

Government Affairs Reports-in-Brief on Municipal Activities

December 2018

Portsmouth

Image of Portsmouth meeting November 2, 2018. **In attendance:** Robert Moore, Economic Development Director; Brian Donahue, Assistant Director; Armon Smith, Business Development Manager; Elizabeth Psimas, Portsmouth City Council; Amy Thompson, Planning Commission; Sherri Thaxton, HRRRA Govt. Affairs Co-Vice Chair of Portsmouth; Gary Bunting, HRRRA Govt. Affairs Committee member; Alan Psimas, Realtor.

Discussion focused primarily on how the image of Portsmouth could be improved upon within the Business Community; in and around Hampton Roads. We identified the “negative” and the priority for focusing on the city’s positive features. In the meantime, the Image group will obtain valid information to combat negative city images. Future meetings to be held at various locations within the City of Portsmouth.

✓ **ELIZABETH RIVER TUNNELS TOLL INCREASE – EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2019.**

This toll increase is in accordance with Exhibit J of the Comprehensive Agreement between Elizabeth River Crossings OpCo, LLC (ERC) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). <https://www.driveert.com/>

✓ **CA-18-04 (CITYWIDE)** - The City of Portsmouth is proposing to amend the City Zoning Ordinance to exempt pre-existing nonconforming single family residences under certain conditions from requirements to consolidate non-conforming lots prior to approving Zoning Clearance Permits for improvements to the property. These provisions would not apply to new development or redevelopment of property-approved by planning. www.portsmouthva.gov

Norfolk

✓ Norfolk City Planning Commission and City Council continue to strengthen their support of Transit Oriented Development (TOD) in November by correcting the inconsistencies in the March 1, 2018 Zoning Ordinance by their approval of proposed amendments which encourage a wider variety of transportation modes, including transit ridership, bicycling, and walking, near several Tide rail stations

✓ At the November 20th meeting, Norfolk City Council took no action on the Virginia Natural Gas Pipeline. City Council members briefly discussed options to push Virginia Natural Gas to further improve the safety of a nearly-complete natural gas pipeline being installed in Norfolk through Southside neighborhoods, Downtown and under Colonna Shipyard in Norfolk.

Chesapeake

In an effort to be proactive and provide resolutions to the hot-button topic of school rezoning, Chesapeake leadership is investing \$1 million into studying its rezoning challenges.

✓ Link: https://pilotonline.com/news/local/education/public-schools/article_7ff3df96-e8f7-11e8-98c6-87d5573e304d.html

- ✓ Dollar Tree has been awarded \$1.5 million as the first part of a \$4 million state grant for creating jobs in Chesapeake. (Dollar Tree has created 150 jobs.)
- ✓ Link: <https://www.13newsnow.com/article/news/chesapeake-to-reward-dollar-tree-for-creating-jobs-with-15-million-state-grant/291-618138237>
- ✓ Hampton Roads Planning District Commission is hosting a Flood Insurance Open House on December 4th from 6-8pm. Residents and property owners will have the opportunity to meet with FEMA, state and local representatives to review flood risk maps and discuss flood insurance and other hazard mitigation measures.
- ✓ Link: http://www.cityofchesapeake.net/Calendar/Flood-Insurance-Open-House_s_p13138.htm?EventMode=View&EventOccurrence=0

Virginia Beach

City council and mayoral election results:

- Bayside District: Louis Jones
- Lynnhaven District: James Wood
- Beach District: David Nygaard
- Centerville District: Sabrina Wooten
- Princess Anne District: Barbara Henley
- At Large: John Moss and Aaron Rouse
- Mayor: Bobby Dyer

Link:

<https://results.elections.virginia.gov/vaelections/2018%20November%20General/Site/Locality/VIRGINIA%20BEACH%20CITY/Index.html>

ACTIONS

- ✓ On Nov 20, City Council approved to amend Section 111 re definition of dwelling, attached/townhouses and Section 402(a) re single-family dimensional requirements in the City Zoning Ordinance
- ✓ Link: https://library.municode.com/va/virginia_beach/codes/code_of_ordinances
- ✓ On Nov 29, Planning Commission held a workshop to discuss Short Term Rental regulations recommended by City Council
- ✓ Link: <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/planning/Pages/Planning-Commission-Workshop.aspx>

In the News:

- ✓ “Recounts for 3 Virginia Beach City Council races could cost more than \$100,000”
- ✓ https://pilotonline.com/news/government/local/article_f0836ea6-f19a-11e8-b710-7b6cd5d53888.html
- ✓ “Virginia Beach names interim director for economic development after former leader resigned”
- ✓ https://pilotonline.com/news/government/local/article_3378e76e-f285-11e8-8e21-33e2092cb734.html
- ✓ “New Virginia building code could alter look of coastal neighborhoods”
- ✓ https://pilotonline.com/news/government/virginia/article_e8ca8b3c-edb1-11e8-a253-f3b5c64ab586.html