



## Waynesboro City Council Agenda Briefing

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>October 11, 2023</b>	<b>Staff/Council Member(s): Michael G. Hamp II, City Manager; Gregory Hitchin, Director of Economic Development and Tourism</b>
<b>Agenda Item #</b>	<b>14</b>	
<b>Resolution#</b>		
<b>Department:</b>	<b>Economic Development and Tourism</b>	
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Virginia America 250 Commission (VA250) Regional Committee</b>	

### Background:

Established by the General Assembly in 2020, the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) serves to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the independence of the United States in the Commonwealth of Virginia, one of the former colonies and future states, where much of this history took place.

A primary goal of the Commission is to convene and facilitate a Commonwealth-wide commemoration and celebration, multi-faceted and inclusive of hundreds of partners and representatives of the wide array of histories, sites, stories, and communities that define Virginia.

This is an excellent opportunity for Waynesboro to showcase its many attributes with regional and state marketing. Combining our efforts with the City of Staunton and Augusta County under the auspices of The Greater Augusta Regional Tourism (GART) Board will enhance our efforts.

GART was created in 2007 and is a cooperative partnership between Waynesboro, Staunton, and Augusta County, formed to market the tourism industry and assets in the region. Previous projects include regional maps, joint advertising, and the popular Shenandoah Beerwerks Trail.

As the excitement and energy around the semiquincentennial builds across Virginia and the nation, counties and cities in Virginia are forming VA250 committees to plan local and regionally focused events and to work with the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission. GART is seeking to form a regional VA250 committee with representatives from Waynesboro, Staunton and Augusta County, to join in the planning for this large-scale commemoration.

From 2023 through 2027, the VA250 Commission, with the help of passionate supporters, will deliver impactful and thoughtful exhibits, events, and programs that inspire all Americans to learn more about the founding of our nation and Virginia's key role.

Grant funding opportunities to partners and Local and Regional VA250 Committees will assist communities across Virginia in conveying their unique stories and highlighting their exclusive resources. Beginning in 2023, the VA250 Commission has already begun providing and will provide further grant funding opportunities to the VA250 Local and Regional Committees for tourism marketing, content

development, and creative community partnerships. More information on the VA250 Program can be found at [www.va250.org](http://www.va250.org).

The VA250 Commission has requested a demonstration of local government support by adoption of a resolution. For those localities that form official Local VA250 Committees, as evidenced by the passing of a resolution of support, the designation of a local contact, and the formation of a Local VA250 Committee, the state commission will provide opportunities for commemorative events and make available programs to include traveling exhibitions and teacher resources.

**City Manager's Recommendation:** Adopt the resolution

**Suggested Motion(s):**

**Attachments:** resolution