

**REGULAR WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON AUGUST 5, 2020**

At the regular work session of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, at 11:00 a.m., in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia, there were present 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 S.O. Amos.

Staff present were Town Manager C. Scott Davis, Town Attorney Gary Elder, Chief of Police Andy Ellington, IT Support Ashley Atkins, and Deputy Clerk Jackie Vaughan.

Mayor Whitus called the meeting to order.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll noting all members were present.

**LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY PRESENTATION – REOPENING PLANS**

Mr. Justin Pope, Chief of Staff at Longwood University, provided Council an updated guide to reopening Longwood University for the fall semester. This has been shared with students and their families, and he stated the guide gives details of how the reopening will be accomplished. Mr. Pope stated there has been extensive planning with important public health precautions in place. While most classes will be in-person, with hybrid elements for flexibility, 15% - 20% of the classes will be held online. He explained Longwood has submitted a 152-page reopening plan to the Commonwealth of Virginia, as required, which received approval without any additional changes or suggestions. He spoke about in-person learning being critical for the students, Longwood, and the Town. Mr. Pope said to follow the Centers for Disease Control guidelines, the following items have been implemented:

- in-person classes are smaller and will be moved to larger spaces to allow for social distancing;
- requiring face covering for all students and staff while on campus;
- upgrading and increasing the regular cleaning of all academic spaces;
- dining facilities have been rearranged for social distancing by repurposing banquet areas to create additional dining spaces;
- the serving lines will not be buffet-style;
- the health and fitness center has reopened and is closely monitoring the Commonwealth's Phase III guidelines;

- to help alleviate the number of people on campus at one time, move-in days have been staggered;
- safety protocols are in place for students that test positive and students that may need to be quarantined.

Mr. Pope mentioned the University has been in constant communication with the local Virginia Department of Health, and they have a solid plan in place to reopen safely. He stated the students will be held to an honor system and any student that violates the Honor Code will be dealt with vigorously. Mr. Pope stated the University will not be doing mass testing before students return to campus, and the University's healthcare provider, Potomac Health, has an ample supply of COVID-19 tests available for individuals that may need testing.

Mr. Matt McGregor, Associate Dean of Wellness, addressed Council to provide additional information about the University's preparedness to test students, faculty, and staff. He stated the student pledge applies to students on-campus and off-campus, and students will be required to answer self-screening questions when entering certain areas and building on campus. Mr. McGregor mentioned the University has forehead thermometers available throughout the campus. The University will not be doing temperature screening on campus. He noted all student funded travel, including sports, conferences, and workshops, have been canceled for the fall semester.

Mr. Pope explained the protocol for when COVID-19 cases appear on campus, stating the University will provide rooms for students that live on campus and cannot return home for self-isolation. Staff will provide the quarantined students regular wellness checks, meals, supplies, and academic support.

Chief Andy Ellington spoke of concerns for calls regarding off-campus activities and requested the University reiterate to students that the code of conduct and integrity follows them off campus.

#### CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL

On the motion by Mr. Cole, 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, to interview prospective candidates for the Clerk of Council position and to discuss the Town Manager's evaluation.

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: Five "ayes," No "noes"

MOTION: Cole

SECOND: Vincent

AYES: Cole, Vincent, Pairet, Dwyer, and Amos

NOES: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Hunter and Reid

ABSENT DURING MEETING: None

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Deputy Clerk

**EXPRESSED CONCERNS FOR COVID-19 CASES AT THE ICA OF FARMVILLE FACILITY**

Mr. Cole expressed concerns about the Town's relationship with the Immigration Center of America (ICA) of Farmville facility and requested additional information regarding the Town's agreement with the Federal Government as the responsible agent for the facility. Mr. Cole spoke of the recent outbreak of positive COVID-19 cases at the ICA of Farmville facility and the lack of information that was shared with the Town and the community. He stated he does not feel the

detention center is a service the Town should provide, and if the Town continues to provide the service through a subcontractor, they should have some type of oversight on what they are doing. He said the subcontractor is a private business, but they work for the Town of Farmville. Mr. Cole requested that representatives from ICA of Farmville appear before Council to provide information regarding the COVID-19 outbreak at the facility, and he suggested the Town get out of the contract with the Federal Government for the facility.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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David E. Whitus, Mayor

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Jacqueline