

Government Affairs Reports-in-Brief on Municipal Activities January 2019

Portsmouth

- ✓ On Dec. 11, 2018, the City Council amended the zoning ordinance to exempt pre-existing non-conforming single family residences from requirements to consolidate non-conforming lots under specified circumstances.
- ✓ Link: www.portsmouthva.gov – City Council Minutes
- ✓ On Dec. 11, 2018, the City Council approved the purchase of the former Virginia Sports Hall of Fame building at 206 High St
- ✓ Link: www.portsmouthva.gov – City Council Minutes
- ✓ On Dec. 28, newly elected City Council members Shannon Glover and Paul Battle, along with incumbent Bill Moody were sworn in. Mr. Glover and Mr. Moody were endorsed by HRRA.
- ✓ Link: www.pilotonline.com

Norfolk

- ✓ Pamunkey Indian Tribe spokesman Jay Smith said the tribe is would like to open Virginia's first casino on 20 acres (eight hectares) along the Elizabeth River between Harbor Park baseball stadium and the Amtrak station near Norfolk's downtown. Negotiations are already underway with Norfolk officials.
- ✓ By a vote of 5-0, the city's Architectural Review Board recommended approval for the Phase 2 design of River Tower at Harbor's Edge addition (Applicant: Gary Bright, Clarke Nixsen). This is Phase 2 of an earlier project that will provide additional independent living and memory care in a total of twenty-four floors.

Chesapeake

- ✓ The Chesapeake City Council voted 6-3 on Dec. 18 to allow the acceptance of the Williams farm site to the comprehensive plan to be used as a possible mega site to draw attention to South Chesapeake. The site will not be rezoned at this time but will be advertised as a site for consideration.
- ✓ At the December 2018 Government Affairs Forum, the four attending mayors each encouraged Chesapeake Mayor Rick West to push this property as a possible regional growth site for not only Chesapeake but the entire region.

Smithfield

- ✓ Smithfield Foods and Dominion Energy have teamed up to transform methane gas emissions from hog waste into renewable energy for home heating and power for local businesses. The joint venture, called Align Renewable Natural Gas, will take place in Virginia, North Carolina and Utah.
- ✓ Link: www.alignrng.com
- ✓ The Isle of Wight Parks & Recreation Director has requested that the IOW Board of Trustee's establish fee structures for food trucks and park facility rentals at Tyler's Beach, which is one of the few public beach accesses in the County. Preliminary park improvement include a covered pavilion, picnic tables, improvements to the existing marina, restrooms and new lighting.
- ✓ Link: www.smithfieldtimes.com

Virginia Beach

- ✓ The Virginia Beach Council approves Pharrells proposal for Beach Week!! This addresses the questions asked about violence at the beach during Beach Week and it also brings structure to an unstructured "unofficial" event known as Beach Week.
- ✓ <https://www.13newsnow.com/video/news/local/mycity/virginia-beach/virgina-beach-city-council-approves-pharrells-proposed-music-festival/291-8312190>