



TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

21 Main Street

Thursday, September 07, 2023 at 11:09 AM

MINUTES

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WARRENTON, VIRGINIA, WAS HELD ON FEBRUARY 10th, 2023, AT 4:00 P.M.

Special Meeting

PRESENT

Mr. Carter Nevill, Mayor; Ms. Heather Sutphin; Mr. Brett Hamby; Mr. James Hartman, Vice Mayor; Mr. Jay Heroux; Mr. David McGuire; Mr. Stephen Clough, Town Clerk; Mr. Frank Cassidy, Interim Town Manager; Mr. Steven Friend, Assistant Director of Public Utilities; Mr. Christopher Melmer, Emergency Services and Risk Manager.

ABSENT

Mr. William Semple; Mr. Paul Mooney.

I. WORKSESSION - 9:00 AM

1. Drought Conditions Currently Affecting the Town and the Impact on Water Resources

Mr. Frank Cassidy, interim Town Manager introduced the reason for the Special Meeting being called. He explained that the Virginia Department of Environment Quality had declared a drought watch advisory for the region and that this meeting was called to proactively enable to the Town Manager to declare a Water Emergency if necessary due to the current conditions. He reiterated that the Emergency declaration was not necessary at this time but that conditions may change rapidly over the next few days and that this meeting would enable staff to respond accordingly without having to call a Special Meeting reactively.

Mr. Cassidy explained the actions that have been taken by staff and water users in the service district already to lower water usage including pausing washing Town vehicles, pausing irrigation of Town properties, modifying procedures at the water plants and pausing bulk water sales. He introduced Mr. Steven Friend, the Assistant Director of Public Utilities, to discuss water levels of the reservoirs and provide an outline of the situation to the Council.

Mr. Friend reiterated that the levels were in good shape for the reservoirs currently especially compared to other areas in the county. He expanded on actions taken to preserve the water levels available.

The Town Council inquired about the necessary actions to take currently for enforcement as well as inquiring about additional ways to save water that may be easy options for staff to implement.

Mr. Cassidy explained that the next course of actions if an emergency was declared and the subject matter experts on staff determined that conditions warranted a deceleration was to elevate to condition 2 under Sec. 17-150 of the Warrenton Town Code which laid out water conservation measures.

Motion put forth by Vice Mayor Hartman to approve the following: **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WARRENTON, VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO DECLARE A WATER EMERGENCY AFFECTING THE USE OF WATER BY PERSONS AND PROPERTIES SERVED BY TOWN WATER, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE TOWN BOUNDARIES, AND TO CONTROL AND RESTRICT THE USE OF WATER DURING AN EMERGENCY CAUSED BY A WATER SHORTAGE.**

Seconded by Councilman Heroux.

Councilmen Heroux requested a roll call vote on the resolution.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: *Ms. Heather Sutphin; Mr. Brett Hamby; Mr. James Hartman, Vice Mayor; Mr. Jay Heroux; Mr. David McGuire.*

Nays:

Abstention:

Absent: *Mr. William Semple; Mr. Paul Mooney.*

The motion passed unanimously, Town Council of the Town of Warrenton hereby authorizes the Town Manager to declare a water emergency affecting the use of water by persons and properties served by town water, inside and outside of the town boundaries, authorizes the publication of such emergency declaration pursuant to Section 17-147 of the Warrenton Town Code as needed and authorizes the Town Manager to take all necessary actions to implement conservation and other restrictions authorized under Sections 17-148 and 17-150 of the Warrenton Town Code to control and restrict the use of water during an emergency caused by a water shortage, including, but not limited to, imposition of penalties as provided under Section 17-151 of the Warrenton Town Code.

ADJOURNMENT.

With no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 9:21 AM

I hereby certify that this is a true and exact record of actions taken by the Town Council of the Town of Warrenton on September 7th, 2023.

Stephen M. Clough
Town Recorder

Draft

September 7, 2023
Town Council
Special Meeting

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WARRENTON, VIRGINIA
AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO DECLARE A WATER EMERGENCY AFFECTING THE
USE OF WATER BY PERSONS AND PROPERTIES SERVED BY TOWN WATER, INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE OF THE TOWN BOUNDARIES, AND TO CONTROL AND RESTRICT THE USE OF
WATER DURING AN EMERGENCY CAUSED BY A WATER SHORTAGE.**

WHEREAS, on September 1st, 2023, the Virginia Department of Environment Quality issued a drought Watch Advisory for Fauquier County; and

WHEREAS, according to the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force, surface and groundwater indicators such as precipitation, groundwater, stream flows have continued to decline throughout the past fourteen-day monitoring period; and

WHEREAS, on September 5th, 2022, the National Weather Service issued a heat advisory for the region citing record breaking heat across the east and southern United States of America. This heat advisory is bringing heat indexes of up to 107 degrees Fahrenheit through Thursday September 7th, 2023, exacerbating the existing drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, Section 17-146 of the Warrenton Town Code authorizes the Town Manager to declare water Emergencies with the approval of the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, a Special Meeting of the Warrenton Town Council was called on September 7th, 2023, to request approval of the Declaration of a Water Emergency; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Town Council of the Town of Warrenton hereby authorizes the Town Manager to declare a water emergency affecting the use of water by persons and properties served by town water, inside and outside of the town boundaries, authorizes the publication of such emergency declaration pursuant to Section 17-147 of the Warrenton Town Code as needed and authorizes the Town Manager to take all necessary actions to implement conservation and other restrictions authorized under Sections 17-148 and 17-150 of the Warrenton Town Code to control and restrict the use of water during an emergency caused by a water shortage, including, but not limited to, imposition of penalties as provided under Section 17-151 of the Warrenton Town Code.

ATTACHMENT: Staff Report and Supporting Documents

Votes:

Ayes: Ms. Heather Sutphin; Mr. Brett Hamby; Mr. James Hartman, Vice Mayor;
Mr. Jay Heroux; Mr. David McGuire.

Nays:

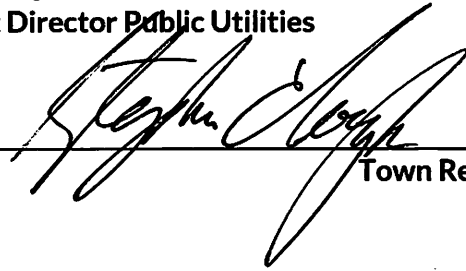
Absent from Meeting: Mr. William Semple; Mr. Paul Mooney.

For Information:

Town Manager

Assistant Director Public Utilities

ATTEST:



Town Recorder

Draft