

ORDINANCE

July 14, 2026
Town Council
Public Hearing

ZOTA-26-1 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 3 AND ARTICLE 9 TO ALLOW HOTELS OF UP TO 40 ROOMS, AS WELL AS INNS, BED & BREAKFASTS, AND TOURIST HOMES, AS PERMITTED, BY-RIGHT USES IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

WHEREAS, Warrenton, VA (Hereinafter "the Town") is a municipal corporation located within the County of Fauquier; and

WHEREAS, the Warrenton Town Council (Hereinafter "Council") may, by ordinance, amend, supplement, or change the regulations of the Zoning Ordinance of the Town whenever the public necessity, convenience, general welfare or good zoning practice may require such an amendment; and

WHEREAS, such an amendment was initiated by resolution of Council in accord with the procedures and requirements of Section 11-3.9 of the Zoning Ordinance on April 14, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2026, the Town of Warrenton Planning Commission conducted a public hearing and considered written and oral testimony, and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2026, the Town Of Warrenton Planning Commission held a public meeting and recommended approval of the proposed text amendment by a vote of three to one; and

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2026, the Warrenton Town Council conducted a work session and a public hearing on this matter and considered oral and written testimony; and

WHEREAS, the Warrenton Town Council finds that per the Code of Virginia §15.2-2286(A)(7) this text amendment is in the best interest of public necessity, convenience, general welfare, and good zoning practice; now, therefore, be it

ORDAINED, by the Warrenton Town Council on this 14th day of July, 2026, that the Town Council hereby adopts the following text amendment to Article 3 and Article 9 of the Town of Warrenton Zoning Ordinance as set forth herein.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

For Information:

Community Development Director,
Town Attorney

ATTEST: _____
Town Recorder

Article 3 Zoning Districts and Map

Amended by Town Council: March 11, 2008
February 12, 2013
April 12, 2016
June 14, 2016
August 9, 2016
December 11, 2018
August 11, 2020
August 10, 2021
April 12, 2022
September 13, 2022
July 14, 2026

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 - 3-1.1 Base Districts
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- 3-3 Zoning District Boundaries
- 3-4 Requirements for Base Zoning Districts
 - 3-4.1 R-15 Residential District
 - 3-4.2 R-10 Residential District
 - 3-4.3 R-6 Residential District
 - 3-4.4 RT Residential Townhouse District
 - 3-4.5 RMF Residential Multifamily District
 - 3-4.6 R-40 Residential District
 - 3-4.7 R-E Residential District
 - 3-4.8 RO Residential Office District
 - 3-4.9 PSP Public-Semi-Public Institutional District
 - 3-4.10 C Commercial District
 - 3-4.11 CBD Central Business District
 - 3-4.12 I Industrial District
- 3-5 Requirements for Overlay Zoning Districts
 - 3-5.1 FPD - Floodplain District
 - 3-5.2 PUD - Planned Unit Development District
 - 3-5.3 HD - Historic District

3-4.11 CBD Central Business District**3-4.11.2 Permitted Uses (by-right)**

- Accessory buildings
- Apartments
- Banks and other financial institutions, but not drive-in facilities
- Broadcasting stations
- Churches
- Cleaning and pressing shops limited to six (6) pressing machines, and four (4) dry cleaning machines
- Clinics - outpatient care only
- Clubs & Lodges
- Community buildings
- Historic shrines and museums
- Home Occupations
- Hotels, not exceeding 40 rooms
- Inns, Bed & Breakfasts, and Tourist Homes
- Institutional buildings
- Medical and dental offices/clinics
- Mixed Use structures
- Mobile Food Vendors subject to Article 9-24
- Offices for business or professional use
- Off-street parking and load subject to Article 7
- Open space subject to Article 9
- Parking lots, in accord with supplemental regulations in Article 9 and parking lot standards, Article 7
- Personal service stores not exceeding three thousand (3,000) square feet in gross area, or within an existing space legally used for such purposes within the previous five years.
- Restaurants, without drive-in facilities
- Retail service stores not exceeding three thousand (3,000) square feet in gross area, or within an existing space legally used for such purposes within the previous five years
- Signs subject to Article 6
- Single-family detached dwelling units
- Studios and Trade Schools
- Theaters
- Townhouses and duplexes
- Utilities related to and necessary service within the Town, including poles, wires, transformers, telephone booths, and the like for electrical power distribution of communication service, and underground pipelines or conduits

for local electrical, gas, sewer, or water service, but not those facilities listed as requiring a special use permit

- Vending machines

3-4.11.3 Permissible Uses (by special use permit upon approval of the Town Council)

- Active and passive recreation and recreational facilities
- Child care center, day care center, or nursery school
- Clubs and lodges
- Commercial parking lots and garages
- Commercial recreational establishments
- Drive-through facilities for banks and financial institutions
- Emergency housing
- Farmers markets
- Funeral homes
- Health and Fitness Facilities
- Hotels and motels, not exceeding seventy-five (75) rooms
- ~~- Hotels, Inns, Bed & Breakfasts, and Tourist Homes~~
- Medical centers and laboratories
- Parks and playgrounds.
- Printing establishments in excess of 3,000 square feet in gross area
- Rental service establishments, with no outside equipment storage.
- Retail, personal or business services, office, or restaurants in dwellings or apartment buildings
- Schools, including trade schools
- Small equipment sales and/or service operations
- Taxicab stands
- Water storage tanks, major transmission lines or pipelines, pumping or regulator stations, communications towers, and substations, and cable television facilities and accessory buildings

Article 9 Supplemental Use Regulations

Amended by Town Council: February 12, 2013
July 8, 2014
August 9, 2016
December 11, 2018
April 9, 2019
December 10, 2019
August 10, 2021
April 12, 2022
June 11, 2024
July 14, 2026

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9-26 Lodging Uses in the Central Business District (CBD)

Hotels not exceeding 40 rooms, Inns, Bed & Breakfasts, and Tourist Homes, as defined in Article 12, are permitted in the Central Business District (CBD), subject to the following additional standards.

9-26.1 Additional Standards

- A. A site development plan, meeting the requirements of Article 10 Site Development Plans, must be submitted for review and approval. The site development plan must demonstrate that:
 - 1. Parking, equivalent to 0.75 parking spaces per room for rent, is provided on the same parcel or lot as the lodging use, and/or provided via an off-site parking agreement that will assure the permanent availability of such spaces.
 - a. Off-site parking spaces must be located within a 500-foot radius of the lodging use, and provide for safe and convenient pedestrian access to and from the lodging use. Any improvements to existing pedestrian facilities that are required to provide safe and convenient access to and from the lodging use are the responsibility of the developer.
 - b. This minimum parking requirement must be met regardless of any parking reductions or credits that may be available for other permitted or permissible uses in the Central Business District as found in Article 7 Off-Street Parking and Loading.
 - c. Any off-site parking agreement used to satisfy the minimum parking requirement must be provided to the Zoning Administrator for review and approval as a part of the required site development plan submittal.
 - d. A modification or waiver to this parking requirement may be granted by Town Council upon a recommendation from the Planning Commission, in accordance with the process as outlined in Article 11, Section 11-3.10 Special Use Permits and Waivers, or as a part of an application for a Zoning Map Amendment as regulated by Section 11-3.9 Zoning Amendments.
 - 2. A loading area is provided that is adequate for guest arrival/departure, luggage loading/unloading, deliveries, valet services, and other such similar activities that generate temporary, short-term vehicular trips.
 - a. For lodging uses with greater than 12 rooms for rent, the loading area must accommodate a minimum of 0.1 passenger vehicles per room for rent.
 - b. Vehicles using such loading area shall not impede traffic. Any use of the public right-of-way for such loading area must obtain a Right-of-Way Permit from the Department of Public Works.
- B. Any accessory use that is associated with the principal lodging use, such as restaurants, meeting rooms, clubs, lodges, or event space, must provide adequate parking for that use subject to the requirements of Article 7 Off-Street Parking and Loading, where these spaces are in addition to those parking spaces required under subsection A.1 above.