

**REGULAR WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MARCH 1, 2017**

Mayor Whitus called to order the regular work session of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, March 1, 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, T.M. Pairet, and J.J. Davis. Council member A.D. Reid arrived at 11:04 a.m.

Council member G.C. Cole was absent.

Staff present was Town Manager, Gerald Spates; Chief of Police, Andy Ellington; Communications Specialist, Kate Eggleston and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko.

**FARMVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2016 STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT**

Chief Ellington stated he was pleased to announce that the Farmville Police Department passed its assessment by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission and has received its reaccreditation. Council member congratulated Chief Ellington and the Farmville Police Department on its reaccreditation.

Chief Ellington presented the 2016 State of the Department Annual Report. Highlights from the report included an update on fleet improvements, taser upgrades, staffing, training, increased bike patrols, community policing events and an overview of the crime statics from 2015 to 2016.

Mayor Whitus presented the March 2017 agenda items for review and discussion.

Consent Agenda – no discussion

Treasurer's Report – no discussion

Bills – no discussion

Request for a conditional use permit on behalf of Southside Center for Violence Prevention (Madeline's House) to locate a domestic violence shelter at 1412 Longwood Avenue

Mayor Whitus stated Town Council would be holding a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on March 8, 2017. Mr. Spates reported that to date the Town Office has received no inquiries or comments regarding the request for a conditional use permit.

Request for a conditional use permit on behalf of Mr. Jacob Romaine to convert a single-family dwelling into a duplex – Mr. Spates stated the house is located on Cedar Avenue and is part of the public hearing bring held on March 8, 2017.

Request to rescind Chapter 29, Division 13, Industrial District M-1 zone language from the Town’s Zoning Ordinance – Mayor Whitus stated the request to rescind Chapter 29 of the Town’s zoning ordinance is included in the March 8, 2017 public hearing. Mr. Davis asked if rescinding the M-1 zone would hinder any new businesses or expansions. Mr. Spates stated the M-1 zone is for manufacturing and the two manufacturing businesses that were located in the M-1 zone have closed. Rescinding the ordinance will have no effect on any businesses.

Vacancy on the Local Building Official Board – Mr. Spates stated two people have submitted the Town’s Citizen Volunteer Applications; however, both have expressed interest in serving on the Farmville Planning Commission. The State Code does not permit a member of a Planning Commission to serve on any other Board, except one member may be a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Spates stated he is unsure if either of these two individuals would want to serve on the Local Building Official Board and added that you do not have to be a town resident to serve on the Local Building Official Board.

Vacancy on the Farmville Industrial Development Authority – Mr. Spates stated the vacancy is to fill the remaining term of Mrs. Elizabeth Ragland since her resignation last month. He asked Council if they knew of persons, who may interested in serving on the FIDA.

Requests from the Farmville Planning Commission - The requests on behalf of the Farmville Planning Commission had been referred to the Finance and Ordinance Committee. Mr. Davis, Chairman of the Committee provided a brief overview of the Committee’s recommendations:

- \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the review and update on the Town’s Comprehensive Plan – the Committee is recommending the Town’s Comprehensive Plan be updated in-house by Mrs. Morris and Planning Commission members.
- \$500 for Planning Commission members to conduct site visits to other jurisdictions similar in nature to Farmville, as a way to help the Commissioners gain insight and ideas from other localities, as it relates to planning – the Committee is recommending Council appropriate \$500.00 in the Town’s 2017-2018 Town Budget for site visits for Planning Commission members.

- \$500 for Planning Commission members for continuing education – the Committee is recommending Council appropriate \$500.00 in the Town’s 2017-2018 Town Budget for continuing education of Planning Commission members.
- Request Town Council keep current Commissioners intact instead of moving forward with Commissioners being appointed by Ward representation – The Committee is recommending Council deny the request and continue to move towards the make-up of the Planning Commission mirroring that of Town Council, with ward representation. Mr. Davis stated the Finance and Ordinance Committee would be recommending Council add two at-large seats to the Farmville Planning Commission.

Request on behalf of Mr. Richard Bratcher – This matter is before the Town’s Infrastructure Committee. Mr. Pairet stated the Committee would meet prior to the March 8 Council meeting.

Town Manager’s Employment Agreement – Mayor Whitus referred this matter to the Personnel Committee for their recommendation to Council.

Miscellaneous Items – no discussion

**REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PRINT DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE ACCOUNTS IN THE FARMVILLE HERALD**

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and with all Council members voting “aye”, Council accepted the recommendation by the Finance and Ordinance Committee and authorized the Town Treasurer to send notices to all delinquent real estate property owners, notifying them that they had thirty days to bring their account current. If the matter is not resolved within thirty days, the Town will proceed with posting a listing of all delinquent real estate tax information in The Farmville Herald.

**BACKGROUND:** Mr. Davis, Chairman of the Finance and Ordinance Committee reported during budget discussions the Committee reviewed the Town’s delinquent real estate property accounts and recommended that steps be taken to bring the delinquent accounts current. He reported that several localities post delinquent real estate property accounts in local newspapers. Mr. Davis stated that by taking action today, the Town Treasurer had stated that the delinquent thirty-day letters would be mailed to the property owners by close of business day Friday.

Standing Committee Reports – will present reports at the March 8 Council meeting

Town Manager and Staff Reports – Mr. Spates reported that the Town has advertised for bids on four FERN gardens. The four garden locations are those that the FERN Committee had received a commitment of sponsorship from by local businesses. He said once the bids are in, he will contact the businesses to see if they are still interested in sponsoring a garden.

Mayor and Council members' comments – Mr. Reid, Chairman of the Barbara Johns Committee stated his Committee has not met, but he has given much thought about the project. He stated he had spoken to the Town Manager and Committee member Mr. Dwyer about naming the Farmville Prince Edward County Community Library after Barbara Johns. He added that he has not spoken about the renaming of the library with Mrs. Thompson, who is also a member of the Committee, nor had he discussed the idea with the County. He suggested the Barbara Johns Committee should meet with the County to explore the idea. Mayor Whitus stated it was an interesting idea and he was unaware that Barbara Johns' life work was as a Liberian until he read it in The Richmond Times Dispatch. He stated it would be very appropriate to name the Library after her but that it is a Town/County joint matter. Mr. Reid agreed and stated he would move forward with scheduling a joint meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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David E. Whitus, Mayor

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Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk