



NEWS RELEASE

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Vienna hires Calfee Zoning to update Town Code

At its July 6 meeting, Vienna Town Council awarded a contract to clarify, simplify, reorganize, and update its subdivision and zoning ordinances, chapters 17 and 18 of the Town Code, to Calfee Zoning. The update is expected to take about 18 months and cost is not to exceed \$240,000.

Calfee Zoning, a national zoning consulting firm with offices in Cleveland and Washington, DC, as well as other locations, was awarded the contract following a rigorous evaluation process and interviews with three firms. Among Calfee's strengths, says Planning and Zoning Director Cindy Petkac, is the firm's experience in working on similar projects with small- to mid-size communities that are a part of a greater metropolitan area and often have underperforming commercial districts.

The most recent significant update to Vienna's Town Code took place in 1969; much of the existing Code reflects the original 1956 document. The goal of the current update project is to make the Town's Code more user friendly, visual, accessible, and relevant to modern zoning needs and desires.

Calfee Project Manager Sean Suder will oversee a team that includes YARD & Company, specialists in public engagement and urban design; Nelson Nygaard, an internationally recognized transportation firm; and Venable, LLP land use attorneys located in Tysons.

Over the summer, Calfee will review the Town's existing subdivision and zoning ordinances as well as existing feedback from Vienna stakeholders. At the project's official kick-off at a September 23 joint work session with Town Council and the Planning Commission, Calfee will provide a diagnostic analysis along with a public engagement plan.

"A key and early responsibility for the firm will be to establish a robust public engagement plan," says Principal Planner Kelly O'Brien, who will lead the Town's outreach efforts.

"This process is about community co-creation rather than community buy-in," says Planning and Zoning Director Cindy Petkac. "We want everyone to be involved and be given multiple opportunities to provide feedback throughout the project. We want the entire Vienna community to help build this 'house,' so we encourage everyone to bring their toolboxes and participate."

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