

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2020

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia, present were Mayor David E. Whitus, presiding, and Council G.C. Cole, D.L. Hunter, B.R. Vincent, T.M. Pairet, D.E. Dwyer, A.D. Reid, and J.J. Davis.

Staff present was Chief of Police, Andy Ellington; Town Treasurer, Carol Anne Seal; Administrative Assistant, Jackie Vaughan, and Clerk of Council, Lisa Hricko. Absent was Scott Davis, Interim Town Manager.

Mayor Whitus called the meeting to order. Reverend Tom Robinson, with the Farmville Presbyterian Church, provided the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Mayor Reid. Mayor Whitus announced that Reverend Robinson would be retiring in May of this year, and he wanted to take this opportunity to publicly thank him for all he has done for the community and for his leading of the invocation at several Town Council meetings.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Joe Fowkes, one of the property owners of 142 North Main Street, Farmville, addressed the Council on tap fees. Mr. Fowkes said he, his wife, and a friend had invested 1.2 million dollars of their retirement money in this community. He said having only three minutes to address the Council, he would try to summarize his concerns.

Mr. Fowkes said when a potential developer comes to town, they rely on the information they receive from the community. A developer may ask: Are there any tax credits? Is the property located in the Enterprise Zone? What incentives does the town offer? In most cases, the developer would seek out the Economic Development person, and in Farmville, that was the Town Manager, Gerry Spates.

Mr. Fowkes stated he spoke with the Town Manager numerous times on his project. One of the questions asked was, "how would the Town handle the situation if it was determined that the project needed additional water?" He informed the Council that presently, there are five commercial spaces downstairs, and apartments will be upstairs. Mr. Fowkes stated he reviewed the Town ordinance and questioned the Town Manager about the hook-up fees, adding that as a

developer, he thought the water hook-up fee should be grandfathered in. Mr. Fowkes said that Gerry said, “we would work something out.” A year later, construction begins.

Mr. Fowkes stated he paid \$16,000 for the sprinkler hook-up and has no issue with the cost of \$16,000 for labor plus materials for the water taps. However, he became concerned when he learns that he is being charged the tap fee of \$4,500 for each of the eight taps, creating an additional charge of \$36,000. Now the cost for water hook-up for the project is \$52,000. He said he feels the amount is excessive. Mr. Fowkes reiterated his conversation with “Gerry,” saying he was told that something could be worked out.

Mayor Whitus informed the Council that he, Vice Mayor Reid, and Town staff had met yesterday with Mr. Fowkes regarding Mr. Fowkes’ concerns and that he is placing this matter with the Finance and Ordinance Committee since it is dealing with finance. He suggested Mr. Fowkes follow up with Mr. Jamie Davis, Chairman of the Finance and Ordinance Committee.

Mr. Fowkes asked to make one more comment. He spoke of there being a learning curve in dealing with the Enterprise Zone information that is on the Town’s website. The pamphlet refers to a “25% or \$1,000 discount, whichever is the greater discount will be issued”. He said he feels the Town is not using the right amount.

Mayor Whitus thanked Mr. Fowkes for coming and for investing in Farmville. He said the Finance and Ordinance Committee will review the ordinance and come back to the Council with a recommendation.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

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

BACKGROUND: Mrs. Seal, Town Treasurer, provided an overview of the January Treasurer’s Report. Also, she noted that the Town had collected 92.09 percent of the 2019 real estate and personnel property tax.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PAY THE BILLS

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

BACKGROUND: The Town Treasurer informed the Council that at the February work session, the Council approved payment from the Narcotic’s Fund of \$6,000 to Citizen Observer,

LLC, for the purchase of Tip411. However, the check was issued through purchase orders, and an adjustment of \$6,000 needs to be made to the bills that were presented to the Council. The total amount of the bills to be paid is \$310,132.90, less manual checks.

REQUEST ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS

On the motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Pairet and with a recorded vote with Council members Cole, Hunter, Vincent, Pairet, Dwyer, Reid, and Davis voting “aye,” the resolution authorizing the transfer of \$14,770 from the 2019/2020 Town Budget under General Fund Contingency to the Town Manager’s Department under the line item of Emergency Services Grant was approved.

Resolution # 2020-02-01

To amend the General Fund under the Unrestricted Funds Account for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2020. To transfer funds in the aggregate amount of \$14,770 from General Fund Contingency to the Town Manager’s Department to the line item Emergency Services Grant. The purpose of the transfer is to fund the additional cost of the grant in order to receive state funding.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FARMVILLE:

That a transfer of funds in the aggregate amount of \$14,770 from General Fund Contingency to the Town Manager’s Department to the line item Emergency Services Grant, be and is hereby authorized for the purpose of funding the Emergency Services Grant from a transfer from Contingency in the General Fund in the amount of \$14,770, to the Town Manager’s Department line item Emergency Services Grant.

That this resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage.

BACKGROUND: Mrs. Seal, Town Treasurer, reported that each year the Town applies and receives an Emergency Service grant of \$12,180. In the past, a portion of the Town Manager’s salary has been used as in-kind to match the grant. This year, the Town must spend double the amount of the grant to receive the grant funds, and a generator was purchased. She stated she is requesting authorization to move \$14,770 from the General Fund Contingency to the Town Manager’s Department to cover the cost to purchase the generator.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance and Ordinance—Jamie Davis, Chairman—no report
- Public Safety—Donald Hunter, Chairman— no report
- Personnel—Chuck Reid, Chairman—no report

- Infrastructure—Tommy Pairet, Chairman—no report
- Town Property/Building—Dan Dwyer, Chairman—no report
- Parks /Recreation—Brian Vincent, Chairman—no report
- Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad—Mr. Cole, Town representative—On January 27, 2020, the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad hired Deanna Jones as Executive Director. Mr. Coles plans to introduce Ms. Jones to Town Council at the March 11 Council meeting.

CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL

On the motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with all Council members voting “aye,” the Farmville Town Council convened in closed meeting pursuant to the Code of Virginia, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph A.1 of Section 2.2-3711, discussion in regards to prospective candidates for the executive search of a Town Manager.

The 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

MOTION: Davis

SECOND: Hunter

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

NOES: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: No one

ABSENT DURING MEETING: No one

Clerk

RECONVENED COUNCIL MEETING

On the motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Davis and with all Council members voting “aye,” the Council agreed to schedule a reconvened Council meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 21, 2020, in the Council Chamber.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

David E. Whitus, Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko Clerk