

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS the governing body may appropriate such funds as necessary to pay for direct expenses incurred by such members, including legal expenses; and

WHEREAS the Town Council of Warrenton has at this time concluded that the citizenry of the town has lost considerable faith in their Town government owing in large measure to the Town Council's methods and manners of conduct over the past 4 years in an array of highly visible issues; and

WHEREAS the the Town Council of Warrenton believes that addressing this loss of faith is foundational to responsive government and a predicate to achieving all other goals identified by the Council for the term ahead; and that doing so will require a substantial commitment of time and attention.

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

1. Review the development applications process as managed by the Town of Warrenton, with specific focus on procedures that unnecessarily shield such applications from public participation or interfere with the public's timely awareness and understanding of said applications;
2. Review any application that has been before the Town at any point over the past 6 years that the Commission (i) deems appropriate for better understanding how best to affect the increased transparency and openness that is the Council's principal goal; and/or (ii) believes might reveal particularly poor, even potentially improper, practices by Town government of a nature where appropriate sanctions may be determined later to be advantageous to the reform process. Of initial and particular interest by the Town Council is the Town's approval of Special Use Permit 22-03 issued on February 14, 2023, to Amazon Web Services.
3. Conduct its review with the support of the Town Attorney and such outside experts and counsel as the Town Attorney may deem necessary to research, investigate and develop a complete record of all written and electronic correspondence, applications, meetings, news reports and any other activity relevant to the issuance of any application selected by the Commission for review;
4. Prepare a report, for delivery to Council, including all supporting documentation and providing the Commission's findings and recommendations regarding improvements to procedure, process and/or the Town's Code of Ethics to ensure that all communications with applicants are timely, open and transparent, excepting any valid exemption under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.
5. Appropriate such funds as necessary for the Commission to discharge its duties.
6. The composition of the Committee shall consist of two members of the Town Council, one of whom shall be the Vice Mayor, and three town residents selected by them and confirmed by the Council.