



How Our Local Government Works

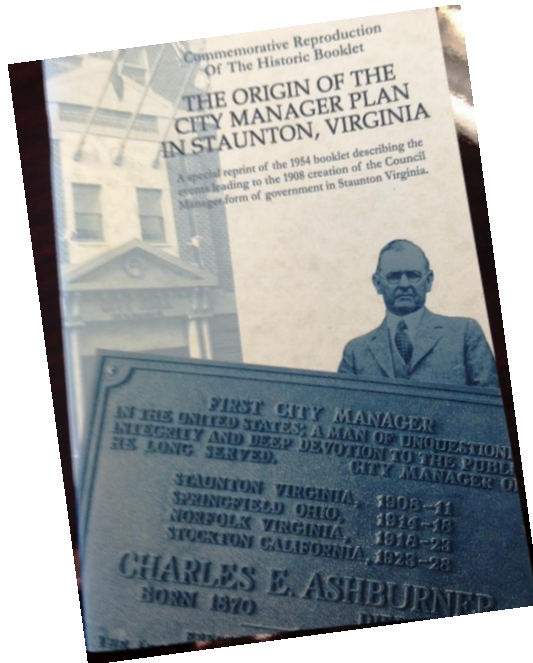
Staunton Citizen University

*Presented by Steve Owen, City Manager
Sept. 11, 2018*

- ◆ Current population: 24,500
- ◆ Settled in 1732
- ◆ Established as colonial town in 1761,
- ◆ Incorporated as a town in 1801
- ◆ Incorporated as a city 70 years later
- ◆ Named for Lady Rebecca Stanton,
wife of colonial governor Sir William
Gooch

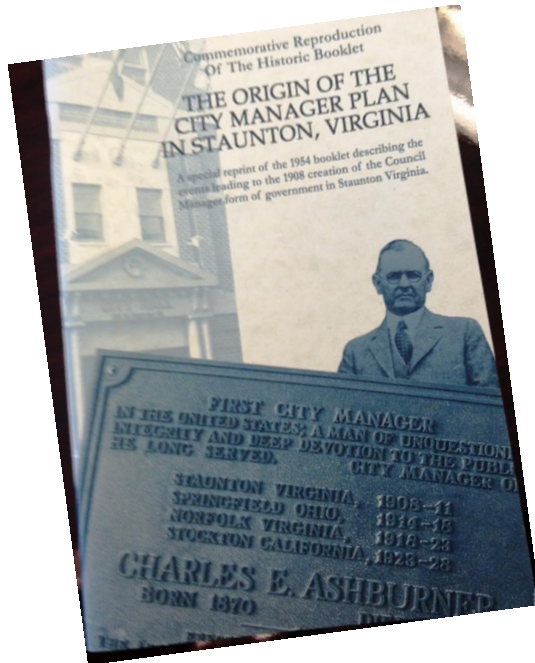


Birthplace of City Manager



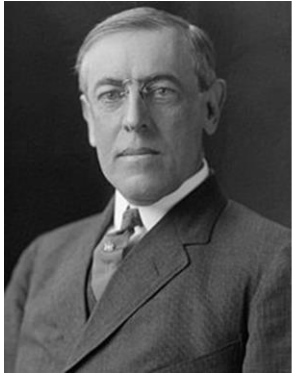
- ◆ Birthplace of Council-Manager form of government in 1908
- ◆ Charles Ashburner, first city manager and an engineer
- ◆ Reform Movement

Birthplace of City Manager



- ◆ C-M form is No. 1 form of local government in VA and U.S.
- ◆ C-M form in all VA cities , except Richmond
- ◆ 58% of cities with over 100K population
- ◆ 67% city managers have master's degree

Also the Birthplace of ...



- ◆ President Woodrow Wilson
- ◆ Dr. Francis Collins
- ◆ ...and home of The Statler Brothers



Waynesboro is the Birthplace of ...

... Spandex!

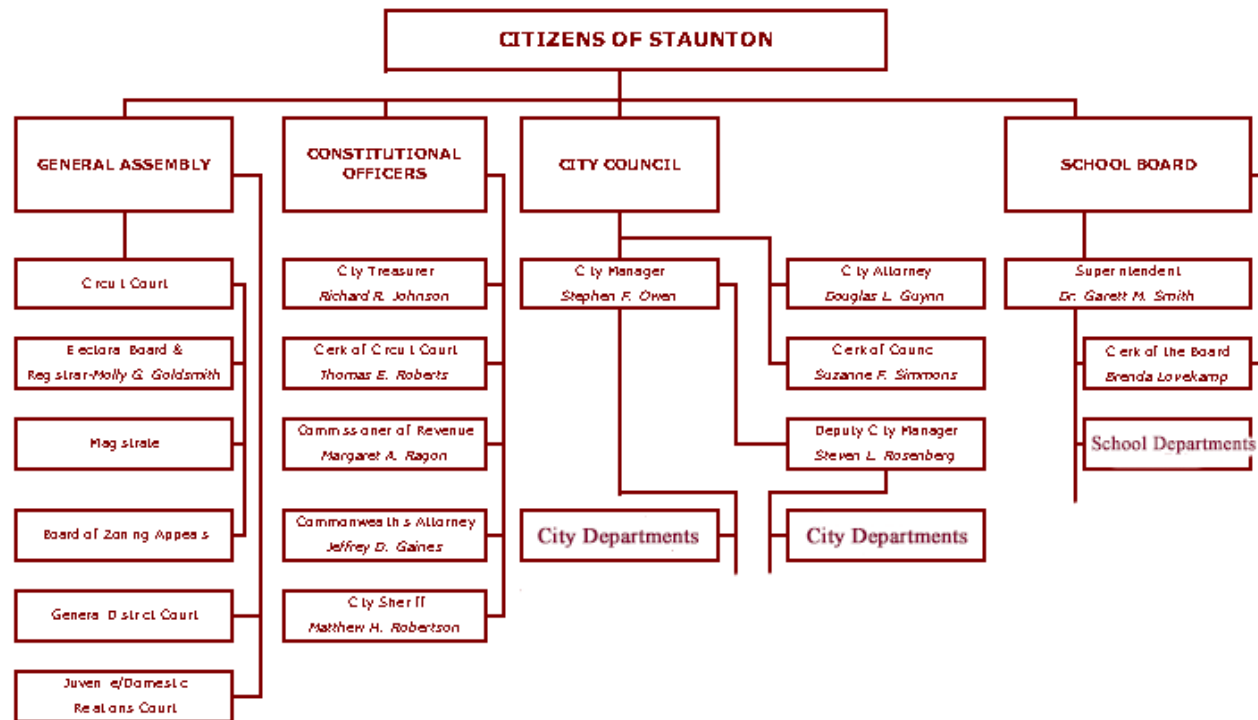


Forms of Government



- ◆ Local government is a creature of the State
- ◆ Virginia is a Dillon Rule state
- ◆ Cities and counties separate, both independent
- ◆ 190 towns
- ◆ 38 cities
- ◆ 95 counties
- ◆ 362 unincorporated communities (e.g. Short Pump, Tysons Corner, Fishersville, Verona, Stuart's Draft, Churchville)

Our Government Structure



What Does a City Manager Do?



- ◆ Serves at the pleasure of governing body
- ◆ Carries out Council policies, directives, and laws
- ◆ Governing body's chief advisor
- ◆ Hired, not elected, based on training and experience
- ◆ Supervise department heads, plan, and budget
- ◆ Anticipate, avoid, and adjust
- ◆ Contracting
- ◆ Recruiting, hiring, supervising, and firing

What Does a City Manager Do?

Job is Never Boring

Manage a host of interesting plans, programs and projects. Driven snow plows and collected trash, tree stumps, and a rather large rodent (deceased) in an angry citizen's downstairs toilet. And just last week, dug a grave, said a prayer, and buried a citizen's euthanized dog.



Thank You

Stephen F. Owen, City Manager

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