

REGULAR WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016

At the regular work session meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, February 3, 2016, 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. Also attending at Council's invitation was Mr. Justin Pope, Chief of Staff to the President of Longwood University and Ms. Jen Cox, Director of Commuter Life at Longwood University.

Mayor Whitus called the meeting to order and welcomed guests. He stated during the public comment portion of the meeting, guests are asked to limit their comments to three (3) minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mrs. Robyn Simpson of Prospect, Virginia addressed Council, speaking on the sale of the Mottley Lake property to Farmville Farm, LLC for \$1.250 million dollars. Mrs. Simpson stated she and her husband had been bidding on the property for several months and her bid of \$1.225 million dollars was the highest bid, when taking into consideration the financing terms. She provided Council with a cost breakdown comparing her final bid of \$1.225 million dollars to Mr. Harper's bid of \$1.250 million dollars. She said that she read in The Farmville Herald where the Town Manager had reported her final bid as \$1.200 million dollars and that was incorrect. She stated, even using the \$1.200 million dollar figure as her offer, and calculating the financing, her bid would still be more than what Mr. Harper will be paying for the property. She provided an overview of financing, comparing her offer and terms to those of Farmville Farm LLC. In closing, she stated she accepts that Council will not reopen the bid process; but asked Council to consider her bid.

Mr. Tom Triebes of Prospect, Virginia addressed Council, speaking on the sale of the Mottley Lake property. Mr. Triebes stated as a neighbor, he has a vested interest in the property and is familiar with present value calculations. He stated Mrs. Simpson's offer of \$1.225 million dollars and the financing terms she presented, would bring the Town a higher selling price for the property. The offer of \$1.250 million dollars and the financing terms of Farmville Farm LLC

brings the Town less money, unless the purchaser pays an exorbitant interest rate in the second five year period.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE UPDATE

Mr. Pope shared with Town Council Longwood's goals and expectations for the Vice – Presidential debate. He then provided a timeline on possible events and when the influx of security and media personnel may begin arriving in town. Mr. Pope stated a media day will take place sometime in May or June. In September, security and media personnel will visit the campus. On September 27th, the Presidential debate takes place in Ohio, it is anticipated that the majority of media and journalist will travel from the Ohio debate to the Vice – Presidential debate at Longwood University. Mr. Pope stated the debate will be held in Willet Hall. The Health and Fitness Center will be used as the media center. The Lumber Yard location will be used as a media credential check point and from there, individuals will be shuttled to the campus. Lancer Park will be set up as the security check point for those individuals attending the ticketed event and then transported to campus. Mr. Pope stated the event will take place on campus; but it is anticipated that over 3,000 people will be visiting the area. The University would like to involve the community, and Mr. Pope spoke of his recent visit to Danville, Kentucky, where Centre College has hosted two Vice – Presidential debates. He said Danville, Kentucky formed a hospitality committee and members from the community served as greeters, manned welcome booths, etc. He stated the media, journalist and those visiting for the event will have free time to explore Farmville and spoke of the importance of promoting the Moton Museum, High Bridge Trail and the downtown area. Mr. Pope stated Chief Beach and Chief Davis have been meeting on security matters and asked for feedback on the best way to communicate with the Town on overlapping areas of operations such as involving the community and local business, signage, parking. Mayor Whitus suggested Mr. Pope and Mr. Spates work on the logistics of the event.

REQUEST ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION RATIFYING DECLARATION OF STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

On motion by Mrs. Thompson, 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 adopt the resolution ratifying declaration of state of local emergency was approved.

RESOLUTION RATIFYING A DECLARATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY MADE BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR THE TOWN OF FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA PURSUANT TO VA CODE SECTION 146.21

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2016, the imminent threat of severe weather and loss or interruption of vital Town services posed by significant periods of sustained heavy snowfall with accumulations in excess of 12 to 16 inches and high wind gusts was determined to be of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant coordinated local government action to prevent or alleviate any potential damage, loss, hardship or suffering; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Management for the Town of Farmville declared a state of local emergency on January 21, 2016.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Farmville Town Council at its regular work session meeting on February 3, 2016, that the imminent threat of severe weather and loss or interruption vital Town services posed by the sustained heavy snowfall and high wind gusts is recognized, and the Declaration of Local Emergency made by the Director of Emergency Management on January 21, 2016 is ratified; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Farmville Town Council declares that the State of Local Emergency remained in effect until January 25, 2016.

BACKGROUND: Mayor Whitus stated localities are encouraged to follow the recommendation of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Office of the Governor when it has been determined that there is a need to issue a State of Local Emergency. In doing so, it raises the public's awareness and gives the Town the ability to apply for Federal and State assistance, if needed.

TOWN MANAGER'S VERBAL REPORT – Mr. Spates provided a verbal report on various projects. He spoke on the following:

Voluntary boundary adjustment – anticipates sending letters to property owners notifying them of the proposed voluntary boundary adjustment shortly;

Burn building – should be complete in March. The Town has also applied for a grant for a burn vehicle that will be used to assist in training on responding to vehicle fires;

FERN project – the committee will be meeting next week;

Joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County – proposed date is March 22nd;

Buffalo Creek Pedestrian Bridge structure design – referred to the Asset and Resource Committee

STANDING COMMITTEE VERBAL REPORTS – reports will be given at the February 10th Council meeting.

REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT ON BEHALF OF FARMVILLE ASSOCIATES, LLC – this matter was referred to the Farmville Planning Commission – continue pending report from Farmville Planning Commission.

REQUEST TO ENTER INTO A PARKING LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF FARMVILLE AND HOTEL WEYANOKE – working on draft agreement – continue matter.

SALE OF THE MOTTLEY LAKE PROPERTY – Council will take action at the regular Council meeting.

REQUEST REAPPOINTMENT TO THE FARMVILLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – Cindy Cave’s term ends on February 28, 2016.

REQUEST REAPPOINTMENT TO THE FARMVILLE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS – William Crawley’s term ends on February 28, 2016.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE ONE ACRE OF PROPERTY FOR THE SOUTH MAIN AND MILNWOOD ROAD VDOT PROJECT – The project will add two turning lanes, one for Milnwood Road and one going in to Tractor Supply. The property is needed for a retention pond. Mr. Spates stated the Town will receive 100 percent reimbursement under the grant. Members discussed the proposed development of the apartment complex in the area would have an effect on the traffic at the intersection. Mr. Spates stated the developer will be required to have a traffic study done on the impact of the intersection.

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF- Mr. Spates presented Council with the site plan for the new Schewel’s Furniture store to be built at Perry Drive and Meriwood Farm Road..

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS – Mr. Dwyer shared concerns he had received in regards to residential parking permits. He stated when campaigning he spoke to a resident that was displeased that she was required to purchase a residential parking decal because she lives in close proximity to Longwood University. Members discussed residential parking. Mr. Dwyer asked that this issue be referred to the Asset and Resource Committee for further discussion. Mayor Whitus shared information from the Virginia Growth Alliance and Longwood Small Business meeting he recently attended. He said one of the key issues discussed was workforce development. He stated he had several ideas and plans to work with some individuals to see if any of the issues from the event could be addressed.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

David E. Whitus, Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk