

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON DECEMBER 7, 2016

Mayor Whitus called to order the December Farmville Town Council meeting held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 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, T.M. Pairet, J.J. Davis and G.C. Cole. Vice Mayor A.D. Reid was absent.

Staff present was Town Manager, Gerald Spates; Town Attorney, Gary Elder; Chief of Police, Andy Ellington; Town Treasurer, Carol Anne Seal and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko.

Mayor Whitus welcomed guests; followed by Mr. Davis giving the invocation and Mr. Cole led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Jen Cox, Director of Local & Community Relations for Longwood University addressed Council, updating members on events taking place on campus. Mentioned were:

- Council members are invited to the Moton Holiday Social & Art Exhibit on Monday, December 10, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Moton Museum.
- Ms. Cox provided members with Longwood's spring 2017 important dates to remember. Included were January 3, the University reopens, classes begin on January 18 and on March 6th – 10th is spring break.

Mr. Adam Yoelin of 600 High Street, Farmville addressed Council. Mr. Yoelin announced that his wife, Ann had completed her dissertation and education and is now a Ph.D. at Longwood University. He invited members to attend a celebration in honor of her accomplishment. The event will take place tomorrow night at Charley's from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., light refreshments will be provided.

Mr. Rodney Lewis, Manager of the Farmville Community Marketplace updated members on this season's market success. He stated the market ran from April 22 through November 30 and averaged 15 vendors. Mr. Lewis spoke on the success of the EBT program and thanked Centra Southside Hospital for their partnership in the grant.

Ms. Juanita Taylor addressed Council on the lack of a greyhound bus stop in Farmville. She stated Greyhound stopped service in Farmville in April of 2016. She said it is her understanding; Greyhound no longer picks up fares in Farmville because they do not have a

location. She spoke of the community's need for bus service, mentioning the two colleges in the area and encouraged Council to look into the matter. In closing, Ms. Taylor spoke of the need for another grocery store in Farmville. Mr. Spates stated he would contact Greyhound. Mayor Whitus stated a committee is working with the Small Business Development Center with that is working with a consultant has some grant funds that is working with a consultant on grocery store. He stated the problem is volume.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PAY THE BILLS

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Davis and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Davis and Cole voting "aye", the motion to authorize the Town Treasurer to pay the bills as presented was approved.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO REPLACE ROOF AT GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE

On motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Davis and Cole voting "aye", the motion to accept the bid of \$46,000 from Melvin Morgan Roofing on the replacement of the roof for the Farmville Golf Course clubhouse roof was approved.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates stated the Town went out on bid for the replacement of the roof at the golf course clubhouse and received one bid \$46,000. He said the roof of the clubhouse is the original roof and is in need of replacement. Members questioned if the funds were in the budget and Mr. Spates stated they were.

PARKING SIGNAGE – GREEN FRONT, CHARLEY'S AND THE WINERY

Members discussed the proposed parking sign for the "Green Front/Charley's lot. Mr. Spates stated students and people walking the High Bridge Trail are increasingly using the lot. Members questioned if designating a public parking lot for three businesses would cause a problem for other downtown businesses. Mr. Spates stated no, the proposed sign is similar to the one being replaced except the new sign states vehicles will be towed. Mr. Spates stated the Town will not tow vehicles but the sign deters motorist from parking in the lot. Members agreed to try the sign and revisit the issue, if the problem continued.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Spates provided a verbal report on several projects. He mentioned –

- The Hotel Weyanoke, Holiday Inn Express and the Hilton Tru are moving along. The Hotel Weyanoke will include two, possibly three restaurants.

- He informed members that one of the dump trucks the Town recently purchased is parked in the lot. Members commented on how well the dump truck looked.
- At the time the old library building was sold, a committee was set up consisting of two representatives from Council, two from the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors and two from Friends of the Library. The Committee was to oversee the funds in the escrow account. Mr. Spates stated the Friends of the Library asking that the two representatives of the Friends of the Library be removed from the committee have approached the Town and County. The library committee will consist of two members from Town Council and two from the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors. The library will still request funds from the escrow account through the committee. Mr. Spates stated the County would be taking action on the request at their December meeting.
- The Town received four (4) proposals on the RFP for the Public Works building and three (3) on the Recreation – members agreed to begin reviewing the RFPs in January.
- Employee Christmas Dinner is Wednesday, December 21, at 6:00 p.m.

COMMENTS BY THE TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF

Chief Ellington introduced Officer Thomas Logan, his first new hire since accepting the position of Chief of Police. Officer Logan retired from County of Halifax after serving 28 years. During his time with Halifax, he served as Captain and Chief Deputy. Chief Ellington also mentioned:

- Thanked Council for the Christmas bonus and extra holiday time
- Updated members on the promotion of Chris Moss as Lieutenant
- Completed mock assessment – getting ready for assessment at the end of February
- Farmville ranked 18th among localities with 15,000 or less in population in the National Night Out Campaign
- Operations Blue Christmas is December 13 and 14th at Wal-Mart. Chief Ellington invited Council to participate in the event.
- Will be advertising the next Citizen Academy shortly, anticipates having 20 individuals enroll.
- Fuqua School will be implementing the DARE program.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTED ON THE FOLLOWING

Mayor Whitus wished everyone a Merry Christmas, stated what an exciting year 2016 was for Farmville, and anticipates 2017 being just as exciting. He mentioned that Longwood University's Board of Visitors renewed President Reveley's contract to 2023.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

David E. Whitus, Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk