

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON JANUARY 14, 2015

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 7:00 pm, 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, T. M. Pairet, A.D. Reid and J.J. Davis. Council members absent were S.B. Thompson and G.C. Cole.

Staff present was Town Manager, Gerald Spates; Town Attorney, Andrea Erard; Town Treasurer, Carol Anne Seal; Director of Public Works, Robin Atkins; Acting Chief of Police, Andy Ellington and Town Planner, Cindy Morris.

Mayor Whitus called the meeting to order and welcomed guests. Reverend James Ashton gave invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Mayor Reid.

Mayor Whitus opened the public comment period and reminded speakers to limit their comments to three minutes.

Ms. Jennifer Cox, Director of Commuter Life for Longwood University shared with Council upcoming events taking place at the University. She said Longwood will be celebrating Martin Luther King Week:

- Monday, January 19th, Martin Luther King Challenge (Service to the community);
- Tuesday, January 20th, Oratorical Competition;
- Thursday, January 22nd, Tim Wise will speak at 4:00 pm in Jarman Auditorium;
- Friday, January 23rd, Common Ties: A Night of Celebration and Reflection Reception;
- Saturday, January, 24th, Martin Luther King Bus Trip to Washington D.C.

In addition, Ms. Cox said the Mayor, Council members and the Town Manager will receive invitations to the Friday evening reception. They, along with one guest, are invited to attend free of charge. If they were unable to attend, they may give their ticket to someone on their behalf. Ms. Cox asked that they notify her of the names of those attending, so that nametags can be made.

Mr. Morgan Dunnivant, hangar owner at the Farmville Regional Airport addressed Council. He thanked Council for their “forwarded sightedness” on the airport runway extension and grant assurances. He then spoke of Farmville Regional Airport’s fuel prices. Mr. Dunnivant said compared to airports in the vicinity, Farmville’s fuel prices are high. He said he paid \$2.00

less per gallon at an airport within 20 minutes flight time. If fuel prices were lower, Mr. Dunnavant said, fuel sales at the Farmville Regional Airport may increase.

Mr. Carl Eggleston, of 224 Hylawn Avenue addressed Council with concerns regarding the residence across from his home. He said this property has been an ongoing problem for several years. The house is vacant and in disrepair. Mr. Eggleston said the Town Manager, the Building Official, as well as members of Town Council are aware of the condition of the property, but nothing has been done to correct it. Mr. Spates said the Town has notified the property owner about the dilapidated condition of the property. The owner has said she has a sentimental attachment to the property and does not want to have it torn down. She has since obtained a building permit stating her intent to repair the residence. Mr. Spates said, the building permit process allows the property owner a certain amount of time to repair the residence. He suggested asking the property owner to come to the next Council meeting to address any questions or concerns. Mayor Whitus introduced Town Attorney, Ms. Andrea Erard. Ms. Erard said she would work with the Town Manager to address the matter.

Mr. Eggleston also spoke of his concerns with Hylawn Avenue being a dead end street. He said with the apartment complex located at the end of the street, adds not only vehicle traffic but also an increase in the area's population. He said Hylawn Avenue is narrow and could create problems for emergency vehicles. Mr. Eggleston said he felt there should be another means to exit the area. Mayor Whitus referred Mr. Eggleston's concerns to the Asset and Resource Committee for further discussion.

Mayor Whitus formally welcomed Ms. Andrea Erard as Town of Farmville's new Town Attorney and said she will be a great asset to the team.

Acting Police Chief Andy Eggleston introduced one of Farmville Police Department's newest officers, Officer Robert Allen Cox. Officer Cox began his law enforcement career in Danville in 1980. He recently retired from the Virginia State Police, after serving 29 years.

Acting Chief Ellington then provided Council with a brief summary of the National Night Out Program, which promotes community policing. He said Farmville has participated in National Night Out for the past four years. During that time, the Town has placed in the top 25 in the nation for towns with populations less than 15,000. This year Farmville placed 21st. Acting Chief Ellington recognized Sergeant Detective Chris Moss for his tireless effort and the outstanding job he does in heading up the program. Sergeant Detective Moss thanked Acting

Chief Ellington for his praise but said the credit goes to the Department, Town Council, the Mayor and the Town Manager for the major role they play by participating.

Council returned to the regular order of business.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Davis and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Pairet, Reid and Davis voting “aye”, the consent agenda was approved. The consent agenda included the minutes of the December 3, 2015 work session meeting, the minutes of the December 10, 2014 Council meeting and the Treasurer’s Report.

REQUEST APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Reid and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Pairet, Davis and Reid voting aye, the motion to pay the bills was approved.

BILLS PRINTED IN MINUTE BOOK

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD BID TO PAINT INTERIOR OF FIREMEN’S SPORTS ARENA

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Pairet, Reid and Davis voting “aye”, the motion to award Robert Chapman the contract on painting the interior of the Firemen’s Sports Arena for \$5,400 was approved.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Chapman’s bid of \$5,400 was the lowest bid on the project.

TOWN MANAGER’S VERBAL REPORT

Mr. Spates updated Council on the following matters:

Representatives from ICA, Farmville will be at the February 4th, 2015 work session to present their Economic Impact Study;

New Horizons submitted a Business Zoning form to operate a food pantry, thrift store and educational center at 103 South Main Street (W. Abbitt Federal Building). Mr. Spates said it is an allowed use for the property.

Members received copies of a letter from Preservation Virginia encouraging the Town to grant the property owner of 609 Chambers additional time to repair the structure due to its historical significance;

Members received copies of the holiday garbage schedule;

Mr. Spates shared with Council a copy of the Longwood University's site plan for the new Admission and Visitor Center to be located off Buffalo Street, St. George Street and Randolph Street. The site plan calls for the removal of nine (9) metered parking spaces on Buffalo Street. Mr. Spates said the removal of the parking spaces may affect the Episcopal Church.

Members received a copy of an e-mail from Andrew Goss, Fire Chief of the Farmville Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Spates said Chief Goss wrote that he is opposed to the Farmville Volunteer Fire Department charging an insurance copy or its citizens a fee when the Department responds to a traffic accident. Chief Goss said that a fire department should not be turned into a business; it should be run as a "service" to protect its citizens. Mr. Hunter, Town Council's representative on the Farmville Volunteer Fire Department Board said at the last fire meeting, members spoke strongly against billing for responding to traffic accidents. Members discussed this matter and agreed with Chief Goss.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Ordinance Committee, Chairman Davis – no report;

Public Safety Committee, Chairman, Hunter – no report;

Town Assets and Resources Committee, Chairman Pairet – no report

Community Development and Marketing Committee, Chairman Thompson – no report

Personnel Committee, Chairman Reid – Mr. Reid provided an update on the interview process for the position of Chief of Police. Mr. Reid said the Committee interviewed nine candidates and recommends five of those candidates move forward in the interview process for Police Chief.

ACCEPT RECOMMENDATION OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE FOR CHIEF OF POLICE INTERVIEWS

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with all Council members voting "aye," Council accepted the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and scheduled Phase 2 of the interview process for the position of Chief of Police for the Town of Farmville on Wednesday, February 4, 2015. Council agreed to continue the January 14, 2015 regular Council meeting.

BACKGROUND: In order for the applicants to meet with the entire Council, the Committee recommended the January Council meeting be continued. Five applicants have been selected for

interviews with Town Council. Two applicants will be interviewed in the morning and the remaining three will be interviewed in closed session at the regular work session.

TOWN COUNCIL'S ASPIRATIONS FROM THE OCTOBER RETREAT

This matter was continued.

BACKGROUND: Mayor Whitus recommended that at the February 4th work session Council discuss scheduling a separate meeting to develop Council's aspirations.

TOWN COUNCIL'S POLICY ON WATER AND SEWER LEAK ADJUSTMENTS

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Reid and with all Council members voting "aye", Council reaffirmed the Town's policy on water and sewer leak adjustments.

Policy
Adjustment to Water/Sewer Bills

The purpose of this policy is to give guidance to the Treasurer's Office in the event the customer has a leak and is requesting an adjustment to their bill.

It is the customer's responsibility to notify the Town Treasurer's Office when a leak is discovered and the location of the leak.

In the event the Treasurer's Office in its meter reading discovers that there is a leak, the owner must fix the leak immediately. Failure to fix a leak within (5) five days could result in denying an adjustment.

The Treasurer may adjust the bill if the problem has been corrected.

The adjustment is done by averaging the last three bills plus one-half the excess use over the average consumption.

One adjustment per billing year will be allowed per customer.

Any adjustments other than those specified in this policy will be done by Town Council with the customer making a formal written request specifying the reason for the adjustment.

TOWN MANAGER AND/OR STAFF COMMENTS

Members received copies the monthly Downtown Farmville Partnership report;

Robin Atkins, Director of Public Works provided a brief update on the activities of the Public Works Department.

COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Davis commented on how nice the Town looks and thanked Robin Atkins, Director of Public Works and his staff for the job they do. He also welcomed Town Attorney Andrea Erard.

Mr. Dwyer announced that the Farmville Rotary Club is hosting the “Taste of Farmville”, tomorrow night from 5:00 pm though 8:00 pm at the STEPS building. All proceeds go back into the community.

Mr. Pairet announced that Mr. Jake Milne, one of the individuals that has been working with the Asset and Resource Committee on Farmville establishing a dog park, has schedule a community meeting for persons interested in supporting the dog park. .The meeting is being held at the Farmville Train Station at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 28, 2015. Mr. Pairet encouraged those interested in the Dog Park to attend.

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Dwyer and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to continue the January 14, 2015 Council meeting to 9:30 am on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, passed.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

David E. Whitus, Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk