

Town of Bowling Green
Town Council Meeting



Date: June 7, 2018
Agenda Item: VIII-C Set Public
Hearing Date for Ordinances 0-2018 –
008

TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM:

- CONSENT AGENDA
- PRESENTATION
- ACTION ITEM
- TOWN MANAGER & STAFF COMMENTS
- PUBLIC HEARING
- Duly Advertised

PURPOSE OF ITEM:

- INFORMATION ONLY
- DISCUSSION ONLY
- DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION
 - Introduction Resolution
 - Ordinance Grant/ MOU
 - By Motion Bylaws
 - Certificate

PRESENTER: Reese Peck

PRESENTER TITLE: Town Manager

AGENDA ITEM: VIII-C Set Public Hearing Date for Ordinances 0-2018 – 008

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:

With the relocation of Virginia State Inspection stickers residents are having to move their permanent Vehicle decals to meet Virginia State Police Vehicle Safety Inspection regulations. An increasing number of counties, including Caroline, are considering or have already done away with vehicle decals. The Town currently spends about \$200 per year on the purchase of the decals.

To do away with the issuance and display of the vehicle decal would require an ordinance amending Town Code. The vehicle license fee would not be affected.

ATTACHMENTS: Caroline County's need for decal assessment

REQUESTED ACTION: Set Public Hearing Date and Authorize Town Manager to have public hearing notice published.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Phone#: 804-633-6212

Email: Townmanager@townofbowlinggreen.com

Name:

Reese Peck

FOR USE DURING MEETING

Y	N		Y	N	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coleman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gaines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hauser	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

VOTE: PASS NOT PASSED

McDearmon
Wright
Gibson
Satterwhite

Memo

To: Board of Supervisors
From: Charles M. Culley, Jr., County Administrator
Alan L. Partin, Deputy County Administrator
Date: May 17, 2018
Re: Placement of "County Sticker" on Windshield

Background

The Virginia State Police announced in December 2017 that beginning January 1, 2018, the annual state vehicle inspection sticker must be placed on the driver's side bottom corner of the windshield instead of the bottom-center. The change is rooted in safety considerations. Some of the crash-avoidance technology in newer automobiles requires an unobstructed view through the center of the windshield in order to function properly. For example, automatic emergency braking systems use cameras, lasers, and radar to monitor what is happening around the vehicle, and are usually installed in the center of the vehicle on the dash. Stickers can cause the technology to not work properly.

The change also impacts the location of the permanent county vehicle decal, or "county sticker". No later than January 1, 2019, the county sticker must be moved to adjacent to the right side of the official inspection sticker when viewed from the inside of the vehicle. The top edge of the county sticker must be approximately 4 inches from the bottom of the windshield and the left edge not more than ¼ inch from the inspection sticker when viewed from inside the vehicle.

Impact on County Sticker and Possible Solutions

County stickers still located in the middle of the windshield on January 1, 2019 will be in violation of the VSP edict.

Citizens purchasing new permanent decals can be advised by the Treasurer's Office to place the sticker in the bottom corner of the driver's side of the windshield adjacent to the state inspection sticker. However, implementing the change will prove more difficult for the thousands of vehicles with a permanent decal already displayed in the middle of the windshield.

Based on anecdotal evidence, some garages performing state inspections are moving the county sticker to the left side of the windshield and some are not. If the garage does not take the initiative to move the county sticker preemptively before the January 1, 2019 deadline (when performing state inspections in 2018), the result will be that many county citizens will be out of compliance with the directive unless they know to move the sticker on their own. Since vehicle inspections are staggered throughout the year, many citizens conceivably will not be aware of the need to move the sticker as of January 1, 2019.

It appears the County has the following options to address the situation:

Option #1: Eliminate the Requirement to Display a County Sticker

Eliminating the requirement to display a permanent decal would prevent citizens from having to relocate their existing sticker.

Several neighboring localities no longer issue a decal at all and simply assess the equivalent fee in the form of a vehicle license tax (in fact, it appears that in

the Commonwealth of Virginia only 7 localities still have an annual decal and 6 others still have permanent decals, excluding towns).

Below is a table showing how surrounding localities handle County decals.

County	County Decal?	Notes
Essex	No	Assesses vehicle license fee (VLF) on personal property bill
Hanover	No	Does not assess vehicle license fee
King & Queen	No	Separate bill license fee
King George	Issues permanent decal	Assesses VLF on personal property bill
King William	No	Assesses VLF on personal property bill
Louisa	No	Assesses VLF on personal property bill
Orange	No	Assesses VLF on personal property bill
Spotsylvania	No	Assesses vehicle license fee on personal property bill
Stafford	No	Assesses vehicle license fee on personal property bill

The Board of Supervisors discussed the possibility of eliminating the county sticker in October 2017 but ultimately decided to retain it. Concerns were expressed that citizens would no longer be able to proof residency to utilize the solid waste convenience sites. Some of these localities issue separate stickers to allow use of the landfill and solid waste collection sites.

Option #2: Retain the Permanent Decal and Educate the Public to Relocate It

Based on discussions with Treasurer Elizabeth Curran, it appears the other option would be to mail out replacement stickers for all registered vehicles along with an insert explaining why the new sticker is necessary and where to place it on the windshield. The estimated cost to the County to mail out new stickers is approximately \$25,000.

Moving the existing stickers does not appear to be a viable option as it will be very difficult for citizens to relocate their existing decals without damaging them.

Recommendation

It is staff's recommendation to eliminate the decal entirely as the large majority of other localities have done throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Elimination of the decal is the option favored by the Sheriff's Office. In the event the sticker is discontinued, staff can monitor the flow at the solid waste convenience sites in subsequent months to determine if the tonnage received has increased significantly. Should this occur, perhaps separate landfill stickers could be issued to retain better control over the waste stream.

The Treasurer's Office stock of permanent decals has begun to run low. Mrs. Curran is holding off on ordering additional stickers pending a final decision on this issue.