

INTRODUCED: February 13, 2017

A RESOLUTION No. 2017-R012

To declare a public necessity to amend ch. 30 of the City Code and to initiate an amendment to the City’s zoning ordinance to prohibit the extraction of natural gas by means of hydraulic fracturing within the limits of the city of Richmond.

Patron – Mr. Agelasto

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: FEB 27 2017 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, section 15.2-2286 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, provides that a zoning ordinance may include, among other things, reasonable regulations and provisions for the amendment of regulations or district maps from time to time; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with section 15.2-2286 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, such amendment may be initiated by resolution of the governing body, provided that any such resolution by the governing body proposing an amendment to the regulations or district maps shall state the public purposes therefor; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Richmond understands that hydraulic fracturing is highly controversial as an extraction technique due to its reportedly adverse impacts on the

AYES: 8 NOES: _____ ABSTAIN: 1 _____

ADOPTED: MAR 27 2017 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

environment in the form of air and water pollution, strained water supplies, and induced earthquakes and that many communities, including King George County, Virginia, are enacting legislation limiting use of hydraulic fracturing; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the City amend its zoning ordinance, codified as Chapter 30 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended, to prohibit the use of hydraulic fracturing to extract natural gas within the city of Richmond for the purpose of protecting the public health and the environment;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the City Council hereby declares that the public necessity, convenience, general welfare and good zoning practices of the City require the initiation of an amendment of the zoning ordinance set forth in Chapter 30 of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended, to prohibit the use of hydraulic fracturing to extract natural gas within the city of Richmond for the purpose of protecting the public health and the environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, pursuant to section 15.2-2286 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the City Council hereby initiates an amendment to the City's zoning ordinance by requesting the Chief Administrative Officer to cause to be conducted a study to determine the changes to the zoning ordinance necessary to prohibit the use of hydraulic fracturing to extract natural gas within the city of Richmond and to provide the Council with a report concerning the results of the study and the recommended changes to the zoning ordinance based on such study as soon as practical after the adoption of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Planning Commission is hereby directed to hold a public hearing on the proposed changes to the zoning ordinance and submit its recommendation and any explanatory materials to the City Council as soon as practicable.