

**Warren County Board of Commissioners
Budget Work Session
Warren County Armory Civic Center
June 13, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon**

SUGGESTED AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. Convene Budget Work Session – Chairman Bertadean Baker**
- 9:05 a.m. Warren County Schools Presentation – Dr. Ray Spain**
- 9:20 a.m. Review Changes/Revisions Made at 6/3/13 Budget Work Session**
- 9:30 a.m. Resume Budget Discussions**
- 1. Parking Improvements for Warren County Courthouse and Downtown Warrenton Proposed by Warrenton Town Administrator**
- 12:00 Noon Adjourn Budget Work Session**

NOTE: Special Meeting to Adopt the FY 14 Budget – 6/27/13, 7:00 p.m., Armory Civic Center

TO: WARREN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**FROM: WARRENTON SMALL TOWN MAIN STREET COMMITTEE
WARRENTON REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE**

**RE: PARKING IMPROVEMENTS FOR WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND
DOWNTOWN WARRENTON**

BACKGROUND

Warrenton is fortunate to be the county seat of Warren County and the home of the county's government facilities. County facilities provide economic benefits to the Town of Warrenton and the downtown in particular. These benefits include the presence and purchasing power of County employees as well as that of the visitors and users of County services. Downtown businesses in turn provide services to County employees and visitors in the form of shopping and dining opportunities, and the town provides support in the form of streets, sidewalks and public spaces, thus creating a mutually beneficial situation.

The County facilities also create an impact on the downtown community related to traffic, circulation and parking. In particular, the demand for parking by court staff, jurors and those attending court on days when the courts are in session generates a shortfall in available parking for downtown businesses. This shortfall in parking can have a negative effect on the ability of downtown businesses to adequately serve their non-county employee customers.

The NC Department of Commerce Small Town Main Street program recently conducted a market analysis for downtown Warrenton that identified additional business opportunities which could be supported. The report also identified the number and location of parking spaces, as well as ways to improve the parking in downtown. Although parking seems adequate for the current level of activity, demand on days that courts are in session stretches the area's capacity, and additional growth will require additional parking and/or parking management improvements. On-street parking should be available for customers of downtown businesses and not used by downtown employees of government or businesses. The current County parking lots adjacent to the courthouse offer an opportunity for serving most of the County's needs, but are not being used efficiently due to their lack of signage, markings and lane improvements. There are a few options for additional off-street parking lots for downtown employees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to assure adequate parking for current activity and future growth of the County court system and the downtown business district, the Small Town Main Street Committee has made the following recommendations:

1. Requesting that the County consider increasing the efficiency of its off-street parking lots through markings and lane improvements and paving as depicted in the included design plans; as well as the installation of appropriate directional signage and written instructions to jurors and other court personnel as to the location and necessity of using the court parking lots rather than on-street parking spaces.

2. Requesting that the Town provide written instructions to downtown businesses regarding the importance of on-street parking for customers and the necessity of business employees to park in off-street and side street locations in order to provide on-street access for customers.
3. Requesting that the Town implement a parking enforcement program with shortened time limits on court activity days, in order to free up on-street parking for short term business customers.

The Town supports the recommended actions and welcomes the input and cooperation of Warren County in the effort to keep downtown Warrenton a successful place that accommodates the needs of both business and government. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Asphalt parking lot - 59 parking spaces, two way drive aisles, open lawn areas, and shade trees.



Conceptual Asphalt Parking Lot Plan Warrenton, N.C.

(Concept 2)