

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2014

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia, there present were Mayor D.E. Whitus, presiding, and Council members D.E. Dwyer, D.L. Hunter, S.B. Thompson, T.M. Pairet, A.D. Reid, J.J. Davis, and G.C. Cole.

Staff present was Town Manager, Gerald Spates; Town Attorney, Donald Blessing; Chief of Police, Douglas Mooney; Director of Public Works, Robin Atkins; Town Treasurer, Carol Anne Seal; Town Planner, Cindy Morris; and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko.

Mayor Whitus called the meeting to order and welcomed guests. Council member Davis gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Mayor Reid.

Mayor Whitus announced the public comment period and reminded speakers of the three minute time limit.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Justin Reid, Associate Director of Operations for the Moton Museum, addressed Council. Mr. Reid thanked Council for their support of the museum and for administrating the Virginia Department of Transportation grant being used to develop the parking lot and entranceway. He thanked Town Planner and Project Manager for the grant, Ms. Cindy Morris, as well as Town Manager, Gerry Spates for their assistance. Mr. Reid described Farmville and Prince Edward County as the civil rights capital and spoke of the important role our area played in the civil rights movement.

Ms. Jennifer Cox, Longwood University's Director of Commuter Life, provided members with an update on various Longwood University matters. She noted that the off campus orientation required for all students planning to live off-campus will now be an on-line video. Mr. Spates shared with Council a video produced by Longwood students of the university's "Rock the Block" annual event.

Mayor Whitus asked that the agenda be set aside in order to accommodate the guests' schedules.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS FOR BONDS ON BEHALF OF THE LONGWOOD REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION

On motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid, Davis, and Cole voting “aye”, the recommendation to approve the resolution approving the exercise by the Industrial Development Authority of the Town of Farmville, Virginia, of powers conferred by the Industrial Development and Revenue Bond Act, Chapter 49, Title 15.2 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, in conjunction with the issuance of Longwood University Real Estate Foundation, and its affiliates, of not to exceed \$55,000,000 of its Revenue Bonds (Series 2014 Refunding Bonds) was approved.

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the recommendation to approve the resolution approving the exercise of by the Industrial Development Authority of the Town of Farmville, Virginia of powers conferred by the Industrial Development and Revenue Bond Act, Chapter 49, Title 15.2 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, in conjunction with the issuance for Longwood University Real Estate Foundation, and its affiliates, of not to exceed \$20,000,000 of its Revenue Bonds (Series 2014 Bonds) was approved.

BACKGROUND: The Longwood Real Estate Foundation is requesting the issuance and re-issuance of bonds. The Farmville Industrial Development Authority granted the request on behalf of the foundation and approved the issuance of up to \$55 million dollars on the refinancing of existing bonds, in addition to approval of up to 20 million dollars in bonds for a new four story student housing project. Ms. Louise Waller and Mr. Ken Copeland representing the Longwood Real Estate Foundation were present.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR TOWN ATTORNEY DONALD C. BLESSING

On motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Reid, and with all Council members voting “aye”, the resolution of appreciation for Town Attorney Donald C. Blessing was approved.

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
DONALD C. BLESSING, ESQUIRE**

WHEREAS, Donald C. Blessing has faithfully and diligently served as the Town of Farmville's attorney since 1984; and

WHEREAS, during this period the Town of Farmville has experienced unprecedented growth, which required the increased services of our legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blessing provided professional and concise legal advice in a manner that resulted in positive outcomes; and

WHEREAS, it was through his dedication to his profession and to the Town of Farmville that we were afforded the most timely and concise legal advice available.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Farmville Town Council expresses its deepest gratitude to Mr. Blessing for his professional and diligent service to the Council and its employees, as well as the citizens of the Town of Farmville.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be placed in the Minute Book of the Town of Farmville.

CERTIFICATION

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on the 12TH day of November 2014 this resolution was adopted by a vote of __ to __

BACKGROUND: Mr. Blessing has accepted a judgeship and will be stepping down as Town Attorney in December. Mayor Whitus thanked Mr. Blessing for his thirty years of service as Town Attorney and said his knowledge and wisdom will be missed. Mr. Blessing addressed Council. He spoke of past and present relationships and thanked individuals that have helped him along the way. Mr. Blessing said serving as the Town's attorney has been a rewarding experience.

Council returned to the regular order of business.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 8, 2014 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Davis, and with all Council members voting "aye", the minutes of the October 8, 2014, regular Council meeting were approved, as presented.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Pairet, and with all Council members voting "aye", the Treasurer's Report was approved, as submitted.

BACKGROUND: Mrs. Seal commented that she does not anticipate the Town borrowing any additional monies off its line of credit for this fiscal year.

REQUEST APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid, Davis, and Cole voting "aye", payment of the bills was approved, as presented.

(Bills Printed in Minute Book)

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH MEDIATION REGARDING THE THERMOPAVE MATTER

On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with all Council members voting "aye", the recommendation to move forward with mediation in relation to the thermopave issue was approved. Mr. William Mauck, Jr. an attorney with Spotts and Fain, will be representing the Town in the matter.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates informed Council that Mr. Mauck is recommending moving forward with mediation which will result in a third party looking into the issues. He said it may cost upwards of \$10,000. Mr. Spates said he thinks the other party involved may have to pay half the cost. He stated mediation puts the other party on notice of the town's intent and allows them the opportunity to gather any information needed on the existing paving and permits. This allows the town to move forward with repairs to the intersection.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Town Manager updated members on various projects:

- Osborn Road – anticipates having the environmental work and the engineering report complete in order to move forward with the project in the spring;
- Longwood Parking Agreement has been signed;
- Aquaculture project – the town has applied for two tobacco grant applications and anticipates the project being located adjacent to SMI Steel;
- Burn building – the \$75,000 fee paid by the Longwood Real Estate Foundation for the issuance of the two bonds, approved this evening, will be used to replace the money

taken from recreation funds for the burn building. Mr. Hunter said he has been asked by the Farmville Volunteer Fire Department to convey their appreciation and gratitude to Council for their support in the burn building project.

The Town Manager's report concluded with Mr. Spates presenting a power point presentation that highlighted the history of the Farmville Regional Airport. The presentation also included an update on the LOVE project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Ordinance Committee, Chairman Davis – Mr. Davis said the committee meets each month to review and discuss the Town's expenditures. He provided members with a copy of the November minutes and drafts of the committee's recommendations on a policy for Town employee travel. Also included is a draft travel policy for council and administration. He asked that members review the draft policies and be ready to discuss them at the December, 2014 Council meeting;

Public Safety Committee, Chairman Hunter – Mr. Hunter said the Committee met on November 5, 2014, to gather information on the direction of the committee. He stated they discussed street crossings and street light issues. He asked Chief Mooney to let him know if there were any issues he would like the committee to focus on. The committee will meet on an as needed basis.

Town Asset and Resource Committee, Chairman Pairet – Mr. Pairet said the committee is still exploring possibilities on the proposed dog park and will meet on Tuesday, November 25, 2014. He anticipates having something positive to report to council at the December council meeting.

Community Development and Marketing Committee, Chairman Thompson – Mrs. Thompson said due to scheduling conflicts, the committee has not met but she anticipates scheduling a meeting in the beginning of December.

Personnel Committee, Chairman Reid – Mr. Reid asked that the following be entered in the minutes and go file in the Clerk's Office: Mayor Whitus, fellow council members and citizens: Under Section 2.2-3112 H of the Code of Virginia, this notice shall serve as my declaration that I, A.D. Reid, Farmville Town Council member am able to participate in transaction of matters involving the Personnel Committee. The nature of my personal interest is

my wife Frances Reid is an employee of the Town of Farmville. I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest. Mr. Reid said the committee met last week to develop goals and objectives. They are reviewing the organizational chart and the job descriptions of the supervisors and department heads. The Committee will be meeting regularly to review the applications for Chief of Police and proposals for a Town Attorney.

REVIEW THE DRAFT VISION

This matter was continued.

BACKGROUND: At the Council Retreat held in October, Mr. Cole was selected to write draft vision for council from material discussed at the sessions.

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

On motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid, Davis, and Cole voting “aye”, the motion to purchase a 2005 F150 pick-up truck from Henrico County for \$6,000 was approved.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates said the Town received \$11,430 for the sale of three dump trucks at an auction. The purchase of a pick-up truck is in the 2014-2015 Town Budget.

ADD A CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Cole, and with all Council members voting “aye”, the recommendation to add a consent agenda to council’s agenda was approved. The Mayor, Town Manager, and Clerk will discuss items for the consent agenda.

BACKGROUND: A consent agenda is used by most localities for routine items. Typically minutes, bills, and treasurer’s report are included. At a council meeting, there is no discussion on items included in the consent agenda. Prior to approval of a consent agenda, a council member may state their desire to have an item removed so it may be discussed.

REQUEST AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN OF FARMVILLE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the recommendation to amend the Town of Farmville employee handbook as follows was approved:

5.8 Use of Public Property

The use of telephones, computers, and related devices and peripheral equipment belonging to the Town is prohibited for personal use to the extent that such use interferes with the employee's productivity or work performance, and all use is prohibited for any political purposes as that term is defined by Virginia Code §15.2-1512.2.

BACKGROUND: Town Attorney, Don Blessing stressed the importance that employees are made aware that this amendment is a State Code requirement and includes the use of town issued cell phones. The Town Manager said when amendments are made to the Employee Handbook each employee receives a copy of the amendment to add to their Employee Handbook and they sign a form stating such.

REQUEST ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY HOURS

On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with all Council members voting “aye”, the recommendation to grant Town employees Wednesday, November 26, 2014, and Friday, December 26, 2014, as additional holidays and to close the Town Offices on Friday, January 2, 2015, with employees using a day of their personal time off was approved.

BACKGROUND: Council supported the Town Manager's recommendation and agreed to grant the additional holidays and close on Friday, January 2, 2015 allowing employees to use a personal day. The schedule is similar to that of Prince Edward County and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

REFER TO FINANCE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE – CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A MONETARY LIMIT ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS BY OFFICERS, APPOINTEES, OR EMPLOYEES

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Pairet, and with all Council members voting “aye”, the recommendation for the consideration of establishing a monetary limit for council members on the acceptance of gifts by officers, appointeeism, or employees was referred to the Finance and Ordinance Committee for their recommendation to Town Council.

BACKGROUND: 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. Council directed the Finance and Ordinance Committee to determine if Town Council should adopt an ordinance or follow the State Code.

THE TOWN MANAGER AND/OR STAFF PROVIDED A VERBAL REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

Mr. Spates welcomed Mr. Robert Hawthorne and Mr. Gary Elder to Farmville as new business owners, he said they have taken over Don Blessing's law practice. Mr. Hawthorne introduced his staff and briefly addressed Council.

- Members received a copy of a letter Mr. Spates wrote to Kathy Gagen, Superintendent of the Water Treatment Plant, praising her and her operators on their accomplishment of receiving the "Gold Award" for water treatment from the Health Department;
- Mr. Spates provided an update on the Firemen's Sports Arena renovations;
- Mr. Spates thanked council for their generosity to all the employees and said how much he enjoys working for them. Also he expressed his appreciation to the pilots for taking the group of teachers flying. He said they were visiting Longwood University from China and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.
- Robin Atkins, Director of Public Works, provided an update on several projects;
- Doug Mooney, Chief of Police, and Carol Anne Seal, Town Treasurer thanked Council for their generosity;

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTED ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

Mayor Whitus spoke of the Veteran's Day event held at Crute Stage. He said it was wonderful event and very well attended. The event was part of an Eagle Scout project, and he would like to see it become an annual event.

Mr. Davis thanked Town Attorney, Don Blessing, and Chief of Police, Doug Mooney ,and said he appreciates the opportunity he has had to work with both of them. He also thanked the veterans for their service to our country.

Mr. Cole thanked the Town Manager and staff for their patience in working with him as a new council member.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

David E. Whitus, Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk