

REGULAR WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

At the regular work session of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 11:00 a.m., in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia, there present were Mayor David E. Whitus, presiding and Council members D.E. Dwyer, D.L. Hunter, T.M. Pairet, J.J. Davis and G.C. Cole. Council members S.B. Thompson and A.D. Reid were absent.

Staff present was Town Manager, Gerald Spates and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko.

Mayor Whitus called the meeting to order and presented the September work session agenda items.

MEDIA PREPARATIONS FOR THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Ms. Ilsa Loeser, the Town's Vice Presidential Debate media liaison, with Letterpress Communications addressed Council on media relations and preparations for the Vice Presidential debate. Ms. Loeser shared with Council some suggestions on dealing with media questions during the Vice Presidential Debate.

Letterpress Communications has been working with the Town on redesigning the Town's website and Facebook account. Ms. Loeser provided Council with a brief overview of the Town's new website. She stated she will be sending each Council member a password protected link to the new site and asked for their feedback before the site goes live on Saturday, September 10, 2016.

Mayor Whitus stated several months ago Longwood University invited the Town and County to travel to Louisiana to visit an area that had built a successful regional economic development hub. From that experience a partnership has formed, between the Town, County, Longwood University and Hampden Sydney College. As part of the partnership, Longwood funded a project to promote tourism to the area. Members from the Town, County, Longwood and Hampden Sydney worked with DIA, a marketing, advertising and public relations firm from Norfolk on a tourism website for the area. Visitfarmville.com will go live on September 7th.

The Woodlands will be hosting the Chamber After Hours event on September 20th in celebration of the new website. It was suggested the Town consider being a sponsor of the event.

SEPTEMBER AGENDA ITEMS

Consent Agenda – includes the draft minutes of the August 3, 2016 regular work session and the August 10, 2016 regular Council meeting;

Treasurer’s report – no discussion;

Bills – no discussion;

Request adoption of Ordinance #177 Section 20-28, members – Appointment; term; term; compensation; qualifications and appointment of ex-officio member(s) – public hearing will take place at 6:45 p.m., prior to the Council meeting;

Request removal of the reversion clause on the Walk2Campus Holdings, LLC request to vacate two public right of ways – Mr. Spates stated he had been contacted by the Real Estate Foundation and their attorney stating Walk2Campus Holdings, LLC can’t get financing with the reversion clause. He stated the project is ready to begin once financing is in place.

Request reappointment of Gary Atkins to the Local Building Official Board – no discussion;

Designation of date and time of the annual Downtown Halloween Celebration – with Halloween falling on Monday this year, Mr. Spates suggested the Downtown event take place on Monday, October 31, beginning at 4:45 p.m. He stated High Bridge Trail State Park has expressed interest in holding a pumpkin carving contest at the High Bridge Plaza on Friday, October 28 and New Life Assembly of God is planning to host their annual Fall Festival at the Farmers Market, on Friday, October 28.

Request the continuation of the Water and Sewer Tap Fee Incentive – Mr. Spates spoke in support of the tap fee incentives and stated the fee incentives expired on August 11, 2016. He would recommend continuing the incentives; however, adjust the amount of the tap fee rebate. Mayor Whitus stated this matter would be referred to the Finance and Ordinance Committee.

Request rezoning of the Buffalo Shook, W.C. Newman and Southern State properties – the manufacturing companies have closed and there is no longer a need for the M-1 zone. The properties are adjacent to B-3, which is compatible with Walk2campus Holdings, LLC proposed uses. Mr. Spates stated this matter will have to be referred to the Farmville Planning Commission and a public hearing will have to take place. Mr. Spates stated he recommends the Planning Commission and Town Council hold separate public hearings.

Request rezoning of 1412 Longwood Avenue and request zoning amendment to allow domestic violence shelters in a Business-3 zone – Mr. Spates stated this matter will need to be referred to the Farmville Planning Commission and will also require a public hearing.

Request to rebid FERN project - the Town received only one bid on the initial eight (8) gardens. Mr. Spates stated he is recommending the Town place the project on hold and rebid in the spring.

Request to amend the 2016-2017 Town Budget – Mr. Spates stated the contingency from the Town’s 2015-2016 Budget needs to be added to the 2016-2017 Budget. Mayor Whitus referred this matter to the Finance and Ordinance Committee. The Committee agreed to meet on Wednesday, September 14 at 5:15 p.m. in the Town Manager’s Conference Room.

Standing Committee Reports – reports will be given at the regular Council meeting;

Town Manager and Staff Reports – Mr. Spates spoke briefly on the following matters:

- Fuqua School will be hosting the annual Veterans Day event on November 11 at 11:00 a.m. at the Crute Stage. They have also asked for permission to have a bonfire on campus as part of their homecoming celebration.
- Piedmont Regional Jail has approached the Town asking that out of town customers rates be revisited.
- Town Attorney, Gary Elder will be leaving the law practice of Hawthorne and Hawthorne. He plans on staying in Farmville and opening his own practice.
- Town Council from the Town of South Boston will be visiting the Town Hall on Friday and have invited Town Council to have lunch at Charley’s.
- New Life Assembly of God plans to hold their Fall Festival at the Farmers Market on Friday, October 28.

On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Cole and with all Council members voting “aye”, the September 7, 2016 work session was recessed until 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 14, 2016.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

David E. Whitus, Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk