

RECONVENED COUNCIL MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON OCTOBER 18, 2018

Mayor Whitus called to order the reconvened Council meeting held on Thursday, October 18, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in the Emergency Operations Center of the Town Hall, located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia.

Present at the meeting were Mayor D.E. Whitus, presiding, and Council member D.E. Dwyer, D.L. Hunter, B.R. Vincent, T.M. Pairet, A.D. Reid, J.J. Davis and G.C. Cole.

Staff present was Town Manager, Gerald Spates, Assistant Town Manager C. Scott Davis and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko.

Mayor Whitus stated the purpose of the reconvened Council meeting was to hold a Council Retreat. He welcomed Council members and thanked them for setting aside their schedules to attend the retreat. He spoke of Farmville's history and described the town as being in a great place with a strong foundation. Mayor Whitus spoke of a retreat as giving a new sense of direction and guidance on how Council can plan to move forward over the next 5 to 10 years. He said that Council members have different philosophies and encouraged members to have candid, and open discussions. Adding, that most importantly a retreat is an excellent opportunity for a governing body to bond.

TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE – INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Whitus assembled the group into pairs for an exercise in team building.

REVIEW OF THE OCTOBER 2014 RETREAT

Mayor Whitus provided an overview of Council's 20-year vision from the 2014 retreat. Members discussed how the vision of 2014 is similar to this Council's vision for Farmville.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The following staff members were invited to speak on their departments:

Carol Anne Seal, Town Treasurer – Treasurer's Department

Kathy Gagen, Water Plant Superintendent – Farmville Water Treatment Plant

Julie Adams, Transit Manager – Farmville Area Bus

Chris Bolt, Director of Recreation – Recreation Department

Robin Atkins, Director of Public Works – Public Works Department

Jackie Gilbert, Director of Emergency Communications – Emergency Communications

CLOSED SESSION – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with all Council members voting “aye,” Council went into closed session under **Section 2.2-3711.(A)(5)** of the Code of Virginia, discussion concerning a prospective business and expansion of an existing business where no previous announcement has been made of the business’ interest in locating or expanding its facility in the community.

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: Seven (7)

MOTION: Davis SECOND: Reid

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

NOES: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: No one

ABSENT DURING MEETING: No one

Clerk

Mayor Whitus set aside the agenda in order for Council to hear from Ms. Pam Butler, business owner of Mainly Clay and a member of the Farmville Downtown Partnership. Ms. Butler spoke of the challenges facing local business owners in the downtown area and of their perception of the role of the Farmville Downtown Partnership organization.

Members discussed the Farmville Downtown Partnership’s lack of small business owners on the Board. Council spoke of their annual appropriation of \$60,000 to the organization and

suggested that the Board include three (3) business owners. They also requested a copy of the organization's by-laws.

It was suggested that Farmville Town Council meet with the Board of the Farmville Downtown Partnership to discuss the possibility of a joint position.

Council returned to the agenda.

Mayor Whitus presented information from the 2014 Council Retreat which highlighted the Council's aspirations and addressed the role of the Council, the Mayor, and the Town Manager.

PROJECTS

Mayor Whitus introduced a project list for discussion and Council provided direction to staff:

- Boundary adjustment—interest was expressed in Farmville expanding its footprints in both Prince Edward and Cumberland Counties
- The need to add a westbound exit on 460—which would support economic development in that area
- Using the Wilck's Lake area for recreational facilities and activities—to include a community center, museum and legacy area, which would highlight Farmville's history
- Westview Cemetery—adding a mausoleum
- Sidewalks—install sidewalks on Milwood Road, make sure there is a sidewalk wherever there is a crosswalk and inspect and replace sidewalks as needed throughout town
- Parking regulations and parking meters—check meters to make sure the message is consistent – consider charging for parking 24 hours/7 days a week
- Adding wayfinding signage
- Street paving—look at First Street and Bridge Street,
- Adequate staffing for positions
- Link walking trails
- Check on abandoned properties
- Routinely inform Council of the status of projects including capital projects, non-normal purchases – Excel sheet added to Dropbox updated monthly
- Parking concerns—add a map on the town's website with locations of free municipal parking

- Move forward with the FERN project and schedule dedication of Hotel Weyanoke FERN garden
- County schools—afterschool mentorship program, suggested Council meet with school superintendent to discuss schools
- The intersection of Oak, High, and Griffin—is the town looking at grant funding for the roundabout, add intersection to the project list
- Staff position to handle communications, marketing, public relations
- Prioritize projects for funding

Mayor Whitus thanked everyone for their participation.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

David E. Whitus, Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk