

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 7:00 pm, in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, VA, there present were Mayor S.C. Newman, Jr., presiding and Council members D.E. Whitus, D.L. Hunter, S.B. Thompson, T.M. Pairet, J.J. Davis, A.D. Reid and E.I. Gordon.

Staff present was Town Manager, Gerald Spates; Town Attorney, Donald Blessing; Town Treasurer, Carol Anne Seal; Chief of Police, Douglas Mooney; Town Planner, Cindy Morris and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko. Absent was Director of Public Works, Robin Atkins

Mayor Newman called the meeting to order and welcomed guests. Reverend Price gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Reid.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Town Manager introduced Longwood University communication students Ms. Jennifer Loudon and Ms. Courtney Huff. He also welcomed Mr. Keith George, Aircraft Mechanic at the Farmville Regional Airport. No one present wished to address Town Council and the public comment period was closed.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 14, 2013 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with all Council members voting “aye”, the minutes of the August 14, 2013 regular Council meeting were approved, as presented.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2013 REGULAR WORK SESSION MEETING

On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and with Council members Whitus, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet and Gordon voting “aye”, and Council members Davis and Reid “abstaining”, stating they were not present at the meeting, the minutes of the September 4, 2013 regular work session meeting were approved, as presented.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT

On motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Reid and with a recorded vote with Council members Whitus, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Davis, Reid and Gordon voting “aye”, the Treasurer’s Report was approved, as amended.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF THE AUGUST 2013 BILLS

On motion by Dr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Reid and with a recorded vote with Council members Whitus, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Davis, Reid and Gordon voting “aye”, payment of the August 2013 bills was approved, as presented.

(Bills Printed in Minute Book)

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF REPORTS

Members received copies of the following staff reports:

- Building Official’s Monthly Report;
- Property Inspector’s Monthly Report;
- Recreation Department’s Monthly Report – the Town Manager presented a PowerPoint presentation of the 2013 summer camp program;
- Meter Tally

REPAIRS TO THE FARMVILLE MUNICIPAL POOL

On motion by Dr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Reid and with all Council members voting “aye” the request to consider repairs to the municipal pool at the Farmville Municipal Golf Course was referred to the Finance and Ordinance Committee. The Committee is to evaluate and develop funding methods to undertake the needed repairs to the pool.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Spates spoke on the municipal pool. The pool season runs from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Due to weather conditions, the pool operated for 79 days and saw a total of 2,773 swimmers. The pool filters are in good shape; however, the fiberglass lining on the pool bottom has peeled away in many areas and needs to be removed. The coping along the pool edge needs to be repaired and the deck carpet also needs to be removed and the proper decking installed. The pool has been drained in order for contractors to determine repairs needed. In speaking with the contractors, the fiberglass liner was not applied correctly and should not have been installed. Both contractors have stated that with the proper materials and installation, the repairs and renovations should last 20 years. To date, the Town has received one proposal of \$60,000 and is waiting on another. Mr. Spates said the pool will need the repairs before the next season and has recommended that if Council intends to continue to operate the pool, they will need to make a decision on authorizing the repairs in the near future.

Council spoke at great length on this matter. Members expressed concerns with the Town's finances and their desire not to use the line of credit. Council reflected on this month's Treasurer's Report and only having \$19,000 in unrestricted funds, members questioned where the \$60,000 would come from. The Town Manager said the monies would come from the Town's contingency fund. Mr. Spates addressed Council's financial concerns. He said the Town is moving in the right direction; last year, the Town's debt was \$21 million, and this year's debt is \$15 million. Recently the Letters to the Editor regarding the Farmville Municipal Golf Course have appeared in Farmville Herald describing the Golf Course as a financial burden to the tax payers of this community. Mr. Spates said the golf course was purchased to protect Farmville Regional Airport expansion project and to deal with probable water runoff issues. However, the facility provides a great opportunity for the community: 9 hole golf course, the swimming pool and the banquet facility. Members spoke of the benefits of recreation, not only for the health issues; but, as well as providing a venue for the youth of the community. However, based on the Town's current financial position, members were hesitant to approve moving forward. In conclusion, Council agreed that the Finance and Ordinance Committee needs to investigate different avenues for funding the project.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT ON VARIOUS PROJECTS

Mr. Spates provided a verbal update on the following projects:

- Waterline and Tank Project – the waterline is approximately two-thirds complete. The Town received a 4.2 million dollar bond for the project and at completion anticipates approximately \$400,000 left over that will go into the Town's general fund.
- VDOT Milnwood Road/Main Street Project – The Town will soon be signing an engineering contract on the project.
- Lucks Stone – waiting on the scheduling of the public hearing. Council reiterated their desire that the Town Manager move forward with contacting a geologic or civil engineering firm in order to lay the foundation to protect the Town of Farmville's interest in Mottley Lake as Farmville's emergency water supply.
- Longwood University parking – the University has drawn up the Agreement and Town Attorney, Donald Blessing has reviewed the document and made some recommendations. Once the Agreement is in its final form, it will be presented to Council for approval. The Agreement states that the University will pay the Town \$125,000 for the Town turning

over portions of Pine, Franklin, Redford and Madison – the portions of Town streets that dead end into the Longwood Parking Garage or Brook Commons. The University will pay the Town \$10,000 annually to lease the right to control parking on Town streets surrounding the campus. Council questioned the amount of revenue the University will gain from controlling parking on streets owned by the Town of Farmville.

- USGS Appomattox River Gage – signed the contract with the United State Geological Survey to keep the river gage operational. The cost was \$14,400 annually and Prince Edward County has committed to paying half of the cost. Mr. Spates said he is waiting for a response from Cumberland County.

ESTABLISH A STANDING MEETING DATE FOR THE FINANCE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE TO BEGIN DISCUSSING THE 2014 – 2015 TOWN BUDGET

On motion by Dr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Whitus and with all Council members voting “aye”, the recommendation for the Finance and Ordinance Committee to begin holding Committee meetings after the first of the year in preparation of the 2014 – 2015 Town Budget was approved.

REQUEST PARTIAL BUSINESS LICENSE REFUND ON BEHALF OF EDWARD I. GORDON, M.D.

On motion by Mr. Whitus, seconded by Mr. Davis and with a recorded vote with Council members Whitus, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Davis and Reid voting “aye”, and Council member Gordon “abstaining” stating conflict of interest due to his ownership of the business, the request by the Town Treasurer to refund Dr. Edward I. Gordon \$222.72 of his 2013 Business License was approved.

BACKGROUND: Dr. Gordon closed his business at 1702 South Main Street on August 31, 2013. He will still be working from that location; but, under the ownership of The Woodland Family Practice Group South.

THE TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF PROVIDED A VERABL REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

- Members received copies of the Farmville Regional Airport Monthly Fuel Report which shows a monthly profit of \$6,643.54 in Jet fuel and \$1,698.48 in AV gas;
- Downtown Farmville Report – members received copies of the monthly update and organizational activity report. Mrs. Thompson spoke briefly on the success of the High

Bridge Half & 5K Marathon and the Riverside Festival held at Riverside Park on September 7, 2013.

- The Public Works Department will be changing the traffic control cabinet at the intersection of Griffin, High and Oak. The new cabinet will enable the intersection to be programed as a protected intersection. Each cross street will have its own protected cycle.
- The Town will be applying for a VDOT Revenue Sharing Grant for two mast arms for the signal lights at Oak and Third Street and Oak and High Street. The grant will cover materials and the Town's match will be in the labor of installing the arms.
- Members received copies of the 25th Annual Virginia Water and Wastewater Rate Report for 2013 prepared by Draper Aden Associates. Mr. Spates spoke briefly on the Town's tap fees and water and wastewater rates in comparison to the state average;
- The Town has been awarded the grant for a burn building. The building will be located on Town property off Industrial Park Road. The grant allocates \$30,000 towards engineering fees and \$450,000 towards the building. The town's in-kind match will be the land, plus services provided by the Public Works Department.

REQUEST FOR USE OF THE FARMERS MARKET ON BEHALF OF THE LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY EMERGENCY SERVICE COORDINATOR

Council supported the Town Manager recommendation to allow the Longwood University Emergency Service Coordinator use the Farmers Market on Saturday, November 2, 2013 to hold a CERT training exercise beginning at 1:00 pm. The event will not interfere with the operation of the market.

THE TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF PROVIDED A VERBAL REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING:

- Members received copies of the ICA Monthly Report.
- Chief Mooney informed Council that the Police Department, in working with the Farmville Communications, has divided the Town into four (4) areas for patrols. Officers patrol their assigned beat and respond to calls in their area. He said the new concept is working well. In addition, if Council members have concerns or receive complaints regarding vehicles speeding; the Department has a radar box. The box attaches to a pole or tree and has many programmable features – it can give you a count of the number of cars, traveling speeds and averages, etc.

FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTED OR INQUIRED ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

Mr. Davis thanked Town Planner, Cindy Morris for her work in the award of the grant for the burn building.

Dr. Gordon asked for the status of the removal of the bump outs on Main Street. Mr. Spates said the Public Works Department will begin working on the removal in the near future.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

S.C. Newman, Jr., Mayor

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk