

WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON JANUARY 7, 2015

At the regular work session of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, January 7, 2015, at 11:00 a.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 and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko.

Mayor Whitus called the meeting to order. The agenda was set aside in order for members to view a presentation on the Town of Farmville's new Geographic Information System (GIS), presented by GIS Manager, Ashley Atkins-Austin. Mrs. Atkins-Austin said the Town partnered with Timmons Group to build an interactive map that offers town-wide geographical data ranging from parcel, voting ward and zoning data to fire hydrant and manhole locations. The program is accessible on the Town's website and can be viewed on mobile devices. She then presented a brief overview of some of the program's capabilities.

Council returned to the regular order of business and Mayor Whitus presented the January 14, 2015 agenda items. Discussions took place on the below items:

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Spates provided a verbal report on several town projects. Mentioned were:

- Representatives from ICA, Farmville will present their Economic Impact Study at Council's February 4th work session;
- Bids on painting the interior of the Firemen's Sports Arena are due January 12, 2015;
- Weather permitting; the Town will begin site work for the Burn Building Project in February. Mr. Spates said he has not received a response from Prince Edward County on the possibility of the county participating in the cost;
- 605 First Avenue house regarding zoning issue – the Building Official will be meeting with the property owner to determine if the residence is a legitimate duplex;
- The Building Official is working on the dilapidated houses;
- Members received a copy of the Year-End Building Report

FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL'S ASPIRATIONS FROM COUNCIL RETREAT

Mayor Whitus said from the October retreat, members created a vision statement and now needs to develop a road map on how to achieve the vision. Members agreed to address this matter at a later date.

CONSIDER DEVELOPING INCENTIVES FOR MAJOR PROJECTS

The Town Manager said there has been much interest in developing major projects in the community. He suggested Council may want to consider establishing incentives in order to compete with other localities. Brief conversations took place. Some members spoke in support of offering tap fee discounts or tax credits, others expressed concerns with adjusting the tap fees stating the tap fees are used to help offset the costs of new infrastructure. Mayor Whitus referred this matter to the Community Development and Marketing Committee for their recommendation to Council. Chairman, Mrs. Thompson asked staff to contact localities to inquire as to the incentives they offer.

ESTABLISH A WATER AND SEWER ADJUSTMENT POLICY

Members reviewed the policy on water and sewer leak adjustments adopted by Town Council in 2009. Mr. Spates informed Council that Longwood University has paid the library's water/sewer bill in full, without asking for an adjustment. He also said the University has paid the 2008 water and sewer tap fee.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR WHITUS

Mayor Whitus spoke of the reception hosted by Centra on Tuesday evening. He said the event welcomed five new physicians to the community and what an asset it is to area.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Mayor D.E. Whitus

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk