be needed and any upgrades to existing facilities" and yet, there is absolutely no analysis provided to determine what those infrastructure costs might be.

Please see our list of concerns, these are not all inclusive.

Sincerely,

Sean and Kali Hagerty

Note: This email was drafted on a hand held device, please disregard any spelling errors.

From: [A Z](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Data center
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 3:45:27 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To all concerned:

Let me add my name to the list of local people who do not wish to see the data center built with the (no doubt) huge, ugly power towers required to support it. Fauquier county is an exceptional place with quiet, rural beauty that does not deserve to be defaced by this hideous monstrosity. I believe it would then open the door for more of the same.

I feel that this 'deal' has been rushed through the back door without due diligence and concern for the population. Most residents have no clue what this project entails. So many questions are completely unanswered or vague at best. I am not an engineer or someone well studied in this field, but even I can see this building does not belong in the town.

I understand that there are areas set aside for industrial use out of town, which are very close to substations to provide the required power. Why is this sort of project not being directed to those areas in Vint Hill and Remington?


Why should the people who have made Fauquier their home have to look at ugly power towers every day? Why should they lose property to tower right of way and lose property value because they are forced to host this behemoth? Why should Dominion customers have to see an increase in their bills to pay for this horror - adding more injury to the insult. I realize the town wants to make money, but is it fair to make money at out expense? WE are the town, WE are the county, WE should come first.

My understanding is that Loudon did not get all the money they were expecting with their data farms. I read there was a \$60 million deficit, for reasons over my head.

Perhaps the most unsettling thing to me is the amount of fuel that is stored in these data centers to run generators should power be lost. I shudder to think of a giant bomb next to Giant Food, where I shop at least once a week. An accident waiting to happen, right next to the highway that I drive upon almost every day. What happens to our water if there is a fuel leak, or if there is an accident or a terrorist attack on this huge building ? This is such a bad idea.

Please deny the application for the data center. Suggest Amazon use it for an office park, a warehouse or a distribution center that would provide lots of jobs for local residents. A little more traffic would be a lot less painful than everything this project represents.

Thank you for your attention,

Anne Ziegler


Sent from my iPad

From: [Nancy B. Premen](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: DENY approval of Amazon SUP
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 4:47:28 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the members of Warrenton Town Council:

I am writing this email to state my opposition to the approval of the SUP for an Amazon Data Center, to be located on Blackwell Road in Warrenton. From the reading & research that I have done, in addition to meeting with the Dominion representatives at their 'open house'-style session, I have come to the conclusion that an Amazon Data Center at that location in our town would be the 'beginning of the end' to Warrenton as we know it.

Understanding that the key driver of the desire to approve this endeavor stems from the lure of sizable revenue in the form of taxes, it is my concern that the 'benefit' of those dollars is hardly worth the probable destruction of our beautiful community....in addition to the fact that it appears that the estimation of tax revenue will be negatively impacted by the recent passage of HB791. That item will tie data center revenue to property/asset depreciation ... not commercial income. Has the Council evaluated the expected significant reduction in revenue caused by this??

Has the Council reviewed the impact of other costs....source/usage/disposal of water used for cooling (and the proximity to our reservoir); possible noise impacts to neighbors; possible impacts to electronic devices in the area; possible health impacts due to proximity to high-powered electrical lines?

What was the reasoning behind amending our zoning to allow data centers within our town limits? Haven't we designated specific areas in our county, such as Vint Hill, as Planned Commercial Industrial Districts? In this particular instance, wouldn't a location at Vint Hill be "IDEAL" for Amazon ??? It would have immediate access to the substation and lines from Wheeler Road.

Already, we have learned of two additional parcels being 'offered up' as data center sites off Blackwell Road. So we want massive destruction of our woods in that area, in addition to the power lines that would be the obvious and inevitable ugly result of further data center growth??

The power lines being proposed for this data center are hideous....to put it mildly. Not only will they destroy the view of our homeowners, but also the view and impression of Warrenton as visitors drive by on RT. 29. Do you really believe weekend visitors, intent on getting away from development, are going to be thrilled to spend their time in plain view of high tension power lines??? Sounds like a relaxing scenic time to me.....

There are so many aspects of this Amazon proposal that seem to be ringing the 'death knell' to Warrenton and our surrounding countryside. Do we truly want to ruin the beauty and peace and quiet that make Warrenton and Fauquier so special? Have you envisioned what those towers would look like coming across from Meetz Road or down Rt. 29 to New Baltimore and over to Wheeler? That is NOT what Fauquier residents want to see.

The known 'warning to residents' is 'without this, your taxes will go up'. Really? Why? Maybe the residents of Fauquier do not want the growth and development that is being pushed down our throats. Maybe we need to look at ways to keep Warrenton and Fauquier as the 'sanctuary' from DC that it is right now. Allowing a monstrosity such as an Amazon Data Center right on top of our town, in addition to the power towers that support it, is not something that I can support.

Please rethink your opinion on whether an Amazon Data Center at Blackwell Road is really in the best interest of the people of Warrenton and Fauquier.

From: [David Wall](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Electric Vehicle Charging Stations?
Date: Monday, June 20, 2022 3:39:36 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi There

As a long time resident of Warrenton, we recognize the towns unique history which includes serving as a “stop over” for families and tourists on their way from the Washington, DC greater metro area out to the beautiful Shenandoah parks and attractions. We also recognize the role the town plays with the intersection of Route 17 passing through.

We wanted to suggest that the town could work with the local motels and hotels to set up charging stations for the new surge in electric vehicles as a way to get folks to stop and spend more time visiting our beautiful community, enjoy some of our fantastic restaurants, and all that historic downtown Warrenton has to offer.

Just a thought.

All the best,

The Walls



From: [Andrew Hirsch](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: NO to Amazon Data Center
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 1:29:24 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

As a resident of Fauquier County, I would like to voice my strong opposition to the proposed Amazon data center. The data center would likely result in high voltage power lines running directly in front of my property [REDACTED] thereby destroying the natural scenery of the property and exposing my family of 5 to harmful electromagnetic field.

Families and environment are more important than dollars and data. Make the right decision!

Further, below are points raised by a fellow community member, which I believe are all items that the Town Council should take into consideration:

- WTC (Warrenton Town Council) amended the Zoning Ordinance on short notice last summer to allow Data Centers to be within town limits. It was done quickly and with minimal community input. This is a serious breach of trust between the community and the elected Town Council, and the WTC should prioritize restoring trust with their citizens, not accommodating tech giants.
- Remington & Vint Hill are Planned Commercial Industrial Districts, and Data Centers should be kept there to protect our natural landscape and habitats.
- The proposed HB791 legislation in Richmond will tie data center tax revenue for the community to property/asset depreciation, NOT commercial income. This likely means a significant reduction in expected tax revenue for our community from this initiative.
- WTC (Warrenton Town Council) does not get to decide where the high tension power lines will be placed to service the Amazon Data Center. The SCC (State Corporation Commission) will determine that. Approval of Amazon's SUP would place a great burden and battle on your constituents to contend with Dominion about the power line routing location, and above ground vs. below ground lines.
- Amazon's SUP is lacking significant required information and detail per the established Special Use Permit Requirements. WTC should not even entertain this application until a complete and detailed application has been submitted for approval.
- The SUP cites that "significant tax revenue" will be generated for the community, but provides absolutely no details or specifics on amounts
- No details have been given on the environmental impacts, and no Environmental Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the application (to include the source and usage of water for cooling needs, as well as the disposal plan for the water)
- It does not include a Load Letter, and therefore we cannot verify power need of the Data Center and are unwilling to accept Dominion's calculations (as that is a conflict of interest, given they are the sole source provider of the electricity). The Load Letter should be provided from an independent party.
- Noise calculations are lacking in the document

- Includes a height precedent, which if approved, gives Amazon an open door to build vertically--is that truly acceptable to our community?
- The SUP states that "the applicant [Amazon] will bear the cost of new infrastructure that will be needed and any upgrades to existing facilities" and yet, there is absolutely no analysis provided to determine what those infrastructure costs might be.

Thank you,
Andrew S. Hirsch, Esq.



Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

From: [Kim C](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: OBJECTION TO BLACKWELL ROAD POWER LINE PROJECT – FAUQUIER COUNTY, VA
Date: Thursday, June 23, 2022 8:04:28 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

All,

Last night, we attended the Dominion Energy-sponsored “Community Engagement” activity at Kettle Run High School to voice our concerns about and objection to the overhead power lines proposed for our neighborhood. Believing the event was to be a question-answer forum, we were frustrated to arrive and see that the event was nothing more than a Dominion Energy sales pitch that appeared to intentionally create more confusion among attendees and allowed for very little in the way of successfully voicing concerns or getting answers to important questions.

Instead, we were directed to fill out a form voicing our concerns and leave it for collection by the Dominion Energy reps, or alternatively, to have our concerns recorded by the court reporter on site who had been hired by Dominion Energy to take verbal comments—and again, provide them only to Dominion Energy and nobody else—no Town of Warrenton or Fauquier County government officials who have been notably absent from this issue. I might also add that there was not a single mention of Amazon on any of the posters or literature provided at the event. In utter disgust, several of us were discussing the rapidity with which this issue has been shuffled through to this point and without the transparency, time, or civic feedback that should absolutely be germane to a matter of this magnitude that will adversely impact thousands of tax paying members of the community, our children, and the dwindling natural habitat.

Many present at last night’s event are long-time land owners and residents of this lovely community, others of us moved to Fauquier County to escape the chaotic, noisy, and increasingly dangerous urban infrastructure sprawl of busier and more heavily populated communities east and north of us, so that we could afford some space, peace, civility, and safe harbor for our kids.

We are extremely concerned about and vehemently object to the installation of above-ground high voltage power lines through our community for the following reasons:

Proven health hazards including cancer; noise pollution; certain destruction of nature and animal habitat on a massive scale; wholesale drop in property values that will never be recouped; guaranteed increase in road traffic; and a slow crawl toward ugly infrastructure that will impose upon treasured historical areas—all at the hands of arguably one of the most powerful and wealthy companies on Earth—that can well afford to build these lines elsewhere in more appropriate locations or foot the cost of building underground power, which is safer, more reliable, and does substantially less harm to the environment.

It was not lost on anyone at last night’s event that the severe weather storm caused a power outage at the venue, which is fed by above-ground power lines. However, when we

returned to our Brookside home, just a mile away and with underground power, we had full electricity. Irony.

In addition to our wholesale rejection of the building of these power lines, we demand there be legislation introduced to address this matter in a proper, transparent, and legally sound way. As is, this issue has all the hallmarks of big corporations quietly buying their way while government officials turn a blind eye, ignore constituent concerns, and permit greed and avarice to supplant the very real concerns of the citizens who pay their salaries and with no regard for the community writ large.

PLEASE STOP THIS PURSUIT!!

Kimberlee & Daniel Calvert



From: [Ellen Zagrobelny](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Oppose approval of Amazon Data Center SUP
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 10:18:48 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear WTC, I oppose approval of the SUP for the proposed Amazon Data Center. Data centers are not big job providers, they are resource-depleting structures (the cooling water, electricity, space, property value). We all see what happened in Loudoun County with the data centers allowed... Poor planning at best. I am a resident in Fauquier County, just outside Town of Warrenton. The county has two Planned Commercial Industrial Districts, and any data centers should only be allowed there, if permitted at all. It's hard to see any direct or long-term benefit to our town and county by providing special use for the Amazon tech giant site, especially with HB791 on the horizon in Richmond.

Ellen Zagrobelny

From: [Christen Snow](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Oppose the Amazon Data Center SUP
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 9:57:21 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Warrenton Town Council,

It is increasingly brought to the attention of your public that you quickly amended the town Zoning Ordinance last summer/early fall, to allow for the presence of Data Centers within Warrenton Town limits. This type of maneuvering is a serious breach of trust between your position and the people whom you serve. Please take a step back and reconsider, as this type of political manipulation is not well-received.

We urge you to deny the Amazon Data Center SUP for the following reasons:

- Amazon's SUP is lacking significant required information and detail per the established Special Use Permit Requirements. WTC should not even entertain this application until a complete and detailed application has been submitted for approval.
- The SUP cites that "significant tax revenue" will be generated for the community, but provides absolutely no details or specifics on amounts. Furthermore, the Virginia state government just signed HB791 into law, after much lobbying by a coalition of data centers. This law allows the data centers to be taxed based on property/asset value (and ties the taxation to depreciation), rather than corporate income. This shady legislation allows data centers to bypass the commercial industry standard of being taxed on income, and that translates to much lower tax revenue for the communities that house these data centers.
- No details have been given in the SUP on the environmental impacts, and no Environmental Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the application (to include the source and usage of water for cooling needs, as well as the disposal plan for the water, etc.)
- The SUP does not include a Load Letter, and therefore we cannot verify power needs of the Data Center and are unwilling to accept Dominion's calculations (as that is a conflict of interest, given they are the sole source provider of the electricity). The Load Letter should be provided from an independent party.
- Noise calculations are lacking in the document
- The SUP includes a height precedent, which if approved, gives Amazon an open door to build vertically--is that truly acceptable to our community?
- The SUP states that "the applicant [Amazon] will bear the cost of new infrastructure that will be needed and any upgrades to existing facilities" and yet, there is absolutely no analysis provided to determine what those infrastructure costs might be, which also gives absolutely no assurance that these costs will not burden the county taxpayer.
- Furthermore, WTC (Warrenton Town Council) does not get to decide where the high tension power lines will be placed to service the Amazon Data Center. The SCC

(State Corporation Commission) will determine that. Approval of Amazon's SUP would place a great burden and battle on your constituents to contend with Dominion about the power line routing location, and above ground vs. below ground lines. To pass this responsibility and STRESS onto your constituents during a time of extreme economic challenge nationwide demonstrates a serious disconnect from the people you serve.

For these reasons, and so many more, we urge you to categorically and unequivocally DENY the Special Use Permit for the Amazon Data Center. Please contact us if you are interested in further information or if you'd like to discuss any of the above.

Best Regards,
Christen & Jonathan Snow



From: [Susan Whiteis](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Opposed to Amazon Data Center
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 11:17:28 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please preserve Warrenton from so much infrastructure!
Thank you.

-Susan Whiteis
Concerned Citizen

From: [Andrea Melia](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Please do not approve Amazon's Special Use Permit for a Data Center within town limits!
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 2:15:55 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Warrenton Town Council,

I am writing to let you know that as a resident of Warrenton, I am strongly opposed to the Amazon Data Center that is being discussed to put up in Warrenton. Since Remington and Vint Hill are Planned Commercial Industrial Districts, there is no reason to bring a Data Center that will necessitate high tension power lines into our town. The Special Use Permit submitted by Amazon is lacking too much significant required information and detail to be entertained. Since HB791 was passed by Governor Youngkin, the promise of "significant tax revenue" to our community seems a thin one. I cannot see any good reasons to allow this center to be built in Warrenton, and would like to see my town council working to protect the value of our natural landscape and habitats within our town. Thank you for hearing my concerns, and for your service to our community!

Andrea Melia
Warrenton, VA

From: [John K Terry](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE DATA CENTERS OR WIRES
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 10:47:05 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Warrenton Town Council,

I am a resident of Settlers Ridge Road writing to plead with you NOT to approve the proposed data centers, high tension wires, and other tech industry development. I moved to this beautiful area fleeing the rampant crime and congestion of Tyson's Corner Virginia. If you allow these data centers to be built in Warrenton you will be doing catastrophic and irreparable damage to both the community and the environment. The natural resources of Warrenton Virginia have already been pushed to their limits with local wildlife having no place to raise their young and coexist in a functional ecosystem. The proposed data centers will only magnify this problem exponentially. In addition to this the community will surely suffer irreparable damage of quality of life. Warrenton is a vibrant economical investment because of its picturesque landscape in comparison to surrounding areas. Property values and taxable assets would plummet with implementation of these data centers and wires. Crime and congestion would skyrocket with the added infrastructure required to support these developments as it has in nearby areas. As a resident and taxpayer I move that Warrenton should impose a tax on residents to fulfill their budget needs rather than accepting a pittance from tech giants in exchange for destroying our community. I believe even your standing as council members would be threatened as the people brought to this area by the centers would vote very differently than the people who currently live here. I implore you once more. PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE THESE DATA CENTERS OR WIRES. The future of this beautiful community is at your mercy. Please, make the right decision.

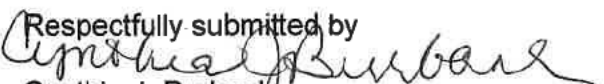
Sincerely your fellow citizen,

John

To: The Warrenton Town Council

Re: AMAZON DATA CENTER/DOMINION TRANSMISSION LINES

1. **PLEASE CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE 7/13/22 "OPEN LETTER" ASKING YOU, THE WARRENTON TOWN COUNCIL, TO DENY THE AMAZON SUP:** Nearly 100 people signed the Open Letter to the Council, asking you to deny the Amazon SUP. Many of these people are Warrenton Town residents. One person gathered these signatures in less than 48 hours. Residents inside and outside the Town are growing alarmed about 110-130 foot tall transmission lines forever changing the look and feel of small town Warrenton and rural Fauquier. We are united in the high value we place on the rural, small town character of this beautiful area. Please do not let the data center and the transmission towers destroy that and tear us apart.
2. **DO NOT HURRY THE PROCESS – MANY RESIDENTS JUST WAKING UP:** PEOPLE IN WARRENTON AND NEARBY NEIGHBORHOODS ARE JUST BEGINNING TO AWAKE TO THIS ISSUE. They lead busy lives and it is hard to stay on top of everything. But the awareness and concern are building to anger and are attracting much wider attention. Please do not hurry your process of considering the SUP, at the risk of significant blowback and loss of credibility and trust in the small town of Warrenton.
3. **BURYING THE LINES IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY:** The SCC has a long record of adamantly opposing burial of transmission lines, because of high costs. In Haymarket's case, after a protracted citizen battle, and expensive litigation, it took the state legislature to override the SCC and require 3 miles to be buried -- and ante up VA state appropriations to pay for it. Thinking the SCC will approve burying Warrenton's lines is wishful thinking.
4. **AMAZON CAN'T BE MADE TO PAY FOR BURYING THE LINE:** Localities do not have the authority to require an entity like Amazon to pay for burying a transmission line off their site. Some familiar with this issue even say it is not valid for Amazon to pay for burying the lines, under state law. (It is unclear if this is true, but it bears careful legal analysis.)
5. **AMAZON'S SUP APPLICATION IS INADEQUATE:** The SUP application submitted by Amazon is weak and incomplete. Town staff have pointed this out in Town comments to Amazon -- but we believe there are many more required SUP issues that are either not addressed at all or incomplete and inadequate. We are putting the application under the microscope and will be submitting additional comments on this. Please do not hurry the process and gloss over these issues.
6. **TAX REVENUES MAY BE MISLEADING:** We understand the Town's attraction to additional taxes the data center might bring. But beware: In 2022 the VA legislature passed and the Governor signed a bill that limits how localities can tax data center equipment and property. This bill was sought by data centers, and we believe it will provide ample opportunities for data centers to lower the taxes paid to localities. You are at risk of bringing miles of transmission lines through the county and along the gateways into Warrenton for a much smaller tax benefit that you are expecting.
7. **COMP PLANNING PROCESS:** Both the Town and the County have gone through careful Comprehensive Planning processes, seeking public input and working very hard to adopt a plan that represents your vision and values, as well as those of citizens. The county plan provides for two industrial zones where uses like data centers should be channeled, and to avoid historic and scenic areas and neighborhoods and properties. Approving a data center for the Blackwell Road site is a contradiction -- a slap in the face -- for the plan and the planning process of both the Town and the County. Please stick to the carefully developed plans. Data Centers have no place in the historic Town of Warrenton.

Respectfully submitted by

Cynthia J. Burbank

July 12, 2022

From: [Rich Whitney](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: Warrenton Amazon Data Center and Associated High Voltage Lines
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 12:59:30 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Council Members,

It seems our collective community has some real concerns about the potential approval of the SUP for the proposed Amazon data center and associated high voltage lines; I share the same concerns. The look and feel of our little historical town is precious to myself and other residents. As representatives of town residents I hope that you'll take into consideration the following points and choose the *deny* the Amazon SUP:

- WTC (Warrenton Town Council) amended the Zoning Ordinance on short notice last summer to allow Data Centers to be within town limits. It was done quickly and with minimal community input. This is a serious breach of trust between the community and the elected Town Council, and the WTC should prioritize restoring trust with their citizens, not accommodating tech giants.
- Remington & Vint Hill are Planned Commercial Industrial Districts, and Data Centers should be kept there to protect our natural landscape and habitats.
- WTC (Warrenton Town Council) does not get to decide where the high tension power lines will be placed to service the Amazon Data Center. The SCC (State Corporation Commission) will determine that. Approval of Amazon's SUP would place a great burden and battle on your constituents to contend with Dominion about the power line routing location, and above ground vs. below ground lines.
- Amazon's SUP is lacking significant required information and detail per the established Special Use Permit Requirements. WTC should not even entertain this application until a complete and detailed application has been submitted for approval.
- The SUP cites that "significant tax revenue" will be generated for the community, but provides absolutely no details or specifics on amounts
- No details have been given on the environmental impacts, and no Environmental Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the application (to include the source and usage of water for cooling needs, as well as the disposal plan for the water)
- It does not include a Load Letter, and therefore we cannot verify power needs of the Data Center and are unwilling to accept Dominion's calculations (as that is a conflict of interest, given they are the sole source provider of the electricity). The Load Letter should be provided from an independent party.
- Noise calculations are lacking in the document

- Includes a height precedent, which if approved, gives Amazon an open door to build vertically.
- The SUP states that "the applicant [Amazon] will bear the cost of new infrastructure that will be needed and any upgrades to existing facilities" and yet, there is absolutely no analysis provided to determine what those infrastructure costs might be.

I thank you for your time and serious consideration of this matter.

Richard Whitney



From: [Erin Beauchamp](#)
To: [citizencomment](#)
Subject: WTC 7/12 comment submission
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 11:41:19 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To The Warrenton Town Council Members,

I wish to unite with my fellow citizens in expressing deep concern over the proposed Amazon data center in Warrenton.

An industrial building such as a data center simply does not belong in the proposed location on the edge of our historic district. Without a building height limit, Amazon could construct to any vertical dimension they wish. A high rise, or even a midline building is not in keeping with the character of Warrenton. The required high voltage power lines and 130 foot towers to supply the center would destroy the beauty of the area. There is no legal way to force Amazon to pay to bury the lines and Dominion will refuse to do so every step of the way on their dime.

Existing infrastructure is not designed to support an industrial model. Roads in the crucial juncture of the northern 29 business and 29 bypass interchange will become bogged down with impassable traffic coming and going from the Amazon facility, causing massive issues for residents going about our daily lives.

There is not sufficient information available on the impact of a data center on the water and sewer system. Our county has experienced on-going challenges meeting the water demands of our existing business and residents due to damage to the deep wells during the 2011 earthquake, putting some of them out of commission and others at reduced capacity. We already face occasional water system back flow issues from the Pepsi plant on 29 so it is hard to imagine that the massive water cooling demands of an industry titan like Amazon could be met without undue strain on our small community.

Under the new data center tax regulations signed into law by the Governor, potential revenue generated by allowing this data center to be built here is going to be far less than earlier estimates under the old regulations. You can rest assured that Amazon employs the very finest accountants who know how to nickel and dime their way out of paying taxes better than anyone. They will write off and depreciate the value of their data center on paper as much as possible so what is left for the town to collect will be a pittance when held up against the sacrifice of property values and quality of life.

Is a mess of industry, a twisted mass of metal and wire, a dystopia urban landscape what you want visitors to see as their first glimpse of our town? As a long time resident, that is the opposite of what I think of when I picture our award-winning "most beautiful" town.

Let's turn, instead in support of small business in Warrenton to build tax revenue. Let's not ruin our town to serve a massive corporation, which stands to give nothing and take everything. Deny the data center.

Respectfully,
Erin Beauchamp
Warrenton, Va

