

Government Affairs Reports-in-Brief on Municipal Activities

November 2018

Portsmouth

- The City is proposing a zoning amendment modify the definition of offices, professional services (professional offices) to include real estate offices, excluding them from offices, sales. This will allow real estate offices in the Historic Limited Office (HLO) districts by right and allow real estate offices as professional offices with a use permit in the Urban Residential (UR), and Urban Residential – High (UR-H) zoning districts. Link: www.portsmouthva.gov
- On Oct. 2, the Planning Commission adopted a motion, at the request of City Council, to prepare changes to the Zoning Ordinance addressing the requirements for consolidating lots, particularly improved lots. Link: www.portsmouthva.gov
- On Oct. 23, City Council adopted/ Endorsed City Legislative package, including an item that would ease the tunnel toll burden by having the state buy out the contract with ERC.
- City wants to update its Comprehensive Plan. The new document will be titled Build One Portsmouth. Link: <http://buildoneportsmouth.org/draft>

Norfolk

- On October 23, 2018, the City council unanimously approved the Norfolk Short Term Rentals Ordinance:
- Voluntary registration is encouraged and business license required. Online registration is available, and free
- Landlords who do not register must acquire a CUP to operate a STR
- There are more restrictions on “vacation rentals” than owner-occupied “homestay” STRs
- The STR registry will be public information
- Landlords must open a transient occupancy tax account with the city and collect the TOT, which is the same rate as the hotel tax
- The city will hire a vendor to monitor the Web for unregistered STR in Norfolk and send out inspectors to shut down those not registered
- The regs become effective Jan. 1, 2019
Link: <https://www.norfolk.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/4521?fileID=9064>

Chesapeake

- The city passed a resolution authorizing the Chesapeake City Manager to sign a memorandum of understanding between the city and Healthy Chesapeake Inc. to use appropriated funds to provide services to city residents. Link: http://www.cityofchesapeake.net/Assets/supporting_docs/actions_council/2018/10-23-18/10.23.18+Marked+Agenda.pdf
- The city passed a resolution opposing offshore oil and gas exploration, including seismic testing and drilling. Link: http://www.cityofchesapeake.net/Assets/supporting_docs/actions_council/2018/10-23-18/10.23.18+Marked+Agenda.pdf

Smithfield

- On October 24, 2018 it was reported that the Isle of Wight Board of Supervisors' 10-year plan for county schools' renovations and new buildings will cost approximately \$78 million dollars. In order to budget for these improvements, the Board suggested an increase of twelve cents in real estate taxes. The current tax rate is eighty-five cents per \$100 of county assessment. Link: www.smithfieldtimes.com

Virginia Beach

- On Oct 16th, City Council adopted the 2019 legislative agenda with the city charter debt provision removed and the ward system and term limit items withdrawn. <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/city-manager/Documents/2019-Legislative-Agenda.pdf>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-B1h8EbsyP8>
- On Oct 16th, City Council approved a resolution regarding the effective date of prospective regulations re Home Sharing and Short Term Rentals to November 1, 2019
<https://shoredrivecommunitycoalition.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/10-16-18-resolution-citycouncil-hs-str.pdf>
- New Short Term Rental Ordinances will be reviewed by the Planning Commission in their November Meeting
<https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/virginia-beach/va-beach-could-delay-new-short-term-rental-rules-until-after-2019-vacation-season/1476022336>

In the News:

- Virginia Beach has "substantial disparities" in minority and women-owned contracts, report says.

https://pilotonline.com/news/government/local/article_29e8f33e-d209-11e8-9404-837b6cebd3c1.html

- [Developer files lawsuit against Virginia Beach for denying housing project over flooding fears. https://pilotonline.com/news/government/local/article_9487ccbe-cd5a-11e8-bd6a-df4dedf34eb2.html](https://pilotonline.com/news/government/local/article_9487ccbe-cd5a-11e8-bd6a-df4dedf34eb2.html)
- [Virginia Beach director of Economic Development abruptly resigns amid audit https://pilotonline.com/news/government/local/article_de543a32-cb28-11e8-b920-3b9240c688d2.html](https://pilotonline.com/news/government/local/article_de543a32-cb28-11e8-b920-3b9240c688d2.html)
- [Pharrell Proposal for Beach Week, DOME, and Film and Stage CAMPUS. https://pilotonline.com/entertainment/festivals/article_29361910-d936-11e8-84e7-3f920af83fef.html](https://pilotonline.com/entertainment/festivals/article_29361910-d936-11e8-84e7-3f920af83fef.html)