

REGULAR WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MAY 6, 2015

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 11:00 am, in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, VA, there present were Mayor D.E. Whitus presiding and Council members D.E. Dwyer, D.L. Hunter, S.B. Thompson, A.D. Reid, J.J. Davis and G.C. Cole. Council member T.M. Pairet was absent.

Staff present was Town Manager, Gerald Spates; Town Attorney, Andrea Erard and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko.

Mayor Whitus called the meeting to order and presented the May agenda items for discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA – draft minutes of the March 26, 2015 joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, draft minutes of the April 1, 2015 regular work session meeting and draft minutes of the April 8, 2015 regular Council meeting.

TREASURER REPORT AND BILLS – no action was taken

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS – will be addressed at the Council meeting

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – the Town Manager provided Council with an update on various Town matters.

- Heart of Virginia Festival – successful event, crowd at the airport was a little less than last year;
- Burn Building – will be delivered next week;
- Dog Park – shared with Council information in regards to the Dog Park built and run by the City of Harrisonburg;
- Mottley Lake – one person has expressed interest in purchasing the property;
- Invited Council members to attend the Gemini cookout on Thursday, May 14th;
- R.L. Chapman & Sons will be cleaning the front of the Town Hall building;
- Voluntary Boundary Adjustment – W. Nash is completing the survey work and the County is notifying all property owners;
- Request for Proposals for a Fixed Base Operator – have not placed ad, still working on airport matters;
- Osborne Road Project – completing environmental information;

- VDOT road inspections completed – all roads satisfactory;
- Caboose – received a bid of \$12,800 to move caboose to Main Street plaza area, Proctor Harvey is working on a design for the plaza park;
- Street paving – Members discussed the condition of several town streets. Mr. Spates said he will furnish members with a list of proposed streets to be paved;

MOTTLEY LAKE – members received a draft of a proposed ad for the sale of the Mottley Lake property;

LEASE AGREEMENT, FACES – a public hearing is scheduled for 6:30 pm on Wednesday, May 13, 2015;

POLICY ON TOWN ATTORNEY - Council discussed establishing a policy for Council members contacting the Town Attorney. Mayor Whitus recommended that if a Council member has a legal concern or issue, the matter should be funneled through the Town Manager, unless it specifically relates to that Council member, then he/she has should contact the Town Attorney for advice. Town Attorney, Andrea Erard stated largely because of the Freedom of Information Act, she generally does not submit itemized bills, but would do so, if Council so desired. She spoke of this as being a transition period for Council and her desire to develop a working strategy going forward.

CRUTE STAGE – HDLA prepared a design concept for the Crute Stage to better identify the facility. Mr. Spates stated that Gemini has offered to assist in making the letters at no charge;

PURCHASE EQUIPMENT FROM HENRICO COUNTY – Mr. Spates stated he is requesting authorization to replace four trucks and a roller with surplus equipment from Henrico County. The total cost is \$28,600 and the equipment is included in the 2014-2015 Town Budget. The Town’s surplus equipment will be sold at auction. Mr. Spates recommended one of the Town’s surplus pick-up trucks be donated to the Piedmont Regional Jail. This matter will be addressed at the May Council meeting. The remaining equipment will be sold at auction.

PROPOSED 2015-2016 TOWN BUDGET – Mr. Spates provided a summary of the proposed 2015-2016 Town Budget and reviewed the revenue and expense of each department. In discussing the budget, some items mentioned were: the Town’s real estate tax rate of .12 cents per \$100 dollars remains the same; total budget \$16,983,315.64; two full-time employees have been transferred from the golf course; General Fund projected revenue – BPOL tax \$1.33 million dollars, Food tax \$2.255 million dollars, Lodging tax \$307,000 thousand dollars and Cigarette

tax \$241,000 thousand dollars; Aid to Law Enforcement (599 Funds) \$166,940 dollars. Mr. Cole stated the budget is one of the most important policy making decisions Council makes and identified three areas of importance – balance, sustainable, and fiscal responsibility. He suggested that the capital expenses be separated from the operating budget. He stated over 8 million dollars of the proposed budget is in employee salaries and benefits expenditures. He suggested that during the budget review process, members be provided a breakdown by department of full/part-time positions as opposed to just the dollar amount requested.

Mr. Jim Wilck, Supervisor of Prince Edward County District 701 Farmville addressed Council. Mr. Wilck spoke of his concerns with Prince Edward County Public School system and the “low ranking impact on economic development” the school system has on the Town of Farmville and Prince Edward County when families consider relocating to this area. Mr. Wilck stated the number of Prince Edward County residents sending their children to public schools in other counties has drastically increased – meaning a loss of revenue for the Prince Edward County school system. Mr. Wilck stated that Prince Edward County public school system ranked 127 out of 129 in Virginia district schools. Mr. Wilck stated the County school system’s low ranking in education and discipline issues has reached a critical point.

CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Reid and with all Council members voting “aye”, Council went into closed session pursuant to **Section 2.2-3711.A.1** of the Code of Virginia, for discussion of the performance of specific public officers, appointees or employees of the Town of Farmville.

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Davis and with all Council members voting “aye”, Council returned to the regular order of business.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Farmville Town Council has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Farmville Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Farmville Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this

certification resolution applies, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Farmville Town Council.

VOTE: "6 Ayes"

MOTION: Davis

SECOND: Thompson

AYES: Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Reid, Davis and Cole

NOES: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Pairet

ABSENT DURING MEETING: Pairet

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Mayor D.E. Whitus

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk