



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **TOWN OF WARRENTON REDUCING STAFFING WITH TELEWORK; COUNCIL BUDGET RETREAT AND ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS POSTPONED UNTIL APRIL, TOWN HALL CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS**

Warrenton, VA (March 18, 2020)

There are still more questions than answers at this time, but know that the Town is focused upon ensuring the ongoing ability to meet the needs of our residents. The situation is unprecedented, but we remain confident that the plans we have in place are minimizing the negative impacts and working to further ensure everyone's safety.

In the interest of limiting the spread of the coronavirus and protecting the health of our residents, all public meetings have been postponed. Any scheduled items are moved to next month's agenda. In response to the guidelines for the next 15 days to "slow the spread" and avoid gathering in groups of 10 or more, access to Town Hall is being fully limited until April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Employees will continue to work and will use electronic means to communicate with the public.

"This move aims to lessen the spread by limiting interactions between people. This increased measure is in direct response to the request to limit gatherings to less than 10 people. This inconvenience now will help to reduce the spread and ensure the Town remains operational. During this limited access period, staff is still here to serve the citizens and businesses through digital means and will make themselves available in person on a case by case basis." Carter Nevill, Mayor.

To ensure the continuity of town operations, all employees who are able to telework will do so effective immediately. All at-risk employees, not deemed essential by their supervisor, are asked to telework, effective immediately. Key operations in each department will continue with reduced staffing and scheduled rotations to reduce employee interactions that could spread the virus.

The WARF and Visitor Center remain closed, as do all buildings to public access. Parks & Recreation staff have canceled all sporting leagues and haven taken steps to post safety signs in our parks. There will be no renting of park pavilions, and citizens are asked to not gather in these areas. Playground equipment will be posted with safety warnings and patrons will be encouraged to participate in passive recreation by

walking and using the fields for personal play. At this time, we are not closing any parks, as we believe the ability to get out in the fresh air is important to everyone's health.

This is an evolving situation, so we appreciate your patience as we respond to changing conditions. For the most current information regarding the status of any Town facility, service, or event, please visit the Town's website ([www.warrentonva.gov](http://www.warrentonva.gov)), facebook page, or call the main phone number (347-1101).

Information regarding the coronavirus and how to protect yourself and your loved ones, may be found by contacting the Virginia Department of Health:

Virginia Department of Health website:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>

(877) ASK-VDH3

