

**REGULAR WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2017**

Mayor Whitus called to order the regular work session of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 11:00 a.m., in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia.

Present at the meeting 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 arrived at 11:05 a.m.

Staff present was Town Manager, Gerald Spates; Communications Specialist, Kate Eggleston; Administrative Assistant, Jackie Vaughan and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko.

Mayor Whitus presented the September agenda items for review and discussion.

Consent agenda – no discussion

Treasurer's Report – no discussion

Bills – no discussion

Request for abandonment of an unopened street right of way – Mr. Spates stated this matter was referred back to the Infrastructure Committee. The Committee has agreed to recommend Council grant the request for the abandonment and sale of the unopened street right of way, identified as the portion of Barrow Street between 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ext. and the unopened portion of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to Mr. and Mrs. Bratcher and Mr. and Mrs. Kiewiet de Jonge at .75 cents per square foot.

Request to rezone properties located at 510 and 504 High Street and 104 and 106 Appomattox Street to Residential District R-3A and to amend the density language – this matter has been referred to the Farmville Planning Commission.

Continue matter- update from Infrastructure Committee on High Street, Oak Street and Griffin Boulevard (Roundabout/Align Intersection) – Mr. Spates stated the Infrastructure Committee asked him to review the intersection costs estimates provided by McCormick Taylor. Mr. Spates stated the Town has three options: 1.) leave the intersection as is, 2.) align the intersection with a cost estimate of \$2.697 million dollars and 3.) construct a roundabout with a cost estimate of \$3.789 million dollars. If Town forces were to realign the intersection, Mr. Spates estimated the cost to be approximately \$1 million dollars, with possibly of additional saving by using revenue sharing funds of a 50/50 match. He stated representatives from Longwood University have stated the University will demolish the two houses on the corner of High Street

and is interested in swapping property with the Town. However, there has been no discussion on any financial contribution to the project. Mr. Spates reminded Council of the grant of \$100,000 the Town had received for the installation of a new traffic light at Oak and High. However, since there had been conversations of aligning/roundabout, the Town did not accept the grant funds. Mr. Spates stated Town work forces are presently installing a traffic light signal by the Loft Apartments and compared the cost VDOT charges for installing a traffic light compared to those of the Town work forces. Mayor Whitus asked if the Town was ready to move forward with a public hearing to hear citizen input. Mr. Spates suggested holding a community meeting and include representatives from McCormick Taylor to address public comments and concerns, immediately following the community meeting a public hearing will take place. Council members discussed the costs associated with aligning the intersection versus installing a roundabout.

Request on behalf of Longwood University for the transfer of right of ways – Mr. Spates provided an update on the Infrastructure Committee’s meeting, which included representatives from Longwood University regarding the university’s request for the transfer of two street right of ways.

Mr. Spates spoke of Longwood’s master plan and their request to close Madison Street and Redford Street and to add a turn in off of Main Street for deliveries to the high rise dorms. It was noted by Mrs. Waller that the contractor will address Council’s previous concerns regarding the grade and visibility when entering Main Street from the turn in. Mr. Spates stated the high-rise dorms will be on Main Street, with paved access in between the two dorms, which will remain open to allow access by emergency vehicles. He added that Longwood University is willing to pay for a pedestrian traffic engineering study to determine how the foot traffic will affect the downtown area.

Mr. Spates stated that Mr. Pairet questioned if Longwood would be making a monetary contribution to the improvements to the intersection on High, Oak, Griffin and Appomattox. Mr. Copeland and Mrs. Waller stated they had not participated in any talks where a monetary contribution had been discussed. Although, Mrs. Waller did state that Longwood would demolish the two houses at the corner of Griffin and High and donate the property to the town, to help with the alignment/roundabout. Mayor Whitus stated Council will need to refer the request for the street abandonment for a public hearing.

Request Wilck's Lake Island be used as a public park – Mr. Pairet, Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee stated at the Council meeting, the Committee will be recommending Council deny Mrs. Mossler's request and leave Wilck's Lake Island as a rental facility due to limited access to the island. Mr. Pairet stated the Committee will be recommending that the Recreation Committee consider enhancing the public use area by adding a horseshoe pit, volleyball net and additional picnic areas. Mr. Cole stated Wilck's Lake is part of the recreation study and is being looked at for development.

Request to rezone 37 properties to Residential District R-3A – Mayor Whitus stated this matter is presently before the Farmville Planning Commission.

Request amending Employee Handbook, Section 5.26 Called in Travel Compensation – Mr. Spates stated it has recently been brought to his attention the need to amend the employee policy Sec. 5.26 Called in Travel Compensation. He stated the intent of the policy was to compensate travel time for those employees that are called in to respond to an emergency during the employee's unscheduled work hours. Those employees that drive a town vehicle to and from work, already receive a travel benefit. He added that the policy language will be amended to clarify the intent.

Refer request for a conditional use permit to the Farmville Planning Commission – Mr. Eric Arthur, Jr. has applied for a conditional use permit to construct a seven (7) unit apartment complex on property located on Cedar Avenue. The property is zoned Residential District R-3 and multi-family dwellings are an allowed use, with a conditional use permit. Mr. Arthur has indicated the property will be used for student housing. Mr. Spates stated the matter needs to be referred to the Farmville Planning Commission and they will have to hold a public hearing. He stated Mr. Arthur would like to begin construction in November of this year.

Barbara Rose Johns Library Dedication – Mr. Spates shared with Council pictures of the dedication plaque and the library sign, adding Barbara Rose Johns. He stated the plaque is complete; however, we are waiting on the library sign. Once the library sign is ready, the family will be contacted and we will begin planning the unveiling ceremony.

Request Council adopt the Loan Resolution and the USDA Rural Development Resolution  
The Town was awarded a USDA grant/loan to purchase a frail mower boom tractor. The grant is for \$25,000 and the loan is \$94,000. Council will need to adopt the loan resolution, the USDA rural development resolution and the Code of Conduct. Mr. Spates stated the Town budgeted

\$140,000 for the mower, which was purchased for \$118,000. The Finance and Ordinance Committee has recommended Council approve the signing of the USDA documents and the Town Treasurer is to pay off the loan immediately.

Request to advertise a public hearing on amending the 2017-2018 Town Budget – The Town Treasurer has closed out the 2016-2017 Town budget and the contingency needs to be added to the 2017-2018 Town budget. A public hearing is required to amend the budget. Mr. Spates stated Council will also be asked to allocate funds of \$40,000 from the 2016-2017 sewer fund contingency to cover the remaining expenses on the Noblin Drive pump station upgrade.

Discuss Halloween events – Halloween falls on a Tuesday this year and the Halloween parade on Main Street will begin at 4:00 pm and end promptly at 5:00. New Life is holding their annual fall festival at the Farmers Market beginning at 5:00 pm on Friday, November 3. The High Bridge State Park is hosting a pumpkin carving at the plaza on Tuesday, October 31 beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Request to refund partial 2017 business license for AK & BP, Inc. – no discussion

Standing Committee reports – committee reports will be presented at the regular Council meeting.

Miscellaneous items – Mr. Spates provided an update on the paving schedule and spoke briefly about the university's plans for Rock the Block.

Mr. Spates stated at the Finance and Ordinance Committee, the Committee discussed information provided by Town Attorney Gary Elder on the collection of delinquent real estate taxes. Mr. Spates stated Mr. Elder is recommending Council consider using an outside collection service. Mr. James E. Elliott, an attorney from Yorktown, Virginia, specializes in the collection of delinquent real estate taxes. Mr. Davis, Chairman of the Finance and Ordinance Committee stated the Committee had reviewed the information and supports Mr. Elder's recommendation. Mayor Whitus stated action will be taken at the regular Council meeting.

Comments by the Mayor and members of Town Council – no discussion

**CLOSED SESSION – LAND, PERSONNEL AND LEGAL**

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Reid and with all Council members voting "aye", Council went into closed session under Section 2.2-3711.A.3 of the Code of Virginia, for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating

strategy of the public body; and Section 2.2-3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia , for the discussion of personnel issues involving a particular department; and Section 2.2-3711.A.7 of the Code of Virginia, for briefings by staff members and legal counsel on specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel.

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mrs. Thompson 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: Seven (7)

MOTION: Davis

SECOND: Reid

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

NOES: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: No one

ABSENT DURING MEETING: No one

---

Clerk

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

---

David E. Whitus, Mayor

---

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk