

SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

At the special called Council meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, September 29, 2010, at 12:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Manager, located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, there were present Mayor S. C. Newman, Jr., presiding, and Council members D.E. Whitus, D.L. Hunter, T.M. Pairet, O.S. Overton, A.D. Reid, and E.I. Gordon. Also in attendance was the Town Manager, Gerald Spates. Council member S.B. Thompson was absent.

Mayor Newman called the meeting to order and Town Manager Gerald Spates read the following special call notice:

This is to serve notice of a special called Council meeting that will be held on Wednesday, September 29, 2010 at 12:00 pm in the Town Manager's Conference Room, located on the main floor of the Town Hall at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia. The purpose of this meeting is as follows:

1. To discuss and repeal Sec. 14-54 Motor Carrier and Sec. 14-55 Motor vehicles –
This has to be done in order to have Prince Edward County and Cumberland County collect the vehicle tags for the Town of Farmville, and;
2. To take possible action in regards to any other business that may come before Council.

REPEAL TOWN ORDINANCES SEC. 14-54 MOTOR CARRIER AND SEC. 14-55 MOTOR VEHICLES

On amended motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with all Council members voting "aye", Council agreed to repeal Town Ordinance Sec. 14-54 Motor Carrier and Sec. 14-55 Motor Vehicles.

On amended motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Dr. Gordon, and with a recorded vote with Council members Whitus, Hunter, Overton, Reid, Gordon, and Pairet voting "aye", Council agreed to discontinue the sale of vehicle decal stickers and enter into agreements with Prince Edward County and Cumberland County to have the annual license tax for vehicles registered in the Town of Farmville added to the appropriate county's personal property tax bills.

The motions were amended in order to clarify specific direction by Town Council.

Council members discussed vehicle decals, and the possibility of discontinuing the requirement that residents affix an annual vehicle decal sticker on their windshields. The Town Manager said some localities have worked out agreements with counties by having the vehicle

license tax added to the resident's annual personal property tax bill. Some localities have agreements with the Division of Motor Vehicles to add the vehicle license tax to the vehicle registration. At the direction of Town Council, the Town Manager contacted Prince Edward County and Cumberland County to discuss the county tax bill option. Mr. Spates informed Council that County Administrators W. Wade Bartlett and Judy Ownby have agreed to enter into Agreements with the Town of Farmville to bill and collect Farmville's vehicle tax. He said Prince Edward County will be sending out their personal property tax bills shortly, and to have Farmville's annual license tax included, Town Council must repeal Sec. 14-54 Motor Carrier and Sec. 14-55 Motor Vehicles.

The Agreement being discussed permits Prince Edward County and Cumberland County a ten percent collection/processing fee of all revenues collected. Mr. Spates said last year the Town paid \$2,600 for the decals and collected approximately \$60,000 in license tax revenue. Five dollars of each decal sold went to the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad as part of the Town of Farmville's annual appropriation. There has been a decrease in residents purchasing the decals, and it has become difficult to enforce since many jurisdictions have gone away from the decals. By adding the tax to the personal property tax bills, the Town should see an increase in revenue.

Mr. Spates informed Council there might be some negative comments from Town residents. He mentioned the following:

- Cumberland's tax rate is slightly lower than Prince Edward County. Farmville residents living in Prince Edward County will pay a slightly higher annual license tax;
- Farmville's vehicle license tax is due April of each year. Personal property tax bills will be mailed out soon. Council supported not prorating any fees;
- Residents of the Town of Farmville who volunteer for the fire department or rescue squad have been receiving a free decal. Council spoke in favor of following the procedures that Prince Edward and Cumberland County have in place regarding free vehicle license tax for fire department and rescue squad volunteers.

REQUEST FOR PARADE PERMITS ON BEHALF OF PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL AND FUQUA SCHOOL; REQUEST FOR PERMISSION FOR A BON FIRE ON BEHALF OF FUQUA SCHOOL

On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with all Council members voting “aye”, Council approved two parade permit requests:

1. A request on behalf of Fuqua School for a Homecoming Parade on Main Street to be held on Friday, October 15, 2010. Time of assembly will be 1:30 p.m. Additionally, Council also approved a request for a bon fire on Thursday, October 14, 2010.
2. A request on behalf of Prince Edward County High school for a Homecoming Parade on Main Street to be held on Friday, October 15, 2010, time of assembly will be 3:00 p.m.

Prince Edward County High School has requested an assembly time of 4:30 pm. Council has agreed to the parade permit request with the stipulation that Prince Edward County High School change the assembly time to 3:00 p.m. The Town Manager informed Council that the Chief of Police expressed concerns with Main Street traffic congestion on a Friday afternoon and the events creating overtime for Police Officers. Discussion took place and members agreed to approve the request if the County School agrees with moving the assembly time to 3:00 p.m. It was also suggested that the issue of requests for street closures be referred to the Budget Committee, citing concerns with overtime compensation for police officers and public works personnel.

INFORMATION ONLY - UPDATE RECENT SALE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Mr. Spates provided members with an update from the last surplus equipment sale. After expenses, the Town made a profit of \$38,538.00.

AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT FOR A JOINT PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND TOWN ORDINANCE SEC. 29-53 (A) (8) OFF STREET PARKING

On motion by Mr. Whitus, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with all Council members voting “aye”, Council followed the recommendation of the Farmville Planning Commission and authorized advertisement of a joint Public Hearing to hear citizens’ comments on a proposed amendment to Sec. 29-53 (A) (8) Off Street Parking.

The Farmville Planning Commission is recommending amending the Town ordinance to allow for one (1) parking space for each two hundred (200) square feet, excluding storage space.

The current ordinance requires one (1) parking space for each one (100) square feet, excluding storage space.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT IN OPPOSITION TO ANY CHANGES TO THE BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATION LICENSE TAX (BPOL)

On motion by Mr. Whitus, seconded by Dr. Gordon, and with a recorded vote with Council members Whitus, Hunter, Pairet, Overton, Reid, and Gordon voting “aye”, Council supported a request from the Town of Mineral and agreed to adopt a resolution in opposition to any changes to the Business, Professional, Occupational License tax (BPOL). The resolution will be sent to the Virginia House of Delegates and State Senate.

The Town of Mineral has requested cities, towns, and counties in the Commonwealth join with them by adopting a resolution in opposition to any changes to the BPOL Tax. Members spoke of the negative impact altering or abolishing the BPOL tax would have on the Town of Farmville’s budget.

FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTED OR INQUIRED ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

Council directed the Town Manager to write a letter to Mrs. Anne Nase Wilkins, property owner of the shopping center located at the corner of South Street and East Third Street, to express Council’s concern with safety issues regarding the cattle fence that has been installed at the shopping center owned by Mrs. Wilkins. Mr. Spates informed Council that the fence does not violate any town or building code ordinances. Members continued to express their displeasure with the fence and directed him to contact Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 pm.

Mayor S.C. Newman, Jr.

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk