

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2016

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at 7:00 p.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; Town Attorney, Gary Elder, Chief of Police, Curtis Davis; Town Treasurer, Carol Anne Seal; Director of Public Works, Robin Atkins; 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.

Ms. Mary Hickman, Executive Director of the Commonwealth Regional Council addressed Council. Ms. Hickman provided members with a copy of the Commonwealth Regional Council's annual report. She stated even though the Town of Farmville has chosen not to be an active member in the organization since 2009, the CRC Council continues to recognize the Town of Farmville as an important collaborator in regional solutions. Ms. Hickman stated, by unanimous action, the CRC Council is requesting that current eligible non-members, such as the Town of Farmville, appoint a non-voting representative to attend CRC meetings to participate in the monthly discussions and enhance the channel of communication/exchange of ideas within the CRC region.

Ranger Daniel Jordan, of the High Bridge State Park addressed Council. Ranger Jordan invited members to attend the High Bridge State Park trail dedication of the Camp Paradise Trail Access. The event will take place on Wednesday, April 6th at 10:00 am. He stated April 6th holds a special significance to the High Bridge Trail – the Battle of High Bridge was fought on April 6th and 7th in 1865 and on April 6th, 2012 the High Bridge Trail opened.

Ms. Jen Cox, Director of Commuter Life of Longwood University updated Council on March events taking place on campus. She stated to date 377 students have registered to live off

campus with private landlords next year and she anticipates that figure being about 400 before the semester begins. Ms. Cox shared important dates to remember for the spring 2016 semester:

Spring Break: March 7th – 11th;

Relay for Life: March 18th – 19th. Council members were invited to participate in the opening ceremony;

Spring Weekend: April 15th – 17th;

Exam Week: May 2nd – 6th;

Commencement: May 14th;

Mr. Cannon Watson addressed Council on residential parking decals concerns. Mr. Watson stated he has been a resident of the 700 block of Second Avenue for thirteen years and he has never had a college student park near his home. He said he does not feel his block needs to be included as a residential parking area. He stated on Monday, he purchased three residential parking decals and due to a family commitment, he was only able to put one of the decals on one of his vehicles. Tuesday morning he finds out the Police Department issued 41 residential parking violations, ironically when Longwood students are on spring break. Mr. Watson said he met with the Chief and his tickets, as well as the other tickets, were all taken up. He stated he understood that attempts were made to notify the residents that permits need to be purchased, stating Chief Davis mentioned an Officer had walked the Avenues and a notice had been put on the water/sewer bills, but he was unaware, until being issued a “non-resident parking violation”. Mr. Watson suggested that residents living in a residential parking permit area should not be required to come in to the Treasurer’s Office to purchase the \$5.00 permit/per vehicle – they should be mailed to the resident’s home. He also suggested that if a resident is required to purchase the stickers/passes, they should not expire and have to be purchased annually. He stated when he purchased his permit he was not offered guest passes and is uncertain if he is to have them. Mr. Watson restated that he does not believe the 700 block of Second Avenue needs to be included in the residential parking permit area. Mr. Watson stated he is a huge fan of living in the Town, not the County, and thinks the Council/Town Manager does a great job and it is appreciated. However, the system (residential parking ordinance) in place, could work better.

Mayor Whitus asked the Town Manager to address Mr. Watson’s comments. Mr. Spates stated different options are being discussed. However, if residents living in a residential parking permit area no longer wish to be included, they should notify the Town and the area will be

excluded. Mr. Spates stated he has received a request for “residential parking” from residents living on Holly Street. Mayor Whitus stated all the tickets have been taken up and the residents living in the residential parking areas are now purchasing the decals from the Treasurer’s Office. He said the issue of residential parking permits has been referred to the Asset and Resource Committee for further discussion. Mrs. Thompson suggested the matter be discussed at the next “neighborhood meeting” for their input. Mr. Spates stated that residential parking areas are patrolled when complaints are reported. During the week the 41 tickets were issued, Mr. Spates stated he had received three complaints. He also stated the 41 tickets are not 41 resident violations, one resident had eight vehicles ticketed and another had six. Mr. Pairet stated the Town is aware that it has a valid problem and is trying to address it.

Dr. Jim Wills addressed Council on behalf of Friends of Farmville Airport. He stated the organization wanted to thank Mr. Spates for attending the EAA meeting and sharing the plans for the airport. The presentation was impressive and very informative. The Friends of Farmville Airport feel the lower fuel prices on Avgas and Jet Fuel attract pilots to the airport for refueling. Dr. Wills mentioned the Vice Presidential debate taking place on October 4th and said members of the Friends of Farmville Airport would be happy to help in any capacity needed. In closing, Dr. Wills invited members of Council to the Wednesday night dinners at the airport and also stated the pilots are always willing to take them flying.

Mr. John Burton, Manager of Farmville Downtown Partnership addressed Council. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Mr. Burton thanked Council for their continued support and provided a progress report on the development of the downtown area. There are currently 76 businesses in the Farmville’s designated downtown area; with 674 full time equivalent jobs. Mr. Burton updated Council on several projects the Partnership is working on, including an on-line downtown business directory, a design for new mural and a civil rights walking trail.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was approved. The consent agenda included the draft minutes of the regular work session of February 3, 2016 and the draft minutes of the regular Council meeting of February 10, 2016.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented, was approved.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS

On motion by Mr. Hunter, 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 pay the bills as presented, was approved.

Bills Printed in Minute Book

TOWN MANAGER’S VERBAL REPORT

The Town Manager updated Council on several projects, including –

- Voluntary boundary adjustment – the Town will proceed with the voluntary boundary adjustment on the two properties that have submitted written requests: the Martin property on Milnwood Road and the Smith Farm;
- Burn building – a pad needs to be poured and the project should be complete within the next thirty (30) days;
- Internet/Commodity Exchange – An internet/commodity exchange location is a safe place for items being sold online to be exchanged. Two parking places will be designated in the parking lot behind the Police Department. Mr. Spates stated the lot does have surveillance cameras. The spaces will be identified with signage (examples provided to Council) the hours of exchange will be Monday – Friday 5:00 pm – 8:00 am and all day on Saturday and Sunday. Mr. Spates suggested the two metered spaces in the parking lot behind the Police Department be designated as the Internet/Commodity Exchange location. Council took formal action.
- Ward C and D Community meeting has been postponed until Wednesday, March 30, 2016;
- Travis building – Mr. Spates stated someone has contacted him expressing an interest in purchasing the building. He will report back to Council at the next meeting;
- Mottley Lake property – Depending on the attorneys availability, Mr. Spates stated he anticipates closing on the property next Friday;
- VML Media Communications meeting – working on scheduling a meeting;

- Draft of budget – should have a working draft of the 2016-2017 proposed budget by the April work session;
- Traffic study – The Developer of the proposed apartment complex that is to be located between Wal-Mart and the Greens South subdivision has chosen the traffic engineering firm of McCormick Taylor to prepare a traffic study on the entrance/exit of site.
- Residential parking, Holly Street – residents of the area have requested Holly Street be added to the residential parking area;
- Appomattox County – two Town employees are assisting Appomattox County with clean up following the tornado;
- Street lights on West Third – Virginia Dominion Power will install two poles on the opposite side of the street;
- Streetlights in the Creekwood Trail subdivision – streetlights have also been requested in the Creekwood Trail subdivision;
- Culvert pipe on West Third – pipe has been repaired and pavers will be here next week;
- Directional signage, Police Department – will add directional signage on Main Street and on the back parking lot identifying the location of the Police Department;
- The Prince Edward County School Board has invited Council members to meet with the consultants and share their input on the hiring of the new school superintendent – the meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Monday, March 14th at the Prince Edward County School Board Office.

REQUEST APPROVAL TO DESIGNATE TWO PARKING SPACES BEHIND THE TOWN HALL AS AN INTERNET/COMMODITY EXCHANGE LOCATION DURING SPECIFIC HOURS

On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to designate two parking spaces in the Police Department parking lot as internet/commodity exchange locations was approved. The parking spaces are to be determined by the Chief of Police and marked with signage that reserves the spaces Monday – Friday from 5:00 pm though 8:00 am and all day on Saturday and Sunday.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Ordinance Committee, Chairman Davis – the Committee met on March 2nd and made recommendations for the 2016-2017 budget. Mr. Davis stated members were provided

copies of the recommendations and unless Council had any questions or concerns, the recommendations will be used as guidance in preparing the 2016-2017 Town budget. There were no questions by Council.

Public Safety Committee, Chairman Hunter – the Committee met on February 16th and reviewed the salaries in the police department. Mr. Hunter stated over the past several years, when Council gave a cost of living increase to employees, the salary classification scale was not adjusted to reflect that increase. A pay adjustment needs to be made to several officers' salaries so that new hires are not making the same as an Officer with tenure. Mr. Hunter stated that streetlights will be added to West Third and an emergency call box should also be considered.

REQUEST A SALARY BUDGET ADJUSTMENT OF \$19,479.06 TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

On motion by Mr. Hunter, 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 of the Public Safety Committee and increase the Police Department salary budget by \$19,479.06 was approved. The salary adjustments will take effect immediately.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Hunter, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee stated a pay adjustment needs to be made to several Officers salaries so that new hires are not making the same as an Officer with tenure. Mr. Davis stated this matter was also discussed by the Finance and Ordinance Committee and they support the recommendation.

Asset and Resource Committee, Chairman Pairet – will be meeting shortly;

Community Marketing and Development, Chairman Thompson – Mrs. Thompson stated, she and Mr. Spates recently attended an economic development meeting at Longwood University. She said the Town received much praise for many of the good things that Farmville has achieved.

Personnel Committee, Chairman Reid – no report at this time

REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT ON BEHALF OF FARMVILLE ASSOCIATES, LLC

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to continue the request for a conditional use permit on behalf of Farmville Associates, LLC to construct apartments on vacant property located between Wal-Mart and

adjacent property owned by Mrs. Willa Wood was approved. Mr. Spates stated the Farmville Planning Commission will meet after the traffic study has been completed.

BACKGROUND: The Farmville Planning Commission met on February 24, 2016 and requested additional information regarding the proposed entrance to the project.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE HOTEL WEYANOKE PARKING LICENSE AGREEMENT

On motion by Mr. Pairet, 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 approve the Hotel Weynoke Parking License Agreement, as presented was approved.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates stated the Agreement leases 60 parking spaces in the municipal lot to the Hotel Weynoke for \$20.00/per space/per month. Mr. Spates stated the Town Attorney has reviewed the document and made some revisions. Mr. Ross Fickenscher, Manager of the Hotel Weynoke has agreed with the revisions.

FERN COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Dwyer, Chairman of the FERN Committee updated Council on the project. He stated the Committee has added Mrs. Nan Colvin and Mr. Brad Watson as members. For the first phase, eight (8) garden spots were selected and the Committee anticipates having them completed prior to the October 4th Vice Presidential debate. He said there are four (4) entrances into town and each of those entrances will have a garden site. The Committee will meet to discuss advertising, once the landscaping architects prepare cost estimates for the gardens.

REQUEST ADOPTION OF PROCLAMATION – 2016 EARTH DAY

On motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Davis and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to adopt the 2016 Earth Day Farmville Proclamation was approved:

EARTH DAY FARMVILLE PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, lovingly we call planet Earth home, regardless of our differences; and
WHEREAS, striving to care for our planet on a daily basis; and
WHEREAS, recognizing the relationship between our actions & the harmony of the planet;
and
WHEREAS, focusing our strengths to care for one another & ultimately the Earth; and
WHEREAS, EARTH DAY FARMVILLE can provide a special time to draw individuals together in appreciation of their mutual home, Planet Earth & Farmville, and bring a global feeling of community through our mutual dependence on each other;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Farmville Town Council, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 22, 2016 as:

EARTH DAY FARMVILLE

in the beautiful Town of Farmville, and we urge all citizens to participate in the activities planned hereforth.

In testimony whereof, on behalf of the Town Council, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the Town of Farmville, this 9th day of March, 2016.

REQUEST ON BEHALF OF THE CENTRAL VIRGINIA REGIONAL LIBRARY FOR AN INCREASE OF \$5,000 IN THE TOWN'S ANNUAL SUPPORT OF THE LIBRARY

Mayor Whitus referred this request to the Finance and Ordinance Committee.

BACKGROUND: Ms. Peggy Epperson, Director of the Central Regional Library submitted a letter to Council requesting an increase of \$5,000 in the town's annual support of the library.

REQUEST ON BEHALF OF THE HEART OF VIRGINIA FESTIVAL BOARD FOR PERMISSION TO SELL BEER/WINE AT THE FARMVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT DURING THE HEART OF VIRGINIA FESTIVAL

On motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with all Council members voting "aye", the request on behalf of the Heart of Virginia Festival Board for permission to sell beer/wine at the Farmville Regional Airport during the Heart of Virginia fireworks event was referred to the Asset and Resource Committee for their recommendation to Council.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates stated he had received a letter from the Heart of Virginia Festival Board asking to sell beer and/or wine at the Festival's fireworks event held at the Farmville Regional Airport. A motion was made to not permit anyone or any organization to sell alcohol at events held at the airport. The motion did not receive a second. Members discussed allowing alcohol at public events hosted on Town property; mentioning the First Fridays' events. Members stated the need for in-depth discussions before a decision could be made.

TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF COMMENTS

Robin Atkins, Director of Public Works stated Fall Clean-up will be April 18th and the Town is working with Longwood University on providing clean-up areas for the University's Big Event. Chief Davis thanked Council for the salary budget adjustment for the Police Officers.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Pairet thanked Mr. Atkins and staff from Public Works for the work they did on Third Street.

Mr. Cole asked when the Farmers Market would open – April 23rd.

Mr. Davis and Mayor Whitus thanked Longwood University for inviting the Town to visit the SEED Center in Lake Charles, Louisiana, also included in the trip was staff from Prince Edward County. Mayor Whitus spoke of their visit to the SEED Center/McNeese State University (SEED Center - Southwest Louisiana Entrepreneurial and Economic Development Center), saying, it is a joint venture and cooperative endeavor agreement among the five parishes, a couple of towns and the McNeese State University. SEED was formed to establish an economic development center to foster economic growth and development in Southwest Louisiana. The Center is a nationally known model for its economic growth and development in the region. Mayor Whitus quoted the Mayor of Lake Charles saying, “Economic development is a journey, not a destination”. Mayor Whitus said economic development is an ongoing mission and again thanked Longwood University and the McNeese State University for their hospitality.

Mayor Whitus acknowledged the passing of former Mayor Sydnor C. Newman wife and extends his sympathies to him and his family.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Mayor D.E. Whitus, Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk