

WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2010

At the regular work session of the Farmville Town Council held at 11:00 am on Wednesday, November 3, 2010, in the Conference Room of the Town Manager's Office 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, S.B. Thompson, T.M. Pairet, O.S. Overton, and E.I. Gordon. Also in attendance were Town Manager, Gerald Spates and Town Attorney, Donald Blessing. Council Member Reid arrived at 11:20 am.

Mayor Newman called the meeting to order. Town Manager, Gerald Spates introduced the November agenda items. Council took action on the following items.

PARKING METER REQUEST ON BEHALF OF THE DOWNTOWN FARMVILLE REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE

On motion by Dr. Gordon, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, and with all Council members voting "aye", Council granted a request on behalf of the Downtown Farmville Revitalization Task Force and agreed to cover the parking meters on Main Street and West Second Street for the 2010 holiday season. The holiday season will begin with the Downtown Holiday Open House on Thursday, November 4 and conclude on January 3, 2011. Additionally, the Task Force also requested that Town Council consider extending the parking meter time purchased by a quarter from half an hour to two (2) hours for the parking meters on Main Street and West Second Street. Council referred this matter to the Budget Committee for their recommendation to Council.

The Downtown Farmville Revitalization Task Force submitted the above requests to Town Manager Spates. Mr. Spates spoke in support of covering the parking meters for the holiday season and recommended the request to extend the parking meter time purchased by a quarter from half an hour to two (2) hours be referred to the Budget Committee for further consideration. Dr. Gordon asked if all the downtown merchants were in favor of extending the time. Mrs. Thompson, Town Council's representative on the Downtown Revitalization Committee, said it was a unanimous request. Members discussed covering the meters for the holiday season and spoke in support of the Town Manager's recommendation to refer the request to extend the parking meter time to the Budget Committee.

VEHICLE LICENSE TAX FEE REFUND

On motion by Dr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Whitus, and with a recorded vote with Council members Whitus, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Overton, Reid and Gordon voting “aye”, Council followed the recommendation of the Budget Committee and authorized the Town Treasurer to refund 1/3 of the portion of the current Town vehicle license tax fee to those residents that purchased the decals. The refund is to be calculated at one-third (33 1/3%) of what the individual paid in vehicle tags.

The Town Manager provided a verbal update on the Budget Committee’s recommendation of a partial refund. Mr. Spates said the percentage was calculated by the months remaining on the existing tags after Prince Edward County vehicle license tax fees are purchased in December.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

On motion by Dr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with all Council members voting “aye”, Council referred the matter of creating an ordinance that would require Town Council’s approval of all fencing erected in any business district in the Town of Farmville to the Ordinance Committee.

Council members continued to express their displeasure with the cattle fence at the shopping center located at the corner of South Street and East Third Street. At Council’s direction, Mr. Spates had contacted the property owner and from the property owner’s reply, it is apparent that he will not be changing the fence. The Town Manager said the fence does not violate the Building Code or any Town Ordinance.

TOWN OF FARMVILLE EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS BONUS

On motion by Dr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Whitus, and with a recorded vote with Council members Whitus, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, Overton, Reid and Gordon voting “aye”, Council supported the Budget Committee’s recommendation and approved amending the Town of Farmville employee Christmas bonuses, to be calculated as follows:

All part time employees regardless of years of service will receive \$50.00

All full time employees with up to one year of service will receive \$50.00

All full time employees will receive \$50.00 per year of service with a maximum bonus of \$500.00

At the October Budget Committee meeting the Town Manager asked the Committee to recommend to Town Council that they consider increasing the employee Christmas bonuses. The Budget Committee spoke in support of the Town's dedicated employees. They challenged the Town Manager to examine this year's budget and assess where the funds would be available to offset the additional costs. Mr. Spates provided the following update. He said since the adoption of the 2010-2011 budget one full time employee has retired and one has gone part-time, the Town no longer furnishes the recycling bags, and he recommended that Budget Committee suggest that Town Council discontinue the purchase of the Christmas hams. The Committee also recommended that the employee Christmas Dinner be scaled back to only active employees and their immediate family. Council spoke in support of the Budget Committee's recommendation.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Mayor S.C. Newman, Jr.

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk