

REGULAR WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON APRIL 2, 2014

At the regular work session meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at 11:00 am in the Town Manager's Conference Room located at 116 North Main Street, there present were Mayor S.C. Newman, Jr., presiding and Council members D.E. Whitus, D.L. Hunter, S.B. Thompson, T.M. Pairet, J.J. Davis, A.D. Reid and E.I. Gordon.

Staff present was Town Manager, Gerald Spates; Town Attorney, Donald Blessing and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko.

Mayor Newman called the meeting to order and the Town Manager presented the April 2014 agenda items.

Mr. Spates provided a brief overview of the staff reports and updated Council on various Town projects. He announced that the Farmville Community Marketplace opens this Saturday and invited members to attend the Grand Opening. He updated members on status of the thermo paving problems and said he anticipates having the bump outs on Main Street removed before the May 3rd Heart of Virginia Festival. He added that at the April 9th Council meeting he hoped to have some information to share with Council on the Mottley Lake matter and the Longwood University - Town Street issues. He announced the Town's Spring Clean Up campaign is Monday, April 14th and spoke of the success of Longwood University's "The Big Event". Mr. Spates recommended, next year, the Town help sponsor the event. Members spoke in support of the event and suggested that the Town and University coordinate dates of "The Big Event" with the Spring Clean-Up. Mr. Spates announced April 13th – 19th as National Public Safety Telecommunicators (Dispatchers) week. The Town Manager and Town Attorney informed members of progress on the parking lease request on behalf of the Southgate Shopping Center. Mr. Spates expressed interest in property owned by the Covington Corporation located off Second Street. He said the property was purchased by the corporation with the intent of adding additional parking. It is presently a park and acts as a buffer between the residential and business area. He suggested Council may want to consider an exchange of property.

2014-2015 PROPOSED TOWN BUDGET

Dr. Gordon presented the proposed 2014 – 2015 Town Budget. He said the Budget Committee has recommended the 2014-2015 Budget include the capital expenditures as

requested by the department heads and the 3 percent employee pay increase as proposed by the Town Manager.

The employee insurance saw a 6.8 percent increase in premiums and the Committee has recommended the Town absorb the increase this year and notify the employees that next year there may be an increase in the percentage that an employee contributes to the health insurance plan. Dr. Gordon said the Budget does include the employee Christmas bonuses. He said VML has recommended the Town decrease the amount of Personal Leave Time employees are allowed to carry over. The Committee is recommending a 3 year plan to decrease the PLT to 480 hours and suggested the process begin with the current 2013-2014 budget. A plan will be presented at a later date.

The Committee has also recommended increasing Council's travel/training appropriation from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for each Council member. Dr. Gordon said it is the Committee's recommendation that each Council member not exceed their travel/training appropriation without approval from Town Council. Dr. Gordon stressed the Committee's desire for accountability. Members discussed establishing travel/training guidelines for Town Council members and suggested the issue be referred to the Personal Committee.

Dr. Gordon said the budget does not include appropriations for a new hangar building. He said the Committee agreed that at this point, those figures are variable, until more information is provided. The proposed budget does include a contingency. Dr. Gordon spoke of Council's support of the airport. He said it is his belief that when Town Council discusses the airport, Mayor Newman should state he has personal conflict and not participate in that portion of the meeting. Dr. Gordon said he is unable to attend the April Council meeting and would like to address this issue now.

Dr. Gordon made a motion that at the April 9, 2014 Council meeting when matters involving the Farmville Municipal Airport come before Council, Vice Mayor Reid preside over the meeting. Mayor Newman called for a second on the motion, none was made and the motion died.

The proposed 2014-2015 Town budget included:

Revenue:	\$15,514,130.28
Expense:	\$14,858,475.50
Excess:	\$55,654.78

Less Capital: \$414,100.00

Contingency: \$241,554.78

It was agreed that members would review the proposed budget and present their questions and concerns at the at the April 9th Council meeting.

VACANCY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Mr. Spates said the agenda will also include a request to advertise for persons interested in serving on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Richard Lash was a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals and passed away in February. The person elected will serve the remaining term of Mr. Lash.

INFORMATION ONLY

The Town Manager informed Council that he has met with Mr. Andrew Murphy. Mr. Murphy is a Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout project. Mr. Murphy has met with the Town Manager asking that the Town consider a “Dog Park”. Mr. Spates identified the Wilck’s Lake area as a possible location and said the project is still in the planning stage but there may be an article about it in The Farmville Herald.

Members were furnished information on the New Horizon Community Action Partnership’s request to operate a homeless shelter in the Watkins Abbott Federal Building, located on Main Street. Council asked Mr. Spates to schedule a time for them to tour the facility.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Mayor S.C. Newman, Jr

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk