

Government Affairs Reports-in-Brief on Municipalities' Activity

April/May 2018

Portsmouth

- ✓ City council approved a resolution directing city staff to prepare a proposed zoning ordinance amendment to increase the minimum size requirements for new residential lots for the purpose of ensuring that the lots are compatible with the surrounding neighborhood.
- ✓ Portsmouth saw investment climb in 2017 with 420 jobs created or saved; enterprises included InterChange Group Inc. Legend Brewing and Port Rail Crane Service.

Norfolk

- ✓ Both of the HRRRA-endorsed Norfolk City Council candidates (Tommy Smigiel & Courtney Doyle) won in the May 1 election. Other Council winners include incumbents Mamie Johnson, Martin Thomas Jr. & Paul Riddick.
- ✓ Budget Calendar Review: There will be six budget work sessions and two public hearings.

Virginia Beach

- ✓ Council unanimously denied ARGOS PROPERTIES II, LLC for a Conditional Change of Zoning from AG-1 & AG-2 Agriculture to P-1 Preservation and R-10 Residential at the North side of Princess Anne Road. Owners wanted to develop this land into a subdivision but there are concerns with future flooding issues. Homes would have had a rider of "Buyer Beware".
- ✓ Mayor Sessoms resigned, Vice Mayor Jones is now Acting-Mayor
- ✓ April 17 Council discussion on Short Term Rentals. Two competing thoughts: 1) Acting Mayor Jones proposal: use conditional use permits; 2) Councilman Moss: use overlay districts with possible opt-in with 60% neighborhood approval

Chesapeake

- ✓ On July 1st Farmers' taxes will be reduced by 8% on producing farm land. (*Farmer's Land Use Tax Rate Per Acre Increased over 1000% the last 12 years.*)
- ✓ The Chesapeake Land Bank & Rehab Grant—(*A program proposed to assist in addressing vacant, blighted and tax delinquent properties.*) The initiative will focus on South Norfolk's Revitalization to include homes, historic areas, infrastructure, public parks, commercial space etc. Residents may qualify for \$2-10,000 but will have guidelines and potentially required to match \$2 for every \$1 given.
- ✓ Chesapeake Election May 1 election winners: Mayor, Rick West; City Council, Ella Ward*, John De Triquet, Matt Hamel*, Steve Best*, Susan Vitale* (4-year term), and Dwight Parker (2-year term); Chesapeake School Board, Colleen Leary, Patricia King, Christie New Craig, Harry Murphy, and Michael Woods. (**endorsed by HRRRA*)