



Office of the Town Manager

Frank Cassidy

STAFF REPORT

Warrenton Town Council

Carter Nevill, Mayor

Heather Sutphin, Ward 1

William Semple, Ward 2

Brett Hamby, Ward 3

James Hartman, Ward 4 Vice Mayor

Jay Heroux, Ward 5

David McGuire, At Large

Paul Mooney, At Large

Council Meeting Date:	November 14, 2023.
Agenda Title:	18 Court Street Building Update.
Requested Action:	Receive the update on the 18 Court Street building
Department / Agency Lead:	Town Manager
Staff Lead:	Frank Cassidy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

18 Court Street, the Old Town Hall building, has recently undergone light renovations. These renovations include opening the space on the main floor, installing durable flooring for multi-use opportunities, and minor IT installation to handle basic operations. This facility has become a useful space during our "asbestos" remediation at 21 Main St. and has provided additional opportunities for use.

Staff continues to work with Fauquier County Government and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9835 for potential Public and Private Partnerships. Use agreements will be worked on in the next two months with the objective of bringing agreements to the Council in January 2024.

An additional opportunity is the use of this facility for the Holiday and Winter Markets. The Holiday Market starts on December 2 and runs for three weekends. The Winter Market starts early next year. By moving these markets to this facility, interior space is expanded, and the use of Court and Hotel St. will be incorporated into the market plan. We are working with EOTW and the Market Manager to finalize layouts.

BACKGROUND

The historic building at 18 Court Street was originally constructed for and occupied by the Fauquier National Bank in 1925. Thanks to the generosity of Edward L. Stephenson the Town began to occupy the space and use it as a Town hall in 1973. In 2019, the Town Council recognized the needs of the Town were surpassing the use of 18 Court Street and directed Staff to explore options for a more unified space for staff, residents, and visitors of the Town. The Current Town Hall building was identified as an option for expansion of the operations and as a more fitting space for the services offered by the Town. The new Town Hall building is better aligned with the priorities of the Council laid out in Plan Warrenton 2040 to better serve the public and create efficiencies.

After the staff was transitioned to the new Town Hall location, the building at 18 Court Street remained vacant. Staff began the process of removal of the old Town Council Dias and general maintenance to the building.

Focusing on the Priorities of the Council laid out in Plan Warrenton 2040 to better serve the public and create efficiencies, staff identified multiple opportunities for the building to serve the Town in a new capacity and role. Staff began outfitting the building with infrastructure needs and performed necessary

improvements to the flooring and spaces to facilitate the use of the space for meetings, training, emergency response, and community outreach.

The Town has received two inquiries regarding potential Public Private Partnerships for the use of the space at 18 Court Street, and we now have another opportunity with the Holiday and Winter Markets.

Fauquier County Government: The Fauquier County Government has approached the Town for potential use of the space for meetings, overflow seating, Court Proceedings, and other uses.

VFW Post 9835: The Leadership of VFW Post 9835 has reached out to staff to begin the conversation on a Public / Private partnership for the use of 18 Court Street as a meeting and office space for the VFW. For over 75 years, the Robert E. Laing Memorial VFW Post 9835 has not had a home location with office and meeting space. We are working on agreements with the objective of finalizing them early next year.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Continue working with the County and VFW and incorporate the use of this facility with the Holiday and Winter Markets.

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Legal Impact

Potential Public-Private Partnerships will have a legal impact as the Lease agreements, Memorandum of Understanding, and defined policies are reviewed for the proposals.

ATTACHMENTS
