

WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2014

At the work session meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, September 3, 2014 at 11:00 am in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville VA, there present were Mayor David E. Whitus, presiding and Council members D.E. Dwyer, T.M. Pairet, A.D. Reid, J.J. Davis, and E.C. Cole. Council members D.L. Hunter and S. B. Thompson were absent.

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

Mayor Whitus called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

Recreation Director, Chris Bolt updated members on the Town's summer camp program. He presented a power point presentation that highlighted each of the eight week theme camp programs.

The Town Manager and Mayor presented the September 2014 Agenda – Staff Reports – Mr. Spates provided a brief overview of the monthly staff reports. He informed Council that this year's Halloween Parade will be Friday, October 31st.

Appointment of Farmville Planning Commission members – Only one representative of Council may be a member of the Farmville Planning Commission. With the recent election of Council member Dan Dwyer to the At-large seat vacated by Mayor Whitus and the election of Greg Cole as representative of Ward A one member of Council must step down. Mayor Whitus asked Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Cole if they had discussed this matter. Mr. Cole said he will be stepping down, leaving two vacancies on the Commission. Council received two letters of interest. Appointments will be made at the September Council meeting.

Request for a conditional use permit to construct a multi-family residence – a public notice has been advertised and the Town has received no comments. The property is located on Layne Street and zoned business district R-3. Multi-family residences are allowed with a conditional use permit.

Firemen Sports Arena – Mr. Spates said at the reconvened meeting held on August 21, 2014 there was some confusion on the scope of work for Phase 1 of the renovations to the Firemen Sports Arena. He said Council has approved expenditures of up to \$100,000 in renovations for Phase 1. The additional \$31,100 for exterior walls and insulation will not exceed the \$100,000.

Mayor Whitus asked if any action was needed by Council. Mr. Spates said no, the additional \$31,100 will change the scope of work, but will not exceed the \$100,000.

Dog Park – Mr. Spates said he is gathering information on a “dog park” and will be meeting with the Town Asset and Resources Committee to discuss the project and possible locations. He spoke of recent conversations he has had with Chesterfield County regarding their dog park. Mr. Dwyer asked for a map of all Town properties within the Town.

Town Manager’s Annual Performance Evaluation – continued.

Mayor Whitus addressed Council on the following topics:

- Farmers Market - updated members on the meeting he and Ms. Butler had with representatives from the Heart of Virginia Farmers Market. He said there was some discussion of the association establishing a three member committee to meet with Council’s committee to open the lines of communication. He said it is his hope that the Heart of Virginia Farmers Market return to the Farmers Market.
- Facebook – Mayor Whitus described Facebook as a great social media tool for events etc. However, when elected officials comment on Town issues on Facebook, they are commenting as an elected official. He shared with Council recent events he had been “tagged” on. Mayor Whitus suggested members not comment on town business on Facebook. Members discussed this issue and supported Mayor Whitus’ comments.
- Ice cream truck- Mayor Whitus asked members to consider having the ice cream truck visit each of their wards and offer free ice cream to the youth. It would be at each Council member’s expense and he estimated the cost to be \$75 to \$100. Mayor Whitus said when he was campaigning it was a rewarding experience.

FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTED OR INQUIRED ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

Mr. Dwyer shared with Council members an invitation to the “Driving Miss Daisy” Water Works play being held on Thursday, September 18, 2014. He also provided members with a list of concerns residents spoke to him about while he was campaigning. Mr. Dwyer asked Council members to consider participating in the ALS – ice bucket challenge, describing it as an opportunity for the group to be seen in a different light. He spoke of the “challenge” as an excellent fund raising tool and Council could “challenge other groups”.

Mr. Pairet asked for the status on the thermopave issue. The Town Attorney and Town Manager reported on the issue. Mr. Spates said he hopes the bonding company will intervene and resolve the matter.

Mr. Reid asked members to let him know if they would be attending the Moton Museum Community dinner. The Town will have a table that seats eight.

Mr. Davis said the Finance and Ordinance Committee will begin meeting monthly at 10:00 am prior to each Council work session. He encouraged members to contact him with any requests they may have.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

David E. Whitus, Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko, MMC, Clerk