REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON JANUARY 10, 2018

Mayor Whitus called to order the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.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, T.M. Pairet, A.D. Reid, J.J. Davis and G.C. Cole.

Staff present were Town Manager, Gerald Spates; Assistant Town Manager, Scott Davis; Town Attorney, Gary Elder; Chief of Police, Andy Ellington; Town Treasurer, Carol Anne Seal; Director of Public Works, Robin Atkins; Communication Specialist, Kate Eggleston; Administrative Assistant, Jackie Vaughan and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko.

Mayor Whitus welcomed guests. Reverend James Ashton, Pastor of First Baptist Church in Farmville led the invocation, followed by Vice Mayor Reid leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Hricko called the roll, noting all Members were present.

Chief Andy Ellington addressed Council, introducing his Department’s two (2) new officers. Officer Rachel Meeks a graduate of Ferrum College, with a degree in Criminal Justice and Officer Dalton Foley a graduate of Longwood University, also with a degree in Criminal Justice. He stated that Officer Foley finished first place in physical fitness in his class. Chief Ellington also shared that the Farmville Police Department ranked 14th out of 300 Police Departments in the nation for National Night Out.

PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF PRECISION CELL

Mr. Scott Davis, Assistant Town Manager presented a powerpoint presentation on behalf Precision Cell. Precision Cell is requesting permission to construct a 150’ closed-mount monopole communication structure on property zoned Residential District R-3A, located at 718 Griffin Boulevard, Farmville, VA. The proposed cell tower will be designed to support four (4) wireless carriers and will provide rent free space on the structure for the town’s emergency communication needs. The presentation included letters of interest from Sprint/Shentel and Verizon. In addition, information was provided which stated that the proposed structure will not be a detrimental to the safety, health and general welfare of the community involved, nor create congestion in streets, and other public ways and places in the area. Also, the structure will not create hazards from fire nor
will it adversely affect or interfere with public or private schools, parks, playgrounds and water supplies.

Mr. Davis stated the proposed structure meets requirements for the Town’s Zoning Ordinance, Sec. 29-172. – Uses, #17 Public utilities, including poles, lines, distribution transformers, pipes, meters and other facilities necessary for the provision and maintenance of public utilities, including water and sewerage facilities.; and Ordinance Sec. 29-177. – Height, Structures in a Residential District R-3A may be erected up to thirty-five (35) feet in height from grade; except, that: #4 Church spires, belfries, cupolas, monuments, municipal water towers, chimneys, flues, flagpoles, television antennas and radio aerials are exempt.

Mr. Davis explained that staff was unsure if the project meets the radio aerial requirements and cannot say the definition of a radio aerial is the same as a cell tower. Mr. Davis stated the request will have to go before the Board of Zoning Appeals for a determination. Either, the radio aerial meets the definition and is the same as a cell tower in town or approve or not approve a variance for the height restriction of 150’. Mr. Davis stated that each Council member received a copy of a letter from Longwood University speaking on three areas of concerns as to why the university could not support the proposed cell tower project.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Whitus announced the public comment portion of the meeting. He reiterated that Council will not be making any decisions on the proposed cell tower. The Mayor advised the process does not go before Town Council.

Mr. Jordan Miles, resident at 420 Griffin Boulevard spoke in opposition of the proposed cell tower stating that it will affect the historical landmarks and walking trails. Mr. Miles also questioned the need for more cell towers in town and if Farmville’s Comp Plan has been addressed.

Ms. Beatrice White, resident at 501 Race Street spoke in opposition of the potential cell tower stating it will destroy the integrity of the neighborhood.

Mr. Perry Carrington, resident at 615 Griffin Boulevard spoke in opposition of the proposed cell tower expressing concerns for the neighborhood. Mr. Carrington stated from his research, cell towers posed many health problems and even showed the affect the towers have on animals.

Mr. Cameron Patterson, 420 Griffin Boulevard spoke in opposition of the potential cell tower, asking Council to protect the charm and history of Griffin Boulevard.
Mrs. Carol Facui, a town resident voiced opposition to the potential cell tower. Mrs. Facui stated that the cell tower does not belong in this location and questioned the radiation discharge. Mrs. Facui spoke of health concerns, the pole being an eye sore and inappropriate and the negative affect on home values.

Mr. John Burton, Program Manager for Downtown Farmville Partnership addressed Council. He provided an update on downtown Farmville activities. Mr. Burton reported that downtown Farmville is thriving and there have been (7) new businesses opened in the downtown area last year, which includes two (2) law offices, a spray tan location, bakery, brewery, hookah lounge and Barnes and Nobles moving to Main Street. Mr. Burton stated store vacancies are down and student, citizen, and visitors are interacting more with downtown than ever before. Mr. Burton thanked Council and Mr. Spates for the continued support of the Downtown Farmville Partnership.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Hunter 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 December 6, 2017 regular work session.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Davis and with all Council members voting “aye,” the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented was approved.

BACKGROUND: Mrs. Carol Anne Seal, Town Treasurer provided Council with a brief overview of the Treasurer’s Report.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PAY THE BILLS

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

BACKGROUND: Mrs. Seal noted a correction on page 3 of the Check Reconciliation List. Check #49673 for $149.99 was voided, but the system did not pick up the check as voided. The correct total for Checks Outstanding is $628,074.48, instead of the shown $628,224.47

REQUEST TO MOVE CONTINGENCY FUNDS

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with a recorded vote with Council members Cole, Reid, Davis, Pairet, Dwyer and Hunter voting “aye,” the motion to authorize the
Town Treasurer to move $8,500.00 from the general fund contingency to the line item, maintenance of buildings, in the Banquet Room Department, was approved.

**BACKGROUND:** Due to carpet cleaning, unexpected repairs and much needed upgrades to the banquet facility, the department is over budget by $7,310.06. The Treasurer is asking to transfer $8,500.00 from the contingency funds to the line item maintenance of buildings in the Banquet Room Department, to balance the budget.

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**APPOINTMENT TO TREE BOARD**

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with all Council members voting “aye,” the motion to appoint Ms. Tina Wells to the Farmville Tree Board Committee, was approved.

**BACKGROUND:** At the last Tree Board meeting, the Committee voted to request Council appoint Tina Wells to the Tree Board. Ms. Wells will be filling the vacant seat of Mr. Mike Lafoon, who passed away last year.

**POTENTIAL CELL TOWER – 718 GRIFFIN BOULEVARD**

Mayor Whitus asked Mr. Scott Davis to give a summary on the process for the proposed cell tower and to provide a potential date on when the Board of Zoning Appeals may meet. Mr. Davis advised that he does not have meeting date for the Board of Zoning Appeals. He stated the Board has one (1) matter that was tabled from the Board’s last meeting and that matter will be also be addressed at the next meeting. The Board of Zoning Appeals meeting must be advertised for a public hearing and will be held at night so more of the public will have an opportunity to attend. The Board will decide; if the decision is not in favor of the applicant, the applicant can appeal to the Prince Edward Circuit Court. At that point, the Prince Edward Circuit Court would make a ruling and that ruling would be the final decision.

Mr. Hunter requested a list of all the cell phone towers within the town. Mr. Spates stated he would furnish the information and suggested that Virginia Energy and the radio station be included in the list.

**REQUEST REAPPOINTMENT OF FARMVILLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEMBERS**
On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Davis and with a recorded vote with Council members Davis, Hunter, Pairet, Reid, Dwyer, and Cole voting “aye,” the motion to request the Prince Edward County Circuit Court reappoint Mr. William Poulston, Mr. Perry Carrington, Mr. Jack Houghton, and Mrs. Teresa Stewart to the Farmville Industrial Development Authority for terms ending on February 28, 2022 was approved.

**BACKGROUND:** Mr. Poulston, Mr. Carrington, Mr. Houghton and Mrs. Stewart’s terms expire on February 28, 2018. Members have expressed an interest in continuing to serve. To be reappointed, Council will need to request that Prince Edward County Circuit Court reappoints each member to the Farmville Industrial Development Authority, for a term of four years.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- Parks and Recreation, Chairman Cole – no report
- Finance and Ordinance Committee, Chairman Davis – no report; Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Spates, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Seal for the great effort and time put into the new financial information and reports requested by the Committee.
- Personnel Committee, Chairman Reid – no report
- Infrastructure Committee, Chairman Pairet – no report
- Town Property/Building, Chairman Dwyer – no report

**TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

Mr. Spates reported on the following matters. He stated that Mr. Ross Fickenscher will be giving Council a tour of The Hotel Weyanoke on Thursday morning at 10:00 am. The Apron Rehab project at the airport should begin March or April. The project consists of State and Federal funds of $1.42 million dollars with the town paying one and half percent. The Farmville Regional Airport will be closed for 30 days while the work is being done. Pilots will be able to use the runway, but not able to park any airplanes on the runway. The Buffalo Creek Pedestrian Bridge project that ties into Wilck’s Lake should go out on bid by the end of the month. There is still one easement that needs to be completed. The Buffalo Creek Pedestrian Bridge project will connect the Dogwood Trail behind the hospital and the Sarah Terry Trail. The Milnwood Road project is currently in the acquisition of right of way and should go out on bid sometime this spring. VDOT is handling all the details of the right of way acquisitions for the Milnwood Road project. Mr. Spates stated he received a set of plans today for the new Hardee’s Restaurant that will be built in the same area as the Milnwood Road project. Mr. Spates reported that the town has received the
playground equipment donated by the Kiwanians for the Grove Street Park. He will be meeting
with the Lion’s Club on January 23, 2018 to finalize the information for their donation for
playground equipment for Wilck’s Lake. Wiley & Wilson has been informed about the additional
land purchase at Wilck’s Lake and will be incorporating that area into the Recreation Master Plan
study. The Public Works Master Plan study has been separated into two (2) sections. The salt
storage building, with an estimate cost of $1.7 million dollars and the public works facility, with
an estimate cost of $6.6 million dollars. Mr. Spates stated he would like to remove the salt storage
building from the Public Works Master Plan and construct the building on property the town owns
on Doswell Street located by the town’s fuel site. In closing, Mr. Spates also commended the
Public Works Department and Police Department for their help provided during the snow storm
and shared with Council a list of Town surplus equipment that will be sold at the auction on
Saturday, January 13, 2018, at the Sports Arena.

Chief Andy Ellington thanked Council for the additional holiday time given and informed
them about the eighth annual Citizen Academy that will run from March 1st thru April 26th.
Applications are available online.

Robin Atkins, Director of Public Works, thanked Council for the additional holiday time.

Scott Davis, Assistant Town Manager, updated Council on several items. He stated by the
next meeting, the town should have the land use diagnostic completed by the Berkeley Group to
present to Council. A Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for the end of this month. The
Board of Zoning Appeals met December 19, 2017 to consider two (2) matters. One variance was
approved, to build a house on Hill Street. The second request, to turn a duplex into a triplex was
tabled in order to resolve some issues. The tabled request will be considered at the next BZA
meeting, within the next month. Mr. Davis advised that he is currently working with the Treasurer
to begin the budget process, by getting departments to look at what their departments will need
and request for the upcoming budget year.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

No comments from Council.

**CLOSED SESSION: SECTION 2.2-3711(A)(1) PERSONNEL**

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Reid and with all Council member voting “aye,”
the motion for Council to convene in closed session for the discussion, consideration and
evaluation of the performance of the Town Treasurer, pursuant to the exemption provided for in Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, was approved.

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: Six

MOTION: Hunter
SECOND: Davis

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

NOES: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: No one

ABSENT DURING MEETING: No one

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Clerk

REQUEST REAPPOINTMENT OF TOWN TREASURER

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with all Council members voting “aye,” Carol Anne Seal was reappointed as Town Treasurer for a six-month term. Mrs. Seal will be eligible for reappointment in July of 2018.

Mr. Cole left the meeting.

Mr. Spates provided Council with information on the Foreign Affairs Security Centers’ Informational Fair taking place on February 15, 2018 in West Virginia.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.
APPROVED: __________________________

David E. Whitus, Mayor

ATTEST: __________________________

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk