

HAMPTON VA

Planning Commission Composition

July 8, 2020



Purpose

- Discussion of the composition of the Planning Commission

State Law Requirements

- Every locality must have a Planning Commission (15.2-2210)
- The Planning Commission is required to hold public hearings and to make recommendations to the City Council concerning land use applications, the community plan, and zoning amendments

Planning Commission Membership

- Planning Commission must consist of between 5 and 15 members (15.2-2212)
 - All must be residents of Hampton
 - All must be “qualified by knowledge and experience to make decisions on questions of community growth and development”
 - ½ must be owners of real property (vs. renters)

Planning Commission Membership

- Planning Commission “may” also have:
 - One member of the City Council
 - One member of the administrative branch of government of the locality
- The term of these 2 members is coextensive with the term of office to which they have been elected or appointed unless the City Council appoints others to serve as their representatives each year

Current Hampton Planning Commission

- Comprised of seven (7) members:
 - Five (5) citizen members appointed by City Council
 - One member of City Council
 - One member of the administrative branch of local government

Options for City Council

1. Keep current composition
2. Remove City Council and City Manager representative members entirely
3. Appoint City Council and/or City Manager representatives as liaisons (vs. members) of the Planning Commission
 - Not counted in the quorum
 - Cannot make motions or vote
 - Can participate in discussion

Other Planning Commissions

	Number of Members	Composition
Newport News	9	All appointed citizens
Norfolk	7	All appointed citizens
Portsmouth	7	All appointed citizens Planning Director “ex-officio”
Chesapeake	9	All appointed citizens
Virginia Beach	11	All appointed citizens
Williamsburg	7	All appointed citizens
Richmond	9	5 members appointed by City Council 1 citizen appointed by the Mayor 1 member of City Council The Chief Administrative Officer
City of Roanoke	7	All appointed citizens

Historical Alignment

- The Community Development Department annually tracks data to measure alignment between the Planning Commission and City Council.
- Almost every year for the past 25 years, the concurrence rate between PC & CC is above 90%
- This indicates excellent alignment between the two bodies

Overview

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Maintain the current composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Has proven to facilitate excellent alignment with CC-Provides direct link to the legislative and administrative branch perspective on issues-Once issues get to CC, the CC member has first hand knowledge of what transpired at the PC public hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Perception that the CM influences the PC decisions-Time commitment for the CC member and CM representative.
Replace CC and CM representatives with citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-More citizen perspectives can be represented-PC would not be “influenced” by a CC or CM perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No formal structural link to the legislative and administrative branches-More opportunity for the PC to become misaligned with CC

Questions

