

REGULAR WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MARCH 4, 2020

At the regular work session of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 11:00 a.m., in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia, present were Mayor David E. Whitus, presiding, and Council members G.C. Cole, D.L. Hunter, B.R. Vincent, T.M. Pairet, D.E. Dwyer, A.D. Reid, and J.J. Davis.

Staff present were Town Manager, C. Scott Davis, Chief of Police, Andy Ellington, Town Treasurer, Carol Anne Seal, Town Horticulturist, Jay Wilkerson, Administrative Assistant, Jackie Vaughan and Clerk of Council, Lisa Hricko.

Mayor Whitus called the meeting to order.

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

Mayor Whitus set the agenda aside and addressed Town Council on the welcome events planned for Town Manager, Scott Davis. A committee has been formed, and Jen Kinne with the Farmville Chamber of Commerce will be spearheading fundraising for the events. There will be two events, both are planned for Thursday, April 2, 2020. The first event will be from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., upstairs in the foyer area of the Council Chamber, and the second event will be from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., at the Farmville Train Station. Both events are floating, and refreshments will be served. Mayor Whitus noted that April 2nd is also the Town Manager's birthday.

Mayor Whitus mentioned that it had been over 40 years since Farmville had welcomed a new Town Manager. He stated Chelsey White, Program Manager with Farmville Downtown Partnership, has offered to schedule time with the Town Manager to take him to meet the businesses on Main Street.

CLOSURE OF THE FARMVILLE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE POOL

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 closing the Farmville Municipal Golf Course Pool and will encourage Town residents to use the Fuqua School pool.

BACKGROUND: Town Manager, Scott Davis, stated that he had spoken with John Melton, Head of School at Fuqua School, in reference to the community's use of Fuqua's pool for the summer. Mr. Melton stated that Fuqua's pool is open to the community, and he feels they can take

on the additional people that may visit the pool. Mr. Davis mentioned that the Town's cost for swimmers is \$5 per person, and Fuqua's cost is \$6 per person. Discussions continued about the current condition of the Town's pool. Mr. Davis explained that a decision on the Town's pool must be made today because the Town has a limited amount of pool chemicals, and maintenance would need to begin to have the pool ready for the season. He asked Council for their recommendation on moving forward with one of the following options: invest the funds to repair and prepare the Town's pool for the swim season, or offer Fuqua a monetary contribution to assist with the additional visitors from the community that may use their pool.

TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Mr. Scott Davis gave a brief update, stating that some citizens had approached the Tree Board about looking at a tree planting proposal. The proposal would allow citizens to donate money for the choice between two (2) different size trees to be planted in honor or memory of someone. Mr. Davis said the individual would be given a certificate and the general location of the tree. He added that hopefully, in the future, there will be a display placed somewhere in the Town hall that lists the names and general locations of the donated trees. He then asked Mr. Wilkerson to address Council with more details.

Mr. Jay Wilkerson, Horticulturist, reiterated the information shared by Mr. Davis. He explained that the Tree Board would like to establish a publicly funded program that would allow more trees to be planted within the Town limits. He said the program would give a more tangible way for individuals or groups to make monetary donations to be allocated specifically toward the planting of new trees. Mr. Wilkerson said unlike the Arbor Day Foundation program, donors will be given a general location of where the seedling tree is located. He then elaborated on the program stating the following information: the contributions will be collected through the Treasurer's Office; the suggested donations amounts are \$125 for a 7-gallon container tree (6-8 feet) or \$250 for a 15-gallon container tree (8-10 feet); the cost will cover the purchase of at least one tree, installation materials and care after planting; trees will not have a specific signage or designation at the planting site; the locations of the tree planting will be chosen as needed; a variety of trees will be selected based on location and seasonal availability of trees; the planting of the trees will comply with the Town's Tree Ordinance; and the trees will be incorporated into new parks, parking lots, and other projects that will need trees. He stated Tree Board members suggested the Town could come up with something in the shape of a tree, and each time a tree is donated, a new leaf

could be added with the donation information. The program would begin on March 28, 2020, if Council approves the program.

Council is in support of the program but questioned the idea of not placing a plaque on the tree for identification purposes. Mr. Hunter stated that most people would want to know the specific tree that they have purchased. Mr. Wilkerson stated that if they specifically identify a tree, the Town may incur additional expenses if the tree were to be damaged or die, because the donor will expect the tree to be replaced.

EMPLOYEE HOLIDAYS

Mr. Scott Davis, Town Manager, stated that in previous years, Council has given employees a half-day off on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, like the State, in addition to the other holidays provided in the handbook and Town ordinance.

On behalf of the committee, the Town Manager completed a survey with the employees asking them to choose between the following: (1) Would you like the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to be a half-day holiday (following the State) and give up the Monday after Easter? Or (2) If the majority does not want the first option, do you want to keep the Monday after Easter or have the Friday before Easter and not continue following the State on getting the half-day off on Wednesday before Thanksgiving?

Mr. Davis informed Council that the employees have agreed to keeping the Monday after Easter off and not continue following the State on getting the half-day off on Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

UPDATE ON TOWN MOTEL

Mr. Scott Davis, Town Manager, gave Council a brief update on the status of the Town Motel. He stated the matter has gone through the court and received approval to demolish the structures. One of the lien holders, Mr. Patel, has said they will demolish the buildings. Mr. Davis said the Town will continue to move forward with the paperwork, and if Mr. Patel does not demolish the structures, as promised, the Town will do so and put a lien on the property to be reimbursed by the owners.

CONSIDER STUDY OF VIRGINIA RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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

approved granting the Town Manager authorization to proceed with the study of the Virginia Retirement System benefit for Town employees, with a cost not to exceed \$3,000.

BACKGROUND: The Town Manager stated that at their August meeting, the Finance and Ordinance Committee discussed the possibility of a study of the Virginia Retirement System benefits and requested Mr. Davis to get a cost for the study. Mr. Davis reported that the initial fees are \$1,250 and there are different options. He said he does not see the study costing more than \$3,000. Mr. Davis mention that the study will inform Council of the long-term costs and the up-front costs.

CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL

On the motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with all Council members voting “aye,” Council went into closed session under paragraph **A.1 of Section 2.2-3711** of the Code of Virginia, discuss the performance of the Town Manager and Chief of Police, concerning specific 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 “ayes,” No “noes”

MOTION: Davis

SECOND: Hunter

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

NOES: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: None

ABSENT DURING MEETING: None

Clerk

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

David E. Whitus, Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko Clerk