

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON JANUARY 9, 2019

Mayor Whitus called to order the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia.

Those present were Mayor D.E. Whitus, presiding, and Council members D.E. Dwyer, D.L. Hunter, B.R. Vincent, T.M. Pairet, A.D. Reid, J.J. Davis, and G.C. Cole.

Staff present were Town Manager, Gerald Spates; Assistant Town Manager, C. Scott Davis, Ph.D.; Town Attorney, Gary Elder; Town Treasurer, Carol Anne Seal; Chief of Police, Andy Ellington; Administrative Assistant, Jackie Vaughan, and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko.

Mayor Whitus called the meeting to order. Mr. Scott Davis gave the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Reid.

The Town Clerk called the roll, noting all members as present.

Mayor Whitus announced that the agenda would be set aside to recognize the Town employees that had served the Town of Farmville for twenty-five (25) years.

Mr. Spates said it was rewarding to recognize employees that have been with the Town for a long time. He introduced Town Surveyor, Will Nash and acknowledged his wife, Deanna, who is also an employee with the Town. Mr. Nash began his career with Farmville in August of 1993. Mr. Spates spoke of the tremendous job Mr. Nash has done for the Town and mentioned his time in the military, serving in the National Guard from 1987 to 2007, and the Air Force from 1977 to 1981. He thanked Mr. Nash for his service and congratulated him on 25 years with the Town of Farmville. Mayor Whitus also expressed appreciation for Mr. Nash's service and presented him with a watch in recognition of his 25 years with the Town of Farmville. Mr. Nash thanked Council for the past 25 years. He spoke of the longevity of Town's employees and said the Town of Farmville is a good place to work. Mr. Spates then introduced Sergeant Danny Bowman of the Farmville Police Department. Sergeant Bowman began his career as a Police Officer with the Town of Farmville in February of 1993 and was promoted to Sergeant in March of 2004. Mr. Spates and Mayor Whitus congratulated and thanked Sergeant Bowman for 25 years of service to the Farmville community. Sergeant Bowman shared comments he had received from visitors commenting on how safety and the cleanliness of the town. He credited those comments to well-

trained Police Officers, and employees of the Public Works Department, under the direction of a great leader, Town Manager, Gerry Spates.

Council returned to the regular order of business.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Whitus announced the public comment period and reminded guests to limit their comments to three minutes.

Mr. Robert Roseboro, a business owner in Farmville, addressed Council. Mr. Roseboro stated he appeared before Council to raise funds for a community event, “We Will Move.” The event is geared towards teens and is scheduled to take place in April at the Moton Museum. The program would highlight the history of the community and its struggle for Civil Rights in education. He spoke of the April 23, 1951 student walkout, led by 16-year-old Barbara Johns. The program would capitalize on the present and work towards instilling the belief that one person can be the person to do something great. Local speakers will be presenting, and Mr. Roseboro is hoping to partner with the town, hospital, local businesses, restaurants, hotels for sponsorships.

Ms. Jen Cox, President of the Farmville Downtown Partnership (FDP), addressed Council. Ms. Cox began by saying that 2018 was a transition year for the Farmville Downtown Partnership and that the organization has listened to the stakeholders and merchants. FDP is working with a recruiter to fill the position of Program Manager. The position was advertised, and 25 applications were received. Ms. Cox invited the Council to meet with the finalist, once the Committee has reached that point. She updated the Council on the annual Virginia Main Street reaccreditation process and reported that the FDP had added five new positions to its Board, bringing the total Board members to 15 members. She spoke on economic development, filling vacant stores and the importance of communication. Ms. Cox asked Council members to contact her if they had any questions.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and with all Council members voting “aye,” the motion was granted to approve the consent agenda, as presented. The consent agenda included the draft minutes of the December 12, 2018, Joint Special Call meeting and the draft minutes of the December 12, 2018, regular Council meeting.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT

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

BACKGROUND: Mrs. Seal provided the Council with a brief explanation of the Capital Improvement Account. She stated that payment was made from the Capital Improvement Account for two (2) Dodge vehicles and labor to install equipment and bumper guards, leaving a balance of \$305,703.43.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PAY THE BILLS

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

BACKGROUND: Mayor Whitus asked the Finance and Ordinance Committee to research the new prospective financial software to ensure the Town has the option of direct deposit for payroll. He noticed a recent purchase of payroll checks for \$1,018.17.

Bills Printed in Minute Book

ESTABLISH A BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE REQUEST ON BEHALF OF POPLAR HILL DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LLC AND HERBERTON POPLAR HILL COMMERCIAL I, LLP FOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

Mayor Whitus reestablished a Boundary Adjustment Committee, appointing Council members: Reid, Pairet, and Davis to serve on the committee. Mr. Reid will serve as Chairman of the committee.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates stated there had been several requests for boundary adjustment, including a recent request from Hampden-Sydney College, who own approximately 300 acres of land at The Manor. At the December Council meeting, letters were presented to Council on behalf of Hill Development Group, LLC and the Herberton Poplar Hill Commercial I, LLP for boundary adjustment into the Town of Farmville. Council continued the request until maps of the area could be reviewed. Mr. Spates pointed out that Council had a Boundary Adjustment Committee in the past and suggested the committee be re-established to review and make recommendations for boundary adjustment requests. Mr. Davis inquired as to whether the Town of Farmville waterlines were currently in place at The Manor. Mr. Spates advised that town waterlines are currently in place serving The Manor.

REQUEST FOR BUDGET AMENDMENT

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Davis, and with a recorded vote with Council members Hunter, Vincent, Pairet, Reid, Davis, Cole and Dwyer voting “aye,” the motion was approved to adopt Resolution #2018.12.01 to amend the 2018-2019 Town Budget.

BACKGROUND: A public hearing was held tonight, no one present wished to address Council. The Department of Aviation has allocated funds that must be spent by June 30, 2019, for the pavement and lighting rehabilitation design of the runway at the Farmville Regional Airport. The total amount of the grant awarded is \$389,320.00 with the Federal Aviation Administration awarding 90 percent (\$350,388.00) and the Virginia Department of Aviation awarding 8 percent (\$31,145.00). The Town of Farmville has a match of 2 percent, which is \$7,787.00.

REQUEST TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE WATER FUND BALANCE TO REBUILD THE TRAVELING SCREEN FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with a recorded vote with Council members Vincent, Pairet, Reid, Davis, Cole, Dwyer, and Hunter voting “aye,” the motion was approved to transfer funds from the Water Fund Balance to rebuild the traveling screen for the Water Treatment Plant. The cost to rebuild the screen with chains and screens is \$52,589.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates stated the Farmville Water Plant was built in 1976, and the traveling screen is over 42 years old, with having had only minor repairs over the years. The traveling screen connects to the line coming from the Appomattox River. It pulls out debris before it goes into the raw water pump house, protecting the pump. The screen is in Louisiana to be rebuilt. The cost to purchase a new traveling screen is over \$300,000. Mr. Spates recommended Council transfer \$52,589 from the Water Fund Balance to rebuild the traveling screen.

REQUEST TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE SEWER CONTINGENCY FUND TO PURCHASE A REPLACEMENT PUMP FOR THE HIGH STREET PUMP STATION

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Pairet, and with a recorded vote with Council members Pairet, Reid, Davis, Cole, Dwyer, Hunter and Vincent voting “aye,” the motion was approved to transfer funds from the Sewer Contingency Fund to purchase a replacement pump for the High Street Pump Station. The pump cost \$22,250, and it will take approximately 16 weeks for delivery.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates explained to Council that in December, the Public Works Department had to replace one of the sewer pumps at the High Street Pump Station, using a spare

“backup” pump that was on hand. He stated that High Street Pump Station is the Town’s most important sewer pump station, with a flow of 1,200 gallons per minutes. Mr. Spates advised Council, in the 2018-2019 Town budget there is \$3,800 remaining in sewer maintenance for pump stations. He recommended transferring \$22,250 from Sewer Contingency to cover the cost of the replacement pump.

INFORMATION – INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE REQUEST ON BEHALF OF THE HEART OF VIRGINIA

On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with all Council members voting “aye,” the motion was approved to accept the recommendation of the Infrastructure Committee and continue the request on behalf of the Heart of Virginia Board.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Pairet advised Council that the Infrastructure Committee received a follow-up letter from the Heart of Virginia Board with more details concerning their original request. The original request was for the evening fireworks to return to the Farmville Regional Airport or change the entertainment night to Friday at Riverside Park with fireworks. The Committee would like to continue the matter until they have time to review and discuss the additional information.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT FROM THE NARCOTIC’S FUND

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Pairet, and with a recorded vote with Council members Pairet, Reid, Davis, Cole, Dwyer, Hunter and Vincent voting “aye,” the motion was approved to authorize payment of \$80.97 from the Narcotic’s Fund to Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc.

BACKGROUND: Chief Ellington advised Council that three (3) gas mask pouches were ordered last year, but were on back order. He stated the gas mask pouches had been received.

RESOLUTION – PRINCE EDWARD VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD INC.

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Pairet, and with all Council members voting “aye,” the motion was approved to adopt the Resolution in Support of the 50th Anniversary of the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc.

RECOGNITION OF THE
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

WHEREAS, the Prince Edward County Volunteer Rescue Squad has served the citizens of the Town of Farmville and Prince Edward County for over fifty years; and

WHEREAS, Farmville is fortunate to be able to rely upon the professional competence of the members of the volunteer rescue squad who unselfishly donate their time responding to various calls; and

WHEREAS, volunteer members have exemplified their leadership, dedication and commitment to Providing an admirable service to this community during times of need and crisis; and

WHEREAS, the members have served with courage and gallantry, performing duties with the utmost skill, dedication and professionalism and deserve recognition for both professional expertise and unquestionable valor; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the Farmville Town Council recognize the Prince Edward County Volunteer Rescue Squad and its members who tirelessly give of their time and energy in humanitarian efforts and thank them for their hard work.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of Farmville, Virginia hereby goes on record as recognizing and commending the Prince Edward County Volunteer Rescue Squad for fifty years of exemplary service.

BACKGROUND: Mayor Whitus stated in light of the 50th Anniversary of the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad, he requested Mrs. Hricko to prepare a Resolution of Support on behalf of Town Council; and also reminded Council members of the invitation to the 50th Anniversary event.

PROCLAMATION – HONORING VICE MAYOR A.D. REID

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with Council members Davis, Cole, Dwyer, Hunter, Vincent, and Pairet voting “aye,” and Council member Reid abstaining, the motion was approved to adopt the Proclamation honoring Vice Mayor Reid’s retirement from the United States Postal Service and his service to this community. Council member Reid abstained stating the Proclamation was acknowledging his retirement from the United States Postal Service.

**A Proclamation
In Honor of
Armstead D. “Chuckie” Reid**

WHEREAS, Mr. Armstead D. “Chuckie” Reid is retiring after serving over 29 years as an employee of the United States Postal Service in Farmville, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reid has been an integral part of the Farmville community his entire life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reid served in the U.S. Air Force for four (4) years from 1972-1976; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reid was elected to the Farmville Town Council in July of 1986; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed as Vice-Mayor by his fellow council members in July of 2008, and still holds that title; and

WHEREAS, he also served as Vice President of the Prince Edward Branch of the NAACP, President of the Community Helpers of Prince Edward, a member of the Human Development and Education Policy Committee for the Virginia Municipal League and Vice Chair and Representative for the Town of Farmville on the Moton Museum Board.

NOW THEREFORE, in honor of Armstead D. “Chuckie” Reid service to our community, and the influence he has had as a representative of the Farmville Town Council and as an employee of the United States Postal, I hereby proclaim that Mr. Reid be recognized throughout the year for his dedication to the Town of Farmville.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town to be affixed this 9th day of January 2019.

BACKGROUND: Mayor Whitus requested the Town Clerk to prepare a proclamation in honor of Mr. Reid for his many years of service to the community and to honor of his retirement from the United States Postal Service. Mr. Reid is retiring after serving over 29 years as an employee of the postal service and has served on Council for over 32 years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Ordinance Committee, Chairman Davis—No report

Public Safety Committee, Chairman Hunter—No report

Personnel Committee, Chairman Reid—No report

Infrastructure Committee, Chairman Pairet— No report

Town Property/Building Committee, Chairman Dwyer—No report

FERN Project Committee, Chairman Dwyer—Mr. Dwyer stated that the Hotel Weyanoke sponsored the first FERN garden located at the entryway on South Main Street, and State Wide Realty is interested in sponsoring a garden at South Main and Milnwood Road. Also, Mr. Dwyer added that Mr. Spates has four additional businesses that have also expressed an interest in the FERN project. Mr. Dwyer spoke of the FERN garden project as a great advertising tool for businesses. For \$5,000.00 and a five-year commitment and the annual maintenance fee of \$400.00

a business sponsoring a garden would pay less than \$125.00 a month for advertising, plus the gardens help beautify the town.

Parks/Recreation Committee, Chairman Cole—Mr. Cole reported that the Recreation Committee met this evening to discuss the Lions Club playground area at Wilck’s Lake. Also discussed was adding additional trails at Wilck’s Lake and looking into adding playground equipment at Haynes Street Park or possibly by DMV. The Committee discussed the basketball courts at Haynes Street Park and agreed that that area might be geared towards older youth. The playground equipment may be better suited at a location away from the basketball courts.

Mr. Cole stated staff was directed to prepare cost estimates for the Finance and Ordinance Committee on the adding trails at Wilck’s Lake and to also look into the possibility of leasing/purchasing property from DMV for a playground area by Haynes Street Park.

REQUEST TO INSTALL A MURAL IN THE TOWN HALL

On motion by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Vincent and with all Council members voting “aye,” the motion was approved to accept the recommendation of the Town Manager and authorize the installation of the “Reading Rainbow” mural in the Town Hall. The “Reading Rainbow” mural is a 16’x 6’ acrylic painting on white birch panel painted by local artist/muralist Monty Montgomery during a collaborative “LIVE” mural painting at the 2018 Virginia Children’s Book Festival at Longwood University.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates stated that Mr. Monty Montgomery had done several artworks in the community, including the mural at the Farmers Market and a mural at the Prince Edward County Middle School. He spoke in support of displaying the mural in the Town Hall and said there would be no cost to the town, adding that the mural would be a nice addition to the lobby.

TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORT

Mr. Spates gave Council a brief update on the following matters:

- Updated members on the projected winter weather forecast for the area on Saturday and Sunday;
- VML Legislative Day is Thursday, January 24th; the afternoon is designated to meet with legislators and attend committee meetings;
- The Farmville Emergency Communication Center is set to dispatch for Longwood University and will begin 12-hour shifts on Sunday, January 13th. The town has hired two

full-time employees and promoted one part-time employee to full-time. The equipment had been installed, and the Center is ready.

Chief Andy Ellington announced that the Farmville Police Department's "National Night Out" ranked #15 in the country and the Police Department is taking applications for the annual Citizens Academy that will begin soon.

REQUEST TO SIGN CONTRACT WITH BROWN EDWARDS & COMPANY, LLP FOR AUDITING SERVICES

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Pairet, and with a recorded vote with Council members Davis, Cole, Dwyer, Hunter, Vincent Pairet and Reid, voting "aye," the motion was approved to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Brown Edwards & Company, LLP for auditing services for the Town of Farmville and the Farmville Industrial Development Authority.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Scott Davis stated a request for proposal was advertised and the Finance and Ordinance Committee interviewed three (3) auditing firms. The Committee recommended staff negotiate a contract with Brown Edwards & Company, LLP. The firm's agreeable contractual terms are three years with an option of three additional years services. Council member Davis, Chairman of the Finance and Ordinance Committee, spoke in support of selecting Brown Edwards & Company, LLP to provide auditing services for the Town.

REQUEST FOR STREET LIGHT ON JESSE'S WAY

Mr. Pairet reported that the Infrastructure Committee met to discuss the request on behalf of Mr. Jim Fauci to install a street light on Jesse's Way. The Committee discussed the possibility of solar lighting because the electrical lines in that area are underground. Upon investigating the solar lights lumens, Mr. Spates recommended Infrastructure Committee continue the matter of installing a street light until he can visit the area of Jesse's Way to compare the use of solar lights vs. decorative light. Mr. Spates stated the Town's policy on installing street lights is similar to other localities and repeated that street lights are designed for lighting streets, not yards.

MAYOR WHITUS AND TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTED ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS

No additional comments.

CLOSED SESSION – LEGAL

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.7** of the Code of Virginia, for

briefings by staff members and legal counsel on specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel.

The Mayor announced a five-minute recess and returned to closed session.

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: 7

MOTION: Davis SECOND: Pairet

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

NOES: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: No one

ABSENT DURING MEETING: No one

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

David E. Whitus, Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk