

WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2014

At the regular work session of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, at 11:00 a.m., in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia, there were present Mayor D.E. Whitus, presiding, and Council members D.E. Dwyer, S.B. Thompson, T.M. Pairet, A.D. Reid, J.J. Davis and G.C. Cole. Council member D L. Hunter arrived at 11:20 a.m.

Staff present was Town Manager, Gerald Spates; Town Attorney, Donald Blessing; Chief of Police, Douglas Mooney; and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko.

Mayor Whitus called the meeting to order. He welcomed Longwood University's President, W. Taylor Reveley IV; Mr. Justin Pope, Longwood University's Chief of Staff; and representatives from Cooper, Robertson & Partners, the architecture and urban design firm selected by the university for its Master Plan. Mr. Pope said the team was present to listen to Council's ideas and concerns regarding Longwood University. He stated they hope to gather information, to develop ideas, and incorporate some of those concepts as it moves forward in the Master Plan process.

Below are some of the ideas and concerns addressed by Town Council:

- Student pedestrian crosswalk safety;
- Encouraging students to live in the downtown area;
- Focusing on continuing education for graduate students;
- Student walkability between the university and the downtown area;
- Longwood University recreation facilities being open to the community;
- Encroachment and zoning violations - multiple students living in a single family residential zone;
- Plans for the First Avenue Field;
- Plans and uses for the "triangle" area joining downtown and the university;
- The consideration of the university using eminent domain;
- Concerns with university police officers stopping vehicles on town streets;
- A study to determine what types of goods and services are needed on Main Street to attract the student population and increase to foot traffic;
- The possibility of a public/private partnership for a new parking deck;

Longwood University has scheduled two public meetings to hear from the community and to address any questions. Mayor Whitus thanked Longwood University for including Town Council in the University's Master Plan process.

President Reveley addressed Council. He spoke of his desire for the town and university to have seamless borders, and he would like to see the town and campus join as a community. President Reveley stated he would like to affirm the University has no plans to use eminent domain.

Mayor Whitus thanked President Reveley for signing the Parking Memorandum of Understanding. Longwood University will pay the Town of Farmville \$35,000 annually for the use of parking spaces on town streets surrounding the university. The streets are identified in the MOU on file in the Clerk's Office.

With representatives from Longwood University in attendance, the Town Manager asked that the agenda be set aside in order to address a matter involving the Longwood Real Estate Foundation.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS FOR BONDS FOR THE LONGWOOD REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION

Mr. Spates informed Council that the Longwood Real Estate Foundation is requesting the issuance and re-issuance of bonds. He reported that the Farmville Industrial Development Authority granted the request on behalf of the foundation. They approved the issuance of up to \$55 million dollars on the refinancing of existing bonds and up to \$20 million dollars in bonds for a new four story student housing project. Ms. Louise Waller, Director of the Longwood Real Estate Foundation, was present to address any questions Council may have. Ms. Waller provided a brief overview of the project. Mr. Spates stated there is no obligation, financially or legally, on the Town of Farmville, and the FIDA will receive an issuance fee of \$75,000. This matter will be addressed at the November 12, 2014, Council meeting.

RESIGNATION OF CHIEF OF POLICE DOUGLAS MOONEY

Chief Mooney addressed Council announcing his retirement as Chief of Police for the Town of Farmville, effective of January 5, 2015. He said after serving 28 years in law enforcement, with five of those years as Farmville's Chief of Police, he has mixed feelings about stepping down. In his resignation letter he read to Council, he described the job as being one of the most difficult but rewarding jobs he has had in his career. He said he leaves with the

knowledge that the agency has the personnel in place to continue to improve in the ever evolving field of law enforcement. He thanked Council and the Town Manager for their unwavering support, and said he looks forward to continued friendships as he enters another chapter in his life.

Council members and the Town Manager congratulated Chief Mooney on his career achievements and commended him on accomplishments he and the Farmville Police Department achieved under his leadership.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR A POLICE CHIEF

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Davis, and with all Council members voting “aye”, the recommendation to advertise for a new Police Chief and have the Personnel Committee review the applications was approved. The Personnel Committee will review the applications and make recommendations on candidates to be interviewed by Council.

BACKGROUND: Council directed the Town Manager to advertise state wide for a new Police Chief.

Council returned to the November agenda items.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Spates provided a brief overview on various town projects. He updated members on the renovations at the Firemen’s Sports Arena, and said the Osborn Road project should see work begin in April of 2015. The Thermopave issue is moving forward. Mr. Spates said later this week he will be meeting with representatives from the Aquaculture project, along with staff from several area universities that may partner with this project. He also provided members with a timeline of events regarding the Burn Building project. Members then viewed a Power Point presentation on Farmville Regional Airport.

Mr. Spates mentioned that Town employee holiday bonuses will be given out the last payday in November. Employees making less than \$50,000 annually will receive \$500, and those employees making \$50,000 and above will receive \$250.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Whitus stated Standing Committee reports will be heard at the regular Council meetings.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE A PICK-UP TRUCK FROM HENRICO COUNTY

The Town Manager said he will request authorization to purchase a 2005 F150 pick-up truck, with a lift-gate, from Henrico County for \$6,000. This will come from proceeds of the auction sale that grossed \$11,430.

CONSIDER USING A CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Whitus said that at the retreat members discussed using a consent agenda format. In order to move forward, Council will need to approve a policy of what may and may not be included in the consent portion of the agenda.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE TOWN OF FARMVILLE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK (Uses of Public Property)

The Virginia General Assembly recently amended the Code of Virginia to require localities with a population of 3,500 or greater to establish personnel policies governing the use of public property for political activities. The Town Attorney recommended that employees be made aware that this amendment is a state law, and there are consequences for its violation.

CONSIDER GRANTING TOWN EMPLOYEES ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY HOURS

The Town Manager asked Council to consider following the holiday schedule approved by the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors and the Commonwealth of Virginia for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays. The request is to add Wednesday, November 26, 2014, Friday, December 26, 2014, and Friday, January 2, 2015, as Town holidays.

ADOPT RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR DONALD C. BLESSING

Donald Blessing has accepted a judgeship and will be stepping down as Town Attorney in December of this year.

CONSIDER ESTABLISHING AN ORDINANCE SETTING A MONETARY LIMIT ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

The Code of Virginia allows the governing body of any county, city, or town to adopt an ordinance setting a monetary limit on the acceptance of gifts by the officers, appointees or employees of the county, city, or town. At the October, 2014 Council meeting, it was suggested that this matter be reviewed by the Finance and Ordinance Committee; however, no action was taken by Council.

There be no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

David E. Whitus, Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk