

RESOLUTION NO. 2335

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VINTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2019 AT 7:00 PM AT THE VINTON WAR MEMORIAL, 814 WASHINGTON AVENUE, VINTON, VIRGINIA.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SECOND AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed;” and

WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 13, of the Constitution of Virginia provides “[t]hat a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed;” and

WHEREAS, the members of the Town Council of the Town of Vinton (“Council”) have taken an oath to defend and uphold the constitutions of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Council is concerned that certain legislation prefiled for introduction in the 2020 Virginia General Assembly, and certain legislation that has been introduced in the United States Congress, may have the effect of infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens of the Town to keep and bear arms, as guaranteed by the United States and Virginia Constitutions; and

WHEREAS, the Council is concerned that the passage of any bill imposing unnecessary burdens on law-abiding citizens will, if the burdens are to be enforced by local officials, effectively impose unfunded mandates on the Town associated with the enforcement of new laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Council wishes to express its deep commitment to the rights of all citizens of the Town of Vinton to keep and bear Arms; and

WHEREAS, the Council wishes to express opposition to any law that would unconstitutionally restrict the rights of the citizens of the Town to keep and bear arms; and

WHEREAS, the Council wishes to express its intent to stand as a Sanctuary community for Second Amendment rights, and to oppose, within the limits of the Constitutions and laws of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia, any efforts to unconstitutionally restrict such rights, and to use such legal means at its disposal to protect the rights of the citizens of the Town to keep and bear arms, including through legal action, petition for redress of grievances, and not enforcing any law ruled unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, the Council is aware that, pursuant to Section 15.2-915 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, the Town has no legislative or enforcement authority related to “the purchase, possession, transfer, ownership, carrying, storage or transporting of firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof other than as expressly authorized by statute”; and

WHEREAS, the Council nevertheless wishes to express its sentiments, together with the sentiments of the Vinton community as a whole, with regard to this important matter, and its continuing intent to take lawful action to protect these important rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA, AS FOLLOWS:

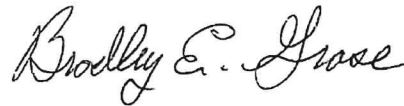
1. The Town Council of the Town of Vinton hereby declares the Town of Vinton to be a Second Amendment Sanctuary community, wherein the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms for the purposes of lawful self-defense, community defense, and hunting, as protected by the United States and Virginia Constitutions, is part of the fabric of the community since before the foundation of the Republic, and is and must be respected, celebrated and upheld; and
2. The Town Council of the Town of Vinton affirms its support for the rights ensured and protected by the Constitutions of the United States and Virginia, including the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms; and
3. The Town Council of the Town of Vinton urges the General Assembly, the United States Congress, and other agencies of State and Federal government to vigilantly preserve and protect those rights and not to adopt, accept, or enact any provision, law, or regulation that may infringe, have the tendency to infringe, or place any additional burdens on the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms; and
4. The Town Council of the Town of Vinton expresses its intent to continue to take lawful actions to protect and support the rights of its citizens to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the United States and Virginia Constitutions; and
5. The Town Council of the Town of Vinton opposes, in particular, any provision, law, or regulation that may impose additional regulatory burdens on its citizens or result in mandates, whether mandatory or practical, to expend additional public funds on enforcement or administration of such laws; and
6. The Town Manager is directed to cause true copies of this resolution to be forwarded to the Town’s representatives in the General Assembly and the United States Congress and to the Governor of Virginia; and
7. This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

This Resolution was adopted on motion made by Council Member Stovall, seconded by Vice Mayor Liles, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: McCarty, Stovall, Liles, Grose

NAYS: Scheid

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bradley E. Grose".

Bradley E. Grose, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan N. Johnson".

Susan N. Johnson, CMC, Town Clerk