

**Clyde A. Haulman, Mayor
Paul T. Freiling, Vice-Mayor
Judith N. Knudson
D. Scott Foster, Jr.
Douglas G. Pons**

**December 1, 2010
Wednesday
3:15 p.m.
GWCTC Conference Room
421 N. Boundary St.**

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
(Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance Conference Room)**

1. Roll Call
2. Discussion with Senator Thomas K. Norment and Delegate William Barlow regarding 2011 Local and State Legislative Priorities
3. Adjournment



RESOLUTION #10-12

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CERTAIN
LOCAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

WHEREAS, the Virginia General Assembly will convene in early 2011 to consider important legislative matters of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the City Council to adopt a legislative program to present to its representatives in the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Council has carefully considered a legislative program, and believes that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Williamsburg.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Williamsburg, Virginia hereby endorses the attached 2011 Legislative Priorities List and urges consideration and passage as appropriate.

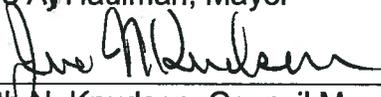
Adopted: October 14, 2010



Clyde A. Haulman, Mayor



Paul T. Freiling, Vice-Mayor



Judith N. Knudson, Council Member



D. Scott Foster, Council Member



Douglas A. Pons, Council Member



2011 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES *City of Williamsburg*

- ★ **Amend City Charter:** Williamsburg requests that the city's charter be amended to comply with Section 24.2-228 of the Code of Virginia requiring localities to hold special elections to fill a vacancy in any elected local office.

- ★ **Restriction on Local Government Prerogatives:** Williamsburg opposes proposals previously introduced in the General Assembly to further restrict local revenue prerogatives, especially:
 - Manipulation on real estate assessments to reflect something other than market value.
 - Caps on tax rates, or the rate of revenue growth.
 - Restrictions on discretion of City Council to use existing revenues as it sees fit.
 - Elimination of Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) tax, but would not oppose revenue neutral reform of BPOL.

- ★ **Financial Impact on City Government:** Williamsburg advises the General Assembly that the following areas of state spending are of greatest financial importance to the City of Williamsburg:
 - Williamsburg/James City County Schools funding
 - Williamsburg Human Services Department's state funding
 - Constitutional Officers support, both City and joint City/County Constitutional Officers
 - Transportation Urban Fund annual allocation for City street maintenance
 - Public Safety support through 599 Funds
 - Regional Jail support for correction officer compensation
 - State Health Department and Mental Health services

- ★ **Tourism Promotion:** Williamsburg urges the General Assembly to use a greater portion of the tourism revenues it collects to promote Virginia as a destination.

- ★ **Transportation Funding:** The City supports General Assembly action to direct or allow tolling major river crossings, and to enact statewide gasoline tax increases and other forms of user fees dedicated to Virginia's transportation needs.

- ★ **Passenger Rail on the Virginia Peninsula:** Williamsburg needs improved reliability and frequency of passenger rail service between Richmond and Williamsburg and the lower Peninsula. The city supports dedicated state funding for passenger train operation necessary to leverage federal funds for passenger rail infrastructure.
- ★ **Interstate 64:** Williamsburg requests that the General Assembly make the widening of I-64 (from Richmond to Newport News) a priority as the primary gateway to the Historic Triangle and all of eastern Virginia and that the widening be done with aesthetic sensitivity.
- ★ **Computation of Tax on Internet Sale of Hotel Rooms:** Williamsburg urges the General Assembly to require internet travel reservation companies to collect occupancy tax on gross sales, not net sales.
- ★ **College of William and Mary:** Williamsburg urges rebuilding state support for William and Mary overall and strongly encourages the General Assembly to support funding to construct the third and final phase of the College's Integrated Science Center (\$85 million), and renovate and modernize Tucker Hall (\$12.1 million) for the English Department.
- ★ **Pay Day Lending Reform:** Williamsburg stands with many other local governments which believe "pay day" and other predatory lending reform has not gone far enough, and that a 36% annual interest rate cap should be adopted into law, along with other measures to protect consumers.
- ★ **VSBE Issuing Bonds to Non-Profits:** Williamsburg requests that the State Code be amended to repeal the Virginia Small Business Financing Authority's power to compete with local Economic Development Authorities in the issuance of tax exempt bonds to non-profit entities.
- ★ **State Deferral of VRS Payments:** Williamsburg strongly encourages the General Assembly to reinstate past deferrals and not use this strategy to balance future state budgets.
- ★ **Limitations on Disclosure of Criminal Records:** Williamsburg opposes any changes to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Section 2.2-3706 of the Code of Virginia, which requires mandatory disclosure of full criminal record.



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