

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MAY 13, 2015

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 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, J.J. Davis and G.C. Cole. Council member S.B. Thompson was absent.

Staff present was Town Manager, Gerald Spates; Town Attorney, Andrea Erard, Chief of Police, Curtis Davis; 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 and Vice Mayor Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Whitus announced the public comment period and reminded guests to limit their comments to three (3) minutes.

Mrs. Jerri Morton, Coordinator of Southside Virginia's More Than "100 Mile Yard Sale" addressed Council. She stated the annual event takes place the first Saturday in July and this year's event will be held on July 4th. Mrs. Morton stressed the importance that participants be safe and asked for the Town's continued support.

Chief Davis introduced Ms. Jordon Seay she will begin the Police Academy in July.

Mayor Whitus set the agenda aside in order to present proclamations to Eagle Scouts of Troop 6516. Mr. Spates read the following proclamation:

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law, and Scouts achieve their ranking by fulfilling requirements in area of leadership, service and outdoor skills, and

WHEREAS, only 4% of all Scouts achieve the highest ranking, that of Eagle Scout, and only after earning the twenty-one necessary badges including First Aid, Citizenship in Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Environmental Science or Sustainability, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Camping, Family Life and Cooking, in addition to developing skills in Emergency Preparedness and Lifesaving and a choice among Cycling, Hiking and Swimming, all of which must be completed by the Scouts 18th birthday, and

WHEREAS, Eagles Scouts from Troop 6516: Kyle Anema, Matthew Hart, Andrew Murphy, Ben Westerhoff, Nick Wilson, and Jacob Wood fulfilled all of the aforementioned requirements in addition to completing their Eagle Scout project, and

NOW THEREFORE, the Town Council of the Farmville, VA on behalf of all its residents recognizes these bright and outstanding young men for their many accomplishments and specifically their receiving the prestigious rank of EAGLE SCOUT in the Boy Scouts of America.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this May 13, 2015.

The young men came forward and Mayor Whitus presented each of them with the proclamation.

REQUEST ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION ON THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the motion to adopt the resolution supporting the Industrial Development Authority of the Town of Farmville issuance by the Authority of its revenue and refunding Bonds, (Series 2015 Bonds) for Longwood University Real Estate Foundation and its affiliates, not to exceed \$115,000,000 was approved.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates stated after holding a public hearing on April 20, 2015 and receiving no comments, the Authority adopted a resolution agreeing to the issuance of the Series 2015 Bonds, not to exceed \$115,000,000 and recommending and requesting that Council approve the revenue and refunding bonds, (Series 2015 Bond) not to exceed \$115,000,000.

The bonds will be used to refinance a series of 2012 Bonds and for the costs of acquiring, planning, designing, constructing and equipping of a student housing facility to be known as “ARC Quad”, consisting of two four story residential buildings containing a total of approximately 220 student beds and related facilities, to include: student gathering areas, common laundry, and kitchen areas on each floor of each residential building, along with water and sewer infrastructure, development improvements and all related Project costs.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Dwyer and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to approve the consent agenda was approved. The consent agenda included the minutes of the joint meeting between the Farmville Town Council and the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors held on March 26, 2015, minutes of the regular work session meeting held on April 1, 2015 and minutes of the regular Council meeting held on April 8, 2015.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Cole and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Pairet, Reid, Davis, and Cole voting “aye”, the motion to authorize the Town Treasurer to pay the bills as presented at the May 13, 2015 Council meeting was approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Davis and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

VERBAL REPORT BY THE TOWN MANAGER – INFORMATION ONLY

Mr. Spates gave the following report:

Heart of Virginia Festival – successful event and thanked Chief Davis, Captain Ellington and Robin Atkins, Director of Public Works for their hard work and assistance;

Dog Park – the Town has raised \$15,000 in donations for the dog park. Harrisonburg runs the city’s 4 acre dog park and said the facility is heavily used by the public. The cost of the Harrisonburg’s dog park was \$82,000, the community raised \$16,000 and the city paid the rest.

Burn Building – building has come in, working on water line, as reported the burn building site will be located on a portion of the old lagoon property;

Voluntary Boundary Adjustment – two properties, the old Smith Farm and the Martin property located on Milnwood Road, Prince Edward County is in the process of notifying all property owners;

Airport Fixed Base Operator – working on some matters at the airport. Dr. Wills has furnished Council with sample/draft Rules and Regulations for Airports. Mr. Spates informed Council of an incident at the airport involving damage to a plane that was tied down on the apron. He stated on Monday evening, the AWOS reported wind speeds of 27 miles per hour. The Town has reported the incident to the Virginia Municipal League. Mr. Spates stated he will be presenting Council with a tie-down policy for their consideration.

Osborn Road project – the environmental is almost complete;

Street Paving – Mr. Spates presented Council with a list of proposed town streets to be paved;

Gemini Open House is Thursday, May 14th, Council members are invited to attend the event – tour at 5:15 dinner will be at 6:00 pm,

CVS Grand Opening is Monday, May 18th at 9:00 am. The Town is assisting with the ribbon cutting ceremony;

Christmas tree project – Proctor Harvey is working on a design for the plaza area that includes the Christmas tree and caboose. Mr. Spates stated he received two bids on moving the caboose to the plaza – one bid was \$32,000 and the other was \$12,800. Council questioned where the funds to move the caboose would come from. Mr. Spates stated the 2015-2016 Budget; he said the design of the plaza will have to be approved by Council and either the funds will come from the contingency or a line item will be added to the proposed budget and the contingency will be adjusted.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH PAVING TOWN STREETS AS PRESENTED TO TOWN COUNCIL

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to authorize the Town Manager to move forward with paving the following town streets was approved:

Location:	Cost:
Germantown Road from High Street to Corporate limits	\$63,750 (50/50 grant)
Winston Street from Virginia Street to Catlin;	\$43,350
1 st Avenue from High Street to Barrow;	\$102,550 includes milling
Doswell Street from 2 nd Street to the end;	\$42,500 (50/50 grant)
South Main Street – Southbound outside land;	\$29,750 or worst areas \$19,875
Longwood Avenue	to be determined

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates presented Council with recommendations on town streets to be paved. He stated that each year the Town receives street maintenance funds from the Virginia Department of Transportation. Those funds will help offset the cost of paving. Members supported the Town Manager’s recommendations and asked for a list of the most traveled thoroughfares in town to determine future needs.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS:

Mayor Whitus asked Council members when making a motion to clearly state their motion and if a Council member has any questions or is unsure of the motion to ask for clarification. He stated he will not be repeating the motion.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS – VERBAL REPORTS BY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance and Ordinance, Chairman Davis – thanked members of the Committee and staff for their work on the budget and asked Council members that if they have any questions or need clarification on any part of the proposed budget to please ask;

Public Safety, Chairman Hunter – The Committee met on April 23rd and discussed several matters including parking decals and pedestrian crosswalks. Mr. Hunter stated that Chief Davis is doing a wonderful job and the Committee will meet again soon;

Town Asset and Resource, Chairman Pairet – did not meet this month. Mr. Pairet asked for Council's support in the Town moving forward with the Dog Park. Mr. Spates stated the Town has received committed donations of \$15,000, which he estimates will cover the fencing and Town employees will do the site preparation. He spoke of Dr. French's donation of \$10,000 towards the Dog Park and of the tragic recent passing of one of his staff members, Dr. Erica Geary. Mr. Spates suggested naming the Dog Park in Dr. Geary's honor. Members questioned the cost of the Park and if the organization that approached the Town requesting a Dog Park would still be involved in running it. Mr. Spates estimated cost of the Dog Park between \$20,000 to \$30,000 and spoke of the lengthy process of establishing a 501(c) 3 corporations. Mr. Dwyer stated the group has expressed concerns with liability issues, if they were to put their names on a 501(c)3 corporation. Mr. Spates stated he would welcome input from those individuals or any others that may want to be involved, but said he felt the Town should oversee the Dog Park. Mr. Dwyer stated that Dr. French has been approached by another group interested in establishing a Dog Park outside the Town of Farmville. He went on to say, Dr. French said a Dog Park will benefit the community and will be one of the most used parks. Mr. Dwyer spoke in support of moving forward with the Dog Park. Conversations continued, members discussed additional fund raising possibilities.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TOWN OF FARMVILLE TO PROCEED WITH BUILDING AND OVERSEEING A DOG PARK

On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Dwyer and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the motion for the Town of Farmville to proceed with building the Dog Park, with costs not to exceed \$30,000 and be taken from the 2014-2015 Town budget was approved; further action included the Town of Farmville will manage and operate the dog park.

Community Marketing and Development, Chairman Thompson – the Christmas tree project was addressed during the Town Manager's verbal report.

Personnel, Chairman Reid – the Committee did not meet.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PLACE AN AD ACCEPTING BIDS ON THE MOTTLEY LAKE PROPERTY

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Cole and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to advertise the ad accepting sealed bids on the sale of the Mottley Lake property, as presented to Town Council, was approved.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates reported that the Asset and Resource Committee and the Finance and Ordinance Committee support the sale of the property and the Town Attorney has reviewed the ad.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TOWN ATTORNEY AND TOWN MANAGER TO PREPARE A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF FARMVILLE AND FARMVILLE AREA COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES (FACES)

On motion by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Reid and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the motion to accept the recommendation by the Town Manager and enter into a Lease Agreement with the Farmville Area Community Emergency Services (FACES) and grant authorization to FACES to add an area of 26 foot x 42 foot to the old Wilson Oil Building, located at the end of South Street and Depot Street, was approved. The Lease Agreement is to be for a ten (10) year period with an option to renew for an additional ten (10) year period and the building permit fee is to be waived.

BACKGROUND: Farmville Town Council held a public hearing this evening and there were no comments. FACES has been using the old Wilson Oil building on South Street and Depot Street for a number of years at no charge. In order to apply for grant funding, FACES has asked the Town of Farmville for a formal lease agreement. In addition, due to the FACES’ service area expanding, FACES has asked to add a 26 foot x 42 foot area on to the building. Mr. Spates recommended Council grant their request and also waive the building permit fee.

REQUEST COUNCIL ESTABLISH A POLICY “TOWN ATTORNEY”

Mayor Whitus stated this matter was discussed at work session. Council took no action.

AUTHORIZE PAYMENT FROM THE NARCOTIC’S FUND TO THIRD STREET WRECKER

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Reid and with a recorded vote, Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the motion to authorize payment of \$135.00 from the Narcotic’s Fund to Third Street Wrecker was approved.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF DESIGN CONCEPT FOR CRUTE STAGE

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to approve the design concept for Crute Stage as submitted, was approved.

BACKGROUND: Proctor Harvey with Harvey Design Land Architects has designed the Crute Stage lettering to better identify the facility and also recommended an icon style clock be added to the front of the building.

REQUEST ADOPTION OF EMS WEEK PROCLAMATION

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to adopt the proclamation designating the week of May 17 through May 23, 2015 as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week was approved.

EMS Week Proclamation

To designate the Week of May 17-23, 2015, as Emergency Medical Services Week

WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, first responders, educators, administrators and others; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; now

THEREFORE, I, David E. Whitus, Farmville Mayor, Farmville, Virginia, in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 17-23, 2015, as

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

With the theme, EMS Strong, I encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE SURPLUS EQUIPMENT FROM HENRICO COUNTY

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the motion to authorize the purchase of four pickup trucks and one roller from Henrico County’s surplus equipment as presented to Town Council at the May 13, 2015 regular Council meeting was approved and the Town Manager’s request to sell the Town’s surplus equipment: three pickup trucks, one jimmy and one roller, at auction was approved.

2005 Ford pickup truck	miles: 94,518	cost: \$5,500
2007 Ford pickup truck	miles: 97,812	cost: \$7,000
2008 Ford pickup truck	miles: 94,634	cost: \$8,000
2005 Ford pickup truck	miles: 93,531	cost \$5,200
2006 Ferguson roller		cost: \$2,900

BACKGROUND: The Town Manager stated that the requested equipment is in the 2014-2015 Town Budget.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO DONATE A SURPLUS TOWN PICKUP TRUCK TO PIEDMONT REGIONAL JAIL

On motion by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Dwyer and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, and Mr. Hunter abstaining stating a conflict because Piedmont Regional Jail is his employer, the motion to donate to Piedmont Regional Jail one of the Town surplus pickup trucks was approved. The Jail is to select one of the surplus pickup trucks that Council authorized the Town Manager to sell at auction.

BACKGROUND: The Town Manager stated Piedmont Regional Jail provides work force assistance to the Town. They have helped at the golf course, Sports Arena, Water Treatment Plant and recommended that the Town donate one of the surplus pickup trucks to the Jail.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE PUBLIC HEARING ON 2015-2016 TOWN BUDGET

On motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to advertise a public hearing on the proposed 2015-2016 Town Budget was approved.

BACKGROUND: The Town Manager provided a brief overview of the proposed budget. Some items mentioned were: the total budget is \$16,983,315.64 with a contingency of \$386,439.68; tax rate of .12 cents per \$100.00 dollars remains the same; budget includes a 3 percent pay increase for

Town employees and holiday bonuses – employees making \$40,000 or more shall receive a \$250.00 bonus and employees making less than \$40,000 shall receive a \$500.00 bonus.

Council recently adopted an ordinance approving bonuses and asked for clarification on the issuance of holiday bonuses. The Town Attorney stated that if a specific bonus is included in the budget, then that bonus is being authorized by Council when they adopt the budget and will not have to be brought before Council for approval prior to being issued to the employees.

In discussing the budget, members spoke of Prince Edward County recent reassessment and questioned the affect it may have on the proposed budget's real estate revenue, siting the County's decrease in real estate values. Mr. Spates said he and Mr. Bartlett discussed this matter and reported that not all real estate saw a decrease – most business saw an increase and Farmville's residential real estate values pretty much stayed the same. Members also commented on the proposed revenue of the Business, Professional and Occupational License tax. Mr. Spates sited recent business expansions and new businesses coming to Town.

Mr. Cole stated in looking at the budget, residents will see a decrease in their tax bill because of the County reassessment and Council has been generous with Town employees by approving a 3 percent pay increase when the State is giving a 2 percent and federal government is giving social security recipients a 1.7 percent increase. He said because of the reassessment values businesses will see an increase in real estate tax and be fronting more of the tax bill. Mr. Cole spoke of the success of the recent tap fee decrease as a way to promote economic development and he would like Council to have ongoing discussions to develop a way to help the businesses. He asked Council to consider possibly giving businesses a discount in their BPOL tax next year or something of that nature to show that the Town appreciates what the businesses are doing and the stability that they are giving the Town. He stated the reassessment will have a steep effect on some of the businesses – not only will the amount they pay the County increase; but, the Town real estate tax will also increase. Mr. Cole asked Council to consider giving businesses a reduction of some sort. Mayor Whitus suggested once the Town moves through the 2015-2016 budget cycle, the Finance and Ordinance Committee could discuss this matter and bring the Committee's recommendations back to Council.

TOWN MANAGER AND/OR STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spates shared with Council the positive comments he received from participants of the Police Academy.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mayor Whitus commended the Finance and Ordinance Committee for their hard work on the proposed 2015-2016 Town Budget.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

David E. Whitus, Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk