

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON APRIL 10, 2019**

Mayor David Whitus called to order the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia.

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

Those present were Mayor David 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, Scott Davis, Town Attorney, Gary Elder; Town Treasurer, Carol Anne Seal; Chief of Police, Andy Ellington; Public Works Director, Robin Atkins; Administrative Assistant, Jackie Vaughan, and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko.

Council member Davis gave the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council member Reid.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mayor Whitus announced the public period. No one present wished to address the Council.

Mayor Whitus set the agenda aside to hear from Dr. Taylor Reveley, President of Longwood University.

President Reveley proudly announced that Longwood University had received a 15 million dollar gift from Longwood alumna and philanthropist Joan Brock. The donation is Longwood's largest financial contribution to date and is set to be used to construct a new convocation and events center, which will be built on the current site of the university's tennis courts, next to Willet Hall. The Joan Perry Brock Center will be used for university-wide ceremonies, athletic events, lectures, and concerts. The Center will also be used for Longwood's men's and women's Division 1 basketball programs and will seat over 2,500. Construction is expected to be completed by the spring of 2022. Preliminary estimates for the building range from \$35 million to \$40 million. President Reveley stated the tennis courts will be relocated this summer off Brock Commons. Joan Brock and her late husband Macon's previous donation of \$5.9 million in 2016 was used for creating programs for students allowing them to travel across the country to study cross-disciplinary civic challenges and to build the pedestrian walkway on campus, known as The Brock Commons. Mayor Whitus also expressed his pleasure and excitement at this great addition to the

community. Adding that by having a place in town where the community can gather will attract visitors to the region.

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Vincent, and with all Council members voting “aye,” the motion was granted to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

**BACKGROUND:** The consent agenda included the draft minutes of the regular Council Work Session meeting of March 6, 2019, and the regular Council meeting of March 13, 2019.

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT**

On a 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 update on transactions made during March and informed the Council that 98.75% of the Real Estate Taxes had been collected.

**REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PAY THE BILLS**

On a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Hunter, 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 presented.

**BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Reid, Chairman of Boundary Adjustment Committee, instructed Mr. Spates to schedule a joint meeting with Prince Edward and Cumberland Counties to discuss the two requests for citizen-initiated boundary adjustments into Farmville.

**UPDATE ON PROBATION AND PAROLE EXPANSION**

Mr. Davis, Assistant Town Manager, reported that the engineering firm of Thompson and Litton, Inc. had provided a cost estimate of over two million dollars for the expansion and renovation of the Probation and Parole building. The Department of General Services wants to have the project amortized over ten years. Using a ten-year amortization schedule, the monthly rent payment would be between twenty thousand to thirty thousand dollars a month. Mr. Davis stated that he has been in contact with Mr. Ted Cole from Davenport, to look at interest rates for bank loans, bonds and/or through VRA. Bank interest rates range between 3 and 3.5 percent based on a recent request for proposals for similar projects.

**REQUEST A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL AS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH**

On a motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Vincent, and with a recorded vote with Council members Hunter, Vincent, Pairet, Reid, Davis, Cole, and Dwyer voting “aye,” the motion was approved to adopt a proclamation recognizing April as National Poetry Month.

**PROCLAMATION  
IN RECOGNITION OF APRIL AS  
NATIONAL POETRY MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Academy of American Poets established the month of April as National Poetry Month in 1996; and

**WHEREAS**, National Poetry Month seeks to highlight the ongoing achievement of American poets by introducing Americans to the pleasures and benefits of reading poetry; by bringing poets and poetry to the public in immediate and innovative ways and by making poetry an important part of our children’s education; and

**WHEREAS**, as National Poetry Month, under the leadership and direction of the Academy of American Poets, is now the largest literary celebration in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, poetry enriches the lives of all Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, poetry, as an essential part of the arts and humanities, affects every aspect of life in America today, including education, the economy, and community pride and development; and

**WHEREAS**, poetry has produced some of the nation’s leading creative artists and has inspired other artists in fields such as music, theatre, film, dance, and the visual arts.

**NOW, THEREFORE IT IS PROCLAIMED**, by the Mayor and Town Council that the month of April be recognized as National Poetry Month in the Town of Farmville, Virginia, in honor of poets across America that share their talent with the world.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the Town of Farmville, Virginia to be affixed on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, in the year 2019.

**BACKGROUND:** At the March Council meeting, Mrs. Vicky Page, with the Friends of the Library, requested Council adopt a proclamation recognizing April as National Poetry Month.

**REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT FROM THE NARCOTIC’S FUND**

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Reid, and with a recorded vote with Council members Vincent, Pairet, Reid, Davis, Cole, Dwyer and Hunter voting “aye,” the motion was approved to authorize payment of \$1139.95 from the Narcotic’s Fund to Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc.

**BACKGROUND:** Chief Ellington explained that the payment is for the purchase of four (4) riot helmets and one (1) tactical uniform and stated all the items have been received.

**REQUEST COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-04-02, AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH BENCHMARK COMMUNITY BANK FOR POSITIVE PAY AND ELECTRONIC WIRE TRANSFERS**

On motion by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Davis and with a recorded vote with Council members Pairet, Reid, Davis, Cole, Dwyer, Hunter and Vincent voting “aye,” the motion was approved to adopt Resolution #2019-04-02, authorization to enter into agreements with Benchmark Community Bank for Positive Pay And Electronic Transfers.

**RESOLUTION  
AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO  
AGREEMENTS WITH BENCHMARK COMMUNITY BANK  
FOR POSITIVE PAY AND ELECTRONIC WIRE TRANSFERS  
#2019-04-02**

***WHEREAS***, the Town of Farmville is a customer with Benchmark Community Bank; and

***WHEREAS***, Benchmark Community Bank is offering a new feature, Positive Pay and electronic wire transfers for their customers; and

***WHEREAS***, Positive Pay is an automated fraud detection tool for all checks issued; and

***WHEREAS***, electronic wire transfers offer Benchmark Community Bank customers the capability to transfer funds electronically; and

***WHEREAS***, the Finance and Ordinance Committee is recommending Farmville Town Council approve Town Treasurer, Carol Anne Seal, and Deputy Treasurer, Audrey Napier as authorized signatures on the electronic transfer; and

***WHEREAS***, the Finance and Ordinance Committee is recommending Mayor David E. Whitus, Vice Mayor Armstead Reid and Council member Jesse J. Davis, Jr. as authorized second signatures on electronic wire transfers; and

**WHEREAS**, Benchmark Bank has offered these additional security measures to the Town of Farmville at no additional cost; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance and Ordinance Committee has reviewed these services and recommends the Council consider enrolling Positive Pay and the electronic wire transfer services.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Farmville Town Council accepts the recommendation of the Finance and Ordinance Committee and authorizes the Town Treasurer to sign the Positive Pay Agreement between the Town of Farmville and Benchmark Community Bank and for the Town Treasurer and Mayor to sign the Wire Transfer Agreement between the Town of Farmville and Benchmark Community Bank.

**BACKGROUND:** Mrs. Seal stated that the Town has the opportunity to work with Benchmark Community Bank on its new added feature called “Positive Pay.” Positive Pay is an automated fraud detection tool and provided the Council with information on how the program works.

Mrs. Seal added that an extra feature of the program is electronic wire transfer. She said the current method of transferring payroll funds will be replaced with this feature. Mrs. Seal said since the Town is working with Benchmark as a “test pilot” on these new services, there will be no fee for the Town.

**2019 VML POLICY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

Mayor Whitus stated the matter of 2019 VML Policy Committee nominations were discussed at the regular Council work session on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Council was advised to contact the Town Clerk if interested in serving on one of VML’s Policy Committees. Mr. Spates reported that three (3) members had expressed interest: Mr. Hunter will be on the General Laws Committee, Mr. Vincent on the Community and Economic Development Committee and Mr. Reid on the Human Development and Education Committee. Mayor Whitus reminded Council the deadline to seek nominations to be on a Committee is April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**REQUEST ADOPTION OF PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF APRIL 14-20, 2019 AS NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS WEEK**

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Dwyer and with a recorded vote with Council members Reid, Davis, Cole, Dwyer, Hunter, Vincent, and Pairet voting “aye,” the motion was

approved to the adopt the proclamation in recognition of April 14 – 20 of 2019, as National Public Safety Communications Week.

**A PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 14 - 20 of 2019 AS  
NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK**

***WHEREAS***, emergencies can occur at any time that requires police, fire or emergency medical services; and

***WHEREAS***, when an emergency occurs the prompt response of police, firefighters and emergency services is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and

***WHEREAS***, the safety of our police officers and firefighters is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Farmville Emergency Communication Center; and

***WHEREAS***, professional 911 Dispatchers are a vital link for our police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and ensuring their safety; and

***WHEREAS***, 911 Dispatchers of the Farmville Emergency Communication Center have contributed substantially to the safety of this community; and

***WHEREAS***, each dispatcher has exhibited compassion, understanding, and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year.

***NOW, THEREFORE IT IS PROCLAIMED***, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Farmville, the week of April 14 – 20, 2019 to be National Public Safety Telecommunication Week in Farmville, Virginia, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our community and its citizens safe.

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF***, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the Town of Farmville, Virginia to be affixed on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 2019.

**BACKGROUND:** Mr. Spates stated that the third week of April is recognized as National Public Safety Communications Week - in honor of the service, dedication, and commitment 911 dispatchers provide as the vital link for the community and emergency personnel. He said this year's dates are April 14 thru April 20. Mr. Spates invited the Council to a luncheon on Thursday, April 18, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in appreciation of the Town's dispatchers.

**REFER TO INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE – REQUEST ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF GROVE STREET**

On a motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Reid, and with all Council members voting “aye,” the motion was approved to refer the request for the abandonment of a portion of Grove Street Street to the Infrastructure Committee and to advertise a public hearing for the May 8 Council meeting. Mr. Spates stated that all adjacent property owners would be notified.

**BACKGROUND:** Mr. Spates stated the request is on behalf of Saint Theresa Catholic Church for the area by their multi-purpose community building located on Grove Street. The request involves a 10’ strip, approximately 3,146 sq. feet. The area is currently being used by the church for parking, but the church would like to add on to the community building. He said, the three adjoining property owners will be notified, and a public hearing must be held. If approved, the street would remain open, and the area dead ends into the pedestrian bridge.

**REQUEST ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION #2019-04-03 – AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH A RESTRICTED ACCOUNT FOR FUNDS RECEIVED FROM LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY**

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Dwyer and with a recorded vote with Council members Davis, Cole, Dwyer, Hunter, Vincent, Pairet and Reid voting “aye,” the motion was approved to the adopt Resolution #2019-04-03 – authorization to establish a restricted account for funds received from Longwood University for the Town’s dispatch services to the Longwood University Police Department.

RESOLUTION  
TO ESTABLISH A RESTRICTED ACCOUNT  
FOR DISPATCH SERVICES  
FOR LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
#2019-04-03

***WHEREAS***, the Town of Farmville and Longwood University have entered into an Agreement for the Town to provide dispatch services to the Longwood University Police Department beginning January 25, 2019; and

***WHEREAS***, Longwood University has agreed to pay the Town \$175,000.00 in exchange for dispatch services to the Longwood University Police Department for the remainder of the fiscal year 2018-2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Longwood University agrees to pay \$350,000.00 per year to the Town in exchange for emergency dispatch service beginning July 1, 2019. Payment shall be due on or before August 15 of each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance and Ordinance Committee has determined that it is in the best interest of the Town of Farmville to establish a restricted fund account for monies in excess of the salaries, benefits, uniform, travel and training, dues and associated membership for dispatch services related to providing emergency dispatch service to the Longwood University Police Department.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Farmville Town Council, at its regular monthly meeting, on April 10, 2019, that prorated funds in excess of the salaries, benefits, uniform, travel and training, dues and association membership for dispatching services related to providing emergency dispatch service to the Longwood University Police Department be added to a restricted fund and used for capital expenses and technology upgrades and equipment associated with providing emergency dispatch service to the Longwood University

**BACKGROUND:** The Finance and Ordinance Committee has recommended Council approve establishing a restricted fund account for funds received from Longwood University for dispatching that exceed the essential services such as salaries, uniforms, training, etc. The excess funds would be placed in a restricted account and used for items such as computers, software, and new consoles. Mr. Spates stated Longwood's payment of \$175,000 was for a partial year and estimated \$80,000 to \$90,000 remaining after essential services for this fiscal year.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Parks and Recreation Committee, Chairman Cole**— Mr. Cole stated it's exciting to see the progress being made at Wilck's Lake for the new Lions Club playground. Mr. Spates updated Council that the house and sheds, beside the play area, will be demolished by the end of next week.

**Finance and Ordinance Committee, Chairman Davis**— No report

**Personnel Committee, Chairman Reid**—Requested the Town Clerk schedule a Personnel Committee meeting

**Infrastructure Committee, Chairman Pairet**— Mr. Pairet gave a brief update on the intersection of High, Oak, and Griffin. He stated that Mr. Rick Youngblood, with VDOT, reported that he has been in contact with his consultant and he is putting together the scope to move the project to the 30% plan. Mr. Pairet said there should be movement on the project within the next two to three weeks.

**Public Safety Committee, Chairman Hunter**—No report

**Town Property/Building Committee, Chairman Dwyer**—No report

**FERN Committee, Chairman Dwyer**— Mr. Dwyer stated Mr. Larry Atkins of State Wide Realty has sponsored a new entry garden that has been installed at South Main Street and Milnwood Road. He said Mr. Spates and the Public Works Department worked to make the gardens more affordable and the project is beginning to increase. Mr. Dwyer mentioned that the gardens require very little maintenance and offer high visibility and will benefit the person sponsoring the garden. Mr. Spates thanked Robin Atkins, Director of Public Works and Jay Wilkerson, Horticulturist for their hard work installing the gardens.

**TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Spates reported on the following items:

The new retail sales figures are available, Mr. Spates gave an overview of the report;

Google 360 will be in town working on a project with Mr. Dickie Cralle at Green Front Furniture;

The Town's annual Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday, April 13, at the Sports Arena has been rescheduled until Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

The new parking meters have been installed. The amount collected increased from \$3,665 in February to \$6,312 in March. The increase was attributed to the meter being changed to collect quarters, dimes and nickels.

Paving work will begin next week, beginning at Fourth Avenue Extended, then Chamber Street, Bridge Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Street, South Main Street from Williams Street to the Corporate Limit, Glenn Street and Watson Street. Council will receive a written paving schedule.

The new Lions Club playground is being installed. The asbestos has been removed from the house at Wilck's lake and it will be demolished by the end of next week.

The Water Plant was awarded the 2018 Excellence in Waterworks Operations Performance Award. The plant continues to rate very high in the State on water production.

The High Bridge Trail will open either Thursday evening or Friday morning. The Trail will be closed next week east of town, from Rice to Burkeville.

The street light on Gilliam Drive has been installed.

There were several locations with a power outage due to the recent storm. The only problem the Town experienced was a street light at South Main and Peery Drive. There was no cost to repair the light.

The Farmers Market will open Saturday, April 20 and Bob Stratton will be the new Market Manager.

Chief Ellington stated that the department is currently working on the details of the Heart of Virginia Festival

Robin Atkins, Director of Public Works, spoke of the upcoming lining of the streets and reminded Council of the spring clean-up campaign scheduled for Monday, April 15, 2019.

**MAYOR WHITUS AND TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTED ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS**

Mr. Pairet inquired on the progress of the South Main and Milnwood Road project. Mr. Spates stated all the easements for the project have been completed and they are now waiting on the Federal government to sign off on the paperwork to proceed with bidding the project.

Mr. Reid inquired about the progress of the Third Street Pedestrian Bridge project. Mr. Spates spoke of the recent rain events and said the project is approximately 45 days behind schedule. The project should be completed sometime in August.

**CLOSED SESSION –PERSONNEL AND LAND**

On a motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Dwyer and with all Council members voting “aye,” Council went into closed session under **Section 2.2-3711.A.3** of the Code of Virginia, for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and **Section 2.2-3711(a)(1)** of the Code of Virginia, for discussion with the town manager on personnel matters.

Council returned to the regular order of business.

***CLOSED MEETING CERTIFICATION***

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

MOTION: Davis

SECOND: Cole

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

NOES: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: No one

ABSENT DURING MEETING: No one

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Clerk

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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David E. Whitus, Mayor

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Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk

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