

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, at 7:00 pm, in the Town Hall Council Chambers located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, there were present Mayor S.C. Newman, Jr. presiding, and Council members D.E. Whitus, T. M. Pairet, O.S. Overton, A.D. Reid, and E.I. Gordon. Also attending were Town Manager, Gerald Spates; Town Attorney, Donald Blessing; Chief of Police, Douglas Mooney; Town Treasurer, Carol Anne Seal; Director of Public Works, Robin Atkins; and Town Planner, Cindy Morris. Council member D.L. Hunter was not present.

Mayor Newman called the meeting to order. Reverend Price offered the opening prayer and Council member Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Newman announced the public comment period and guests were reminded to limit their comments to three (3) minutes.

Town Manager, Gerald Spates, welcomed Longwood University Professor, Dr. Lettner-Rust and students from her English 400 class. The students were attending to observe Farmville Town Council members in their role as citizen leaders.

Mr. Jimmy Johnson, owner of the Sleeping Bee located on Main Street, provided Town Council members with a brief update on the Downtown Revitalization Committee's organizational structure and vision. He spoke of the committee's plans for the development of subcommittees. Mr. Spates spoke, saying Johnson Bowles, Director of Longwood University's Center for Visual Arts and member of the Downtown Revitalization Committee, is working with the downtown merchants to improve their storefronts in an effort to create more visual appeal.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 11, 2010

On motion by Mr. Whitus, seconded by Mr. Reid, and with all Council members voting "aye", the minutes of the August 11, 2010, regular Council meeting were approved, as previously presented to each Council member.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT

On motion by Mr. Whitus, seconded by Dr. Gordon, and with a recorded vote with Council members Whitus, Thompson, Pairet, Overton, Reid and Gordon voting "aye", Council approved the Treasurer's Report, as amended by verbal update provided by the Town Treasurer.

Conversations took place regarding the Town's line of credit, and if the Town Treasurer anticipated having to borrow against the credit line in September in order to cover operating costs. Town Treasurer, Carol Anne Seal, said she anticipates receiving highway funds, and if received the Town will most likely not have to borrow against its line of credit.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF THE AUGUST BILLS

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Overton, and with a recorded vote with Council members Gordon, Reid, Overton, Pairet, Thompson, and Whitus voting "aye", Council approved payment of the following bills:

(Bills Printed in Minute Book)

DEPARTMENTAL MONTHLY REPORTS

Members received copies of the following monthly reports for informational purposes:

- Building Official's Report
- Property Inspector's Report
- Recreation Report
- Golf Tally
- Recycling Report

REQUEST FOR REZONING ON BEHALF OF MR. SOUTHARD BRUMFIELD

On motion by Dr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Reid, and with all Council members voting "aye", Council referred a rezoning request on behalf of Mr. Southard Brumfield to the Farmville Planning Commission for their recommendation to Town Council. Mr. Brumfield is requesting three (3) properties located on Hylawn Avenue be rezoned from Residential R-2 to Residential R-3 to allow for five (5) additional residences to be built on the property.

The Planning Commission was scheduled to meet immediately following this evening's Joint Public Hearing. The Commission did not have a quorum present, and the meeting was cancelled. The Town Manager recommended this matter be referred back to the Farmville Planning Commission for their recommendations.

REQUEST FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT ON BEHALF OF J & J RECYCLING

On motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Overton, and with a recorded vote with Council members Whitus, Thompson, Pairet, Overton, Reid, and Gordon voting “aye”, Council followed the recommendation of the Farmville Planning Commission and approved a conditional use permit request submitted by Mr. James Cyrus on behalf of J & J Recycling to store heavy equipment and vehicles for processing, and recycling at 2802 West Third Street with the following conditions:

1. Install a privacy fence. If at a later date the portion of J & J Recycling property that is located adjacent to the Field of Dreams is used by J & J Recycling, the privacy fence will be extended to include that section of property.
2. If Mr. Cyrus’s future plans change and he decides to construct a building to store used car parts, he must apply to amend the conditional use permit.
3. All the requirements of Town Code Chapter 13 - Junkyards, Car Lots and Automobile Graveyards must be followed

At the July, 2010 Council meeting, this matter was referred to the Farmville Planning Commission for their recommendation to Town Council. At the August 5, 2010, Planning Commission meeting, members unanimously supported the above recommendations. The property is posted and the required public notice was advertised in the Farmville Herald. The Town Office has received no negative comments from the community.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF BUDGET COMMITTEE’S RECOMMENDATIONS

On motion by Mr. Whitus, seconded by Mr. Overton, and with all Council members voting “aye”, members supported the recommendations of the Budget Committee and approved the following items:

1. The Town Manager will issue letters of support, at his discretion.
2. Council denied a request for financial support on behalf of the Mary E. Branch Community Center.
3. The Town Manager, at his discretion, may waive rental fees for the use of Town property.

At the August 11, 2010 regular Council meeting, these items were referred to the Budget Committee for their recommendation to Town Council. The Town Manager presented the recommendations of the Budget Committee meeting that was held on August 18, 2010.

REQUEST EXTENDING PARKING METER TIME FROM 30 MINUTES TO 2 HOURS

On motion by Dr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Pairet, and with all Council members voting “aye”, Council removed a request to extend the time on parking meters located on Main Street from 30 minutes for .25 cents to two (2) hours for 25 cents.

Mr. Spates asked that this matter be removed from the agenda until the Downtown Revitalization Committee reports to Council.

The Downtown Revitalization Committee met on August 20, 2010. The Committee agreed to request that Town Council consider extending the parking meter time from 30 minutes to two (2) hours for .25 cents. It was suggested at Town Council’s September work session that this matter be removed from the agenda until the Downtown Revitalization Committee appoints all their committee members.

REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN A JOINT MARKETING CAMPAIGN FOR THE CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

On motion by Dr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Whitus, and with a recorded vote with Council members Gordon, Reid, Overton, Pairet, Thompson, and Whitus voting “aye”, Council agreed to deny a request for \$5,000 on behalf of Prince Edward County for a joint marketing campaign for the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

Mr. Spates provided members with information furnished by Prince Edward County, which highlighted the development of a partnership focused on advertising dollars to promote the last days of the Civil War. Current participants are Appomattox County, Town of Appomattox and Prince Edward County. Invited to participate in 2011 are DCR, Amelia County, and the Town of Farmville. After much discussion, Council agreed to deny the request. Members spoke in support of the Civil War Sesquicentennial and of the proposed marketing campaign, but felt strongly that Farmville citizens are already contributing as Prince Edward County taxpayers. Council spoke of the current economic times and with the County’s commitment of contributing \$7,300 in 2010 and \$10,000 in 2011, members felt the citizens of the Town of Farmville are being well represented.

RECYCLING – BLUE BAGS

On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Dr. Gordon, and with a recorded vote with Council members Whitus, Thompson, Pairet, Overton, Reid, and Gordon voting “aye”, Council followed the recommendation of the Town Manager and agreed that town residents and businesses participating in the recycling program will need to purchase clear or white drawstring trash bags. The bags are available for purchase at all local grocery stores.

Council was informed that the blue recycling bags the Town purchases for residents to use for recycling are no longer available. The Town Manager suggested residents and businesses purchase the clear or white drawstring trash bags for recycling. The uniformity of the bags will allow town crews to identify recycling bags and it enables them to see the materials inside the bags.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE SNOWPLOWS

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Whitus, and with a recorded vote with Council members Gordon, Reid, Overton, Pairet, Thompson, and Whitus voting “aye”, Council followed the recommendation of the Town Manager and authorized the purchase of four snowplows for \$11,800.

The Town Manager informed members that this matter had been discussed at the August 18, 2010 Budget Committee meeting. He said in order to maintain adequate snow removal service to the community, it is necessary that the town replace four snowplows that have been taken out of service. The new plows will be purchased under state contract. He said the Public Works Department received \$6,900 from the sale of scrap metal and the remaining costs will be offset using street maintenance funds.

REQUEST FOR FUNDS FROM THE LOCAL BOARD OF THE FARMVILLE PRINCE EDWARD COMMUNITY LIBRARY

This matter was continued.

Members received a copy of a request from Dr. Lowell Frye on behalf of the local board of the Farmville-Prince Edward Community Library. The letter requests the Town of Farmville and Prince Edward County contribute an additional \$43,000 to offset the start-up costs of furnishings and equipment necessary to the opening and operation of the new library building. Mr. Spates said Prince Edward County Administrator, Wade Bartlett has also received a copy of this request. He said he and Mr. Bartlett would be setting up a meeting with Dr. Frye to discuss this matter.

DISCUSSION OF BRUSH PICKUP AND GRASS CUTTINGS

On motion by Dr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Overton, and with all Council members voting “aye”, members referred to the Budget Committee for their recommendation to Town Council the issue of charging Farmville residents and businesses a sanitation fee to the Budget Committee for their recommendation to Town Council.

Mr. Spates spoke of the increase in complaints received regarding residents and businesses cutting grass and blowing the clippings into the streets or leaving them on the sidewalks. Conversations progressed and turned to fees for sanitation services. Mr. Spates spoke of Chesterfield County’s recent adoption of a sanitation fee. He said the fee is added to the county’s real estate bills. Chesterfield County’s real estate fees are billed in June and December of each year. This year they have added a sanitation fee of \$12.50 per billing to each property owner that uses the county’s sanitation service. Those that have contracts with private companies are not billed for the service. Council spoke in support of the concept.

REQUEST AMENDMENT OF TOWN ORDINANCE ARTICLE II - WEED AND TRASH CONTROL

On motion by Mr. Whitus, seconded by Dr. Gordon, and with all Council members voting “aye”, the issue of amending the Town’s ordinance to address residents and businesses cutting grass and blowing clippings into the street or leaving them on the sidewalks was referred to the Ordinance Committee for their recommendation to Town Council.

FACEBOOK PAGE

At Council’s request, staff gathered information on the pros and cons of developing a Town of Farmville facebook page. After reviewing the data, members agreed to take no action.

LAYNE STREET

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Dr. Gordon, and with all Council members voting “aye”, members referred the recommendations by the Town Manager on the proposed changes of Layne Street to the Street Committee for their recommendation to Town Council.

Mr. Spates presented his plans for changes to Layne Street. He said in order to address safety concerns, he recommends Layne Street be one way going in on the west end of Layne Street, and two way traffic on the east end of Layne Street up to the Six Shooters building. Mr. Spates has spoken with the property owners that would be affected, and they have expressed no concerns with the proposed changes. Lengthy conversation took place. Town Council members

expressed confusion on the proposed changes, citing safety concerns. Members requested that this issue be referred to the Street Committee for their recommendation to Town Council.

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

- Provided members with an update on scheduled paving of Town streets;
- Members received copies of the overtime report;
- The Virginia Department of Transportation has expressed an interest in the Town pushing snow on streets within the town but not in the corporate limits;
- Pedestrian Bridge ribbon cutting scheduled for Thursday at 1:30 pm;
- Verbal report on the river flow;
- Verbal report on National Night Out, Neighborhood Watch programs, Rock the Block, Police Bike grant, and the Police Departments records management system – DaPro.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Mayor S.C. Newman, Jr.

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk