REGULAR WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

Mayor Whitus called to order the regular work session of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, September 5, 2018, 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, T.M. Pairet, A.D. Reid, and G.C. Cole. Council member B.R. Vincent arrived at 11:04 a.m.

Staff present was Town Manager, Gerald J. Spates; Assistant Town Manager, C. Scott Davis; Chief of Police, Andy Ellington; Deputy Chief of Police, Bill Hogan; Administrative Assistant, Jackie Vaughan, and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko.

Mrs. Hricko called the roll, noting Council members Mr. Davis and Mr. Vincent as absent.

Mayor Whitus set the agenda aside to go into closed session.

CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion by Mr. Coles, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with a recorded vote with Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Vincent, Pairet, Reid and Cole voting “aye,” Council entered closed session under Section 2.2-3711.A.1 for discussion with the Town Manager.

On motion by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Hunter, Council returned to the regular order of business.

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 (6)

MOTION: Cole                    SECOND: Hunter

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

NOES: No one

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Davis

ABSENT DURING MEETING: Davis

Clerk

Consent agenda—no discussion

Bills—no discussion

Treasurer’s Report—no discussion

Request for an alley abandonment on behalf of Mr. Bruce Finch—Mr. Spates reported that the Infrastructure Committee would be recommending Council deny Mr. Finch’s request to abandon the alley located between Fourth and Fifth Avenue and Lee and Gilliam Drive. Letters were sent to all adjacent property owners notifying them of the request, and the responses the town received were 50/50 in support of closing the alley. Town Council’s policy for closing an alley has been that all adjacent property owners must support the closing of the alley.

Mr. Spates stated the Town Attorney had drafted a form letter that could be sent to property owners that have blocked or obstructed alleyways. The letter notifies them that alleys are public and they must remove the impediment. Mr. Pairet interjected that alleys must be accessible, which would include moving vehicles, buildings, gardens, flowers, etc. Mr. Spates said he would modify the letter and share the draft with Council. Mayor Whitus asked that the letter be added to the Council packet for discussion and approval.

Request for a conditional use permit on behalf of Mr. Fred Pearson to construct a 52 unit apartment development on Vernon Street—Mayor Whitus stated this matter would be continued, pending the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Mr. Spates asked for Council’s support. He stated that on matters that are required to go before the Planning Commission before being presented to Council, may staff proceed with
presenting the request to the Planning Commission without Council’s referral. The Mayor and Council spoke in support of the change. Mr. Spates stated staff would provide the Council with information on matters that go before the Planning Commission.

Request authorization to advertise a public hearing on amending the 2018-2019—Mr. Spates stated the budget amendment is to carryover contingency funds from the 2017-2018 budget.

Request authorization to advertise a public hearing on ordinance #190, amend Chapter 27, Trees and Shrubs—no discussion

Request on behalf of Ms. Patty Haling to use Crute Stage on September 22, 2018, for a political rally—Mr. Spates stated Crute Stage had held similar events in the past and he sees no issue with granting this request. Council questioned if Ms. Haling had requested the street to be closed during the event and Mr. Spates stated, no. Council stated no objections to the request but would take action at the regular Council meeting.

Request adoption of the Farmville Area Bus Drug and Alcohol Policy—Mr. Spates stated for the Farmville Area Bus to receive federal transportation funds the bus must bi-annually adopt the drug and alcohol policy of the Virginia Department of Rails and Public Transportation. The Commonwealth modified the policy in August of 2018 and Council will need to adopt the modified policy.

Request for a partial business license refund on behalf of the Community Chiropractic, PLC—no discussion

Review of the Farmville Volunteer Fire Department Assessment Report—no discussion. This matter will be before Council at the October Council meeting.

Standing Committee Reports—no discussion

Comments from the Mayor and Council members—no discussion

Town Manager and Staff reports—Mr. Spates reported on the request by the state for the expansion of the Farmville Probation and Parole Office. The current facility is 45,070 square feet, and the state is looking to increase the building by 3,786 square feet. The approximate cost of the project is 1.6 million dollars. The Probation and Parole Office leases the building from the town and pays the town $45,834 a year in rent. They are asking the town to consider a ten-year lease amortization of the expansion. Council questioned the per square foot rent and requested the Town Manager prepare a financial worksheet for their review and discussion.
Mr. Spates stated the Episcopal Church has requested to close St. George Street on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for a Welcome Back BBQ for the Hampden-Sydney / Longwood students. Council stated their support of closing the street.

Mr. Spates shared with Council an email sent from a pilot at the Farmville Regional Airport. The pilot was expressing his displeasure with the town closing the airport during the apron rehabilitation project. Mr. Spates reported that the FAA and the VDOA support the closure of the airport. Mr. Spates spoke of the multiple letters sent to the pilots and owners of the hangers regarding the closure schedule along with posting notices at the terminal building and on all the terminal doors.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED: 

___________________________ 

David E. Whitus, Mayor

ATTEST:

___________________________ 

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk