

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, September 14, 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, 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, Gary Elder, Acting Chief of Police, Andy Ellington; 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. Mr. Davis provided 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.

Park Ranger, Daniel Jordan, Manager of the High Bridge Trail State Park introduced Park Ranger, Glen Shepard, High Bridge Trail State Park's new Chief Ranger. Ranger Jordan spoke on the High Bridge State Park and provided an update on the increase in revenue and attendance at the Park.

Mr. John Miller with the Downtown Farmville Partnership addressed Council. Mr. Miller stated that Downtown Farmville, the Moton Museum and Longwood University have established a partnership and have collaborated on creating a Civil Rights Walking Trail. He spoke on the self-guided tour visitors will follow the walking tour by using a brochure. Stencil markings would be painted on the sidewalk to identify areas of interest. The person has the option of using their cell phone to scan the geolocation in the marked area, which will then access a website to identify sights and provide historical information. Mr. Miller shared with Council a print of the stencil that would be painted on the sidewalks identifying areas of interest.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF STENCIL DESIGN FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS WALKING TRAIL

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Davis and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to proceed with the sidewalk stencil design for the Civil Rights Walking Trail and the concept of the geolocation was approved as presented.

Ms. Jen Cox, Director of Local and Community Relations of Longwood University updated Council on several activities taking place on campus. She updated Council on the University’s plans for the Travis building; which include pressure washing the brick, remove and salvage the Travis sign, add display lighting, along with display banners. The banners will highlight the arts, historical/cultural and recreational attractions in downtown Farmville. Ms. Cox said the University appreciates all that the Town is doing to help them acquire the baseball field dirt and hopes to close before the end of the month. Ms. Cox said the University is 20 days away from the debate and thanked Mayor Whitus and Mr. Spates for taking the time to join the Longwood Board of Visitors this past Saturday morning.

Mr. John Burton, Director of Downtown Farmville Partnership updated Council on several community projects. The 4th Annual High Bridge Marathon and 5K had over 300 people in attendance, including sponsors and volunteers. The event is a major fundraiser for Downtown Farmville and Mr. Burton thanked the Town and Park Ranger, Daniel Jordan, Manager of the High Bridge Trail State Park for its assistance. Mr. Burton stated Coca-Cola has been working on a project to revive its “ghost’s murals” across the county. With the upcoming debate, Coca-Cola has repainted the mural on the side of the Poplar Hall building and has plans to revive a second mural. Coca-Cola is working with the Downtown Partnership in an unveiling event called “All American Downtown Celebration”. The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 1 at the High Bridge Plaza beginning at approximately 11:00 a.m. There will be music, food and prizes. He described the event as a prelude to the Vice President Debate events Longwood University has planned.

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING – HIGH BRIDGE PLAZA

Mayor Whitus spoke of a recent meeting where the holiday tree lighting was discussed and asked Mr. Burton if Downtown Partnership had discussed the date of the holiday tree lighting with businesses on Main Street. Mayor Whitus spoke of the success of last year’s event and the large community participation. Mr. Burton stated he had and there were several dates brought up. He too commented on the success of last year’s holiday tree lighting and agreed with

Mayor Whitus on holding the event on Friday, November 18. Council supported the recommendation.

PRESENTATION OF THE OTTO S OVERTON MERITORIOUS AWARD

Mayor Whitus and Acting Chief Andy Ellington presented Sergeant Chip Hoyle, Corporal Christie Booth, and Officers Jordan Seay and Chris Hudson with the Farmville Police Department's Otto S. Overton Meritorious Award. Mayor Whitus spoke of the Officers courageous acts on August 15, 2016 in responding to a fire at the Landings at Midtown Square.

The Otto S. Overton Meritorious Award is named in honor of Otto S. Overton and is award to Department Officers who exhibit exceptional service to the community.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Davis and with all Council members voting "aye", the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was approved. The consent agenda includes the draft minutes of the August 3, 2016 regular work session meeting and the draft minutes of the August 10, 2016 regular Council meeting.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Reid and with all Council members voting "aye", the motion of approve the Treasurer's Report as presented was approved.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Pairet 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 was approved.

REQUEST ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #177 SECTION 20-28 MEMBERS – APPOINTMENTS; TERMS; COMPENSATION AND CONSIDER APPOINTING EX-OFFICIO MEMBER(S) TO THE FARMVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

On motion by Mr. Reid, 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 Town Ordinance #177 amending Section 20-28, Members – Appointment; terms; compensation as was approved, as follows:

Ordinance #177

ARTICLE II. PLANNING COMMISSION

AMEND

Sec. 20-28. - Members—Appointment; term; compensation; qualifications.

- (a) The planning commission shall be composed of not more than ~~seven (7)~~ **fifteen (15)** nor less than five (5) members. ~~appointed by the council. One (1) of the members may shall be a member of the town council and one (1) of the members may shall be an administrative official of the town.~~ Members of the planning commission shall reside within the corporate limits of the Town of Farmville and All other members, who shall be appointed by Council. Council shall attempt to appoint one member from each Town Ward. In the event that a vacancy on the planning commission cannot be filled with a qualified candidate from a specific Ward, Council shall fill that vacancy by appointing a qualified candidate from any of the other Wards. In addition to the voting members appointed by Council, Council may also appoint ex-officio members comprised of staff administration, who shall have no power to vote. The role of ex-officio members shall be to assist and advise the voting members, and ex-officio members shall not be subject to the same residential or other requirements as voting members. All voting members, who shall be known as appointed members, shall be qualified registered voters of the Town town residing within its corporate limits, and shall be qualified by knowledge and experience to make decisions on questions of community growth and development. At all times, a minimum of provided, that at least one-half (½) of the voting members so appointed shall be owners of real property located within the corporate limits of the Town of Farmville.
- (b) All voting members of the commission shall serve with compensation as set by council. The appointed members shall hold no other municipal office or position, except that they may serve on the board of zoning appeals. The appointed members shall serve a term of four (4) years. Ex-officio members shall be appointed by council at its first regular meeting in July. term of office of the administrative official member shall correspond to his respective official tenure. The appointed members shall serve for a term of six (6) years.

BACKGROUND: Mayor Whitus stated the public hearing was held this evening and no one present addressed Council.

REQUEST REMOVAL OF REVERSION CLAUSE OF THE WALK2CAMPUS HOLDING, LLC REQUEST TO VACATE TWO PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAYS

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Cole and a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the motion to rescind the reversion clause requiring the commencement of the development must begin within twenty-four (24) months of August 10, 2016 or the property would revert back to the Town of Farmville was approved.

BACKGROUND: At the August 10 Council meeting, Council granted the request on behalf of Mr. Matthew King, President of Walk2Campus Holdings, LLC to vacate the right of way of Garden Street, from its intersection with Appomattox Street to the Appomattox River and to vacate the right of way of St. George Street, from its intersection at the High Bridge State Park Trail to the Appomattox River, with a reversion clause that commencement of the development

must begin within twenty-four (24) months of this date or the property will revert back to the Town of Farmville; and in addition, all legal fees, recording fees and any costs associated with the vacation of said properties shall be paid by Walk2Campus Holdings, LLC.

Mr. Spates shared with Council a letter Town Attorney, Gary Elder received from Mr. E. Duffy Myrtetus, the attorney representing the investors. The letter stated the title company would take exception to the reverter clause. Mr. Spates stated the inclusion of the reversion clause would make it difficult for Walk2Campus Holdings, LLC to get approval in the financing of the project. Mr. Spates said recommends Council remove the reversion clause and said it would have no impact on the Town.

REQUEST REAPPOINTMENT OF GARY ATKINS TO THE LOCAL BUILDING OFFICIAL BOARD

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Pairet, Reid, Davis and Cole voting “aye”, the motion to reappoint Gary Atkins to the Local Building Official Board was approved. Mr. Attkin’s new two-year term on the Local Building Official Board will run through June 1, 2018.

REQUEST A DATE AND TIME FOR THE ANNUAL HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to hold the annual Downtown Halloween Celebration at 4:30 p.m., on Monday, October 31, 2016 was approved.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates suggested the event take place on Halloween, Monday, October 31. He mentioned that the High Bridge Trail State Park will be hosting a pumpkin-carving contest at the High Bridge Plaza on Friday, October 28 and New Life Assembly of God will be hosting their annual Fall Community event at the Farmers Market on Friday, October 28.

REQUEST AMENDING WATER AND SEWER TAP INCENTIVES

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion to advertise a public hearing on the recommendation by the Finance and Ordinance Committee to amend the water and sewer tap fee incentives from \$1,000 to \$2,000 was approved.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Davis, Chairman of the Finance and Ordinance Committee stated the Committee discussed Ordinance 1-2015 that reduced tap fees to \$1,000 per tap (rebate of \$3,000 per tap) until August 11, 2016. Mr. Spates stated the tap fee reductions helped bring new projects

to Farmville, mentioning the three new hotels. The Committee supported the Town Manager's recommendation to amend the water and sewer tap fee incentives from \$1,000 to \$2,000 (rebate of \$2,000 per tap) until June 20, 2017. At that time, Council will revisit the cost of tap fees.

REQUEST REZONING OF THE BUFFALO SHOOK, W.C. NEWMAN AND SOUTHERN STATES PROPERTIES

On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Davis and with all Council members voting "aye", the motion to refer the rezoning of the Buffalo Shook, W.C. Newman and Southern States properties to the Farmville Planning Commission was approved.

BACKGROUND: The above manufacturing companies have closed and there is no longer a need for the M-1 zone. The properties are adjacent to Business B-3, which is compatible with the proposed use.

REQUEST REZONING OF 1412 LONGWOOD AVENUE AND REQUEST FOR ZONING AMENDMENT

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with all Council members voting "aye", the motion to refer the request on behalf of Edward and Michael Helton to rezone their property at 1412 Longwood Avenue from Residential District R-1 to Business District B-3 and a request for a zoning amendment to add "Domestic Violence Shelters" as an allowed use in Business District B-3 zone to the Farmville Planning Commission was approved. The Town Manager has recommended adding language to the "Uses" under Business District B-3; Domestic Violence Shelters shall require a conditional use permit.

INFORMATION - FERN PROJECT IN THE SPRING

Mr. Dwyer, Chairman of the FERN Committee informed Council that the Town received only one bid on Phase 1 of the FERN project, which included all eight gardens with only four garden locations having sponsorships. Mr. Dwyer stated the Town would have had to front the cost for the four unsponsored gardens. The Committee would like to rebid the project in the spring and to only bid the garden locations that have sponsors.

REQUEST TO AMEND THE 2016-2017 TOWN BUDGET

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with all Council members voting "aye", the motion to advertise a public hearing on an amendment to the 2016-2017 Town Budget was approved.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Davis, Chairman of the Finance and Ordinance Committee stated the Committee met today to discuss the 2016-2017 Town Budget and the need to amend this fiscal year budget to carry over the contingency from the 2015-2016 Town Budget. The contingency is \$592,858.96.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Committee, Chairman Cole – the Committee’s Kick-Off meeting took place on August 17. Mr. Cole stated the Committee discussed the need for a professional consulting firm to help the Town develop a strategic plan for Farmville’s parks and recreational needs. Members also discussed the possibility of Parks and Recreation as a standalone department, in order to determine its overall effect on the Town’s budget. Further discussion included identifying areas for future development and community involvement in the planning phase. Mayor Whitus stated there is much community interest in recreation. He said he and Mr. Spates attended the Board of Visitors meeting at the University, some of the professors present expressed interest in recreational activities and suggested forming a focus group to share ideas and suggestions.

Mayor Whitus announced that on Tuesday, September 20 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., the Chamber After Hours event would take place at The Woodland Community Center. Those attending will preview the new economic development/tourism site visitfarmville.com. The site was created in partnership with Longwood University, Hampden Sydney College, Prince Edward County and the Town of Farmville. The site was design and managed by DIA.

Finance and Ordinance Committee, Chairman Davis – the Committee report was discussed during the agenda items.

Personnel Committee, Chairman Vice Mayor Reid – the Committee anticipates the selection of Police Chief would not be made until after the October 4 Vice Presidential Debate.

Infrastructure (Water, Sewer, Roads), Chairman Pairet – the Town has received a request from the Piedmont Regional Jail for consideration of establishing a rate adjustment for large water users located outside the town limits.

Public Safety Committee, Chairman Hunter – nothing to report

Ethics Committee, Chairman, Hunter – nothing to report

REQUEST ON BEHALF OF FUQUA SCHOOL FOR A BONFIRE FOR THE HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Cole and with all Council members voting “aye”, the request on behalf of Fuqua School for permission to have a bonfire during the school’s homecoming celebration was approved.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates stated he recommends Council grant the request and the Farmville Volunteer Fire Department will be notified of the event.

TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Spates shared with Council the administrative policy on recording of Town Council meetings and Planning Commission meetings. The policy is as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

Audio Recording of Meetings
Of the
Farmville Town Council and
Farmville Planning Commission

Farmville Town Council and Farmville Planning Commission meetings shall be audio recorded. The recordings will be placed on the Town’s website for individuals to listen to or download.

The Clerk and Secretary shall use the audio recordings for transcribing the official minutes. The audio recordings will be removed from the website and destroyed once the official minutes have been approved.

The Town of Farmville will not archive audio recordings of any meetings and takes no responsibility for the quality of the audio recordings or any erasure of audio recording during a meeting.

There were no questions or comments by Town Council.

The Margaret Atkins Bird group has asked the Town to install a 12 x 20 bird watching platform at Wilck’s Lake. The group will purchase the materials and has asked Council’s permission for Town staff to build and install the observatory platform. The location of the platform is on property the Town does not own. Mr. Spates stated he would speak with the adjoining property owner about obtaining an easement. Mr. Spates spoke briefly on the following matters:

- Two benches have been added to the Dog Park
- Overview of Town projects currently underway
- Farmville Volunteer Fire Department is hosting the 61st Annual Firefighters Convention for the Southside Virginia Volunteer Firefighter Association Saturday, September 17 at the Sports Arena.

- Fuqua School will be hosting a Veteran’s Day event at the Crute Stage on Friday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m.
- Town Council of the Town of South Boston expressed their appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality of Mayor Whitus and Mr. Davis during their visit earlier this month.
- Members will receive a copy of the Draper Aden and Associations, 28th Annual Water and Wastewater Report for 2016.

Mr. Robin Atkins, Director of Public Works mentioned the upcoming cleanup campaign, scheduled for Monday, September 19.

Acting Chief of Police, Andy Ellington stated VP Debate preparations are on schedule.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR WHITUS AND MEMBERS OF TOWN COUNCIL

Mr. Hunter asked for an update on when the Sports Arena parking lot would be paved. Mr. Atkins stated due to the paver’s schedule, the paving would most likely occur sometime after October. Mr. Spates stated the Burn Building parking lot would be paved at that time too.

Mr. Pairet thanked Acting Chief of Police, Andy Ellington and the Police Officers that volunteered their time to present the Advance Police Academy. He stated his wife and several others that attended the Academy praised the program. He mentioned the mock trial and that the group visited the Piedmont Regional Jail. He also thanked Town Attorney, Gary Elder and Judge Donald Blessing for volunteering their time.

Mr. Reid asked the Town Manager to look at the lighting at the crosswalk at the Moton Museum and Griffin Boulevard. He stated the Moton Museum has several evening events and the lighting in that area is poor. Mr. Hunter recommended contacting Longwood University.

Mr. Cole stated he attended several downtown events this past weekend and commented on the many out of town visitors. He shared some of their comments – mentioned were the cleanliness and the friendliness of the Town and the community.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

David E. Whitus, Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk