

WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2011

At the regular work session of the Farmville Town Council held at 11:00 am on Wednesday, July 6, 2011, in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, VA, there were present Mayor S.C. Newman, Jr. presiding, and Council members, D.E. Whitus, S.B. Thompson, T.M. Pairet, O.S. Overton, A.D. Reid, and E.I. Gordon. Also attending were Town Manager, Gerald Spates; Town Attorney, Donald Blessing; and Town Clerk, Lisa Hricko. Council member D.L. Hunter was absent.

Mayor Newman called the meeting to order. The Town Manager asked that Council deviate from policy and move directly to item #20 on the July agenda. He said members of the Farmville Planning Commission are in attendance and would like to present their recommendations on potential zoning map amendments for the M-1 District.

REQUEST FOR A JOINT PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING MAP AMENDMENTS

On motion by Mr. Whitus, seconded by Mr. Reid, and with all Council members voting “aye”, Council authorized advertisement of a joint public hearing on the proposed M-1 District map amendments as proposed by the Farmville Planning Commission.

Town Planner, Cindy Morris addressed Town Council on behalf of the Commission. She said, since November of last year, the Commission has been reviewing the M-1 District regarding its applicability to the land use map and the comprehensive plan as it relates to economic development. Farmville’s zoning ordinance defines the M-1 District as industrial and most of the property lies in the flood plain. Mrs. Morris offered the following summary of the Commission’s interest in rezoning the majority of properties located in the M-1 District.

- The intent is not to change the use of each of the properties, but to bring them into compliance with their current use.
- According to Prince Edward and Cumberland County Commissioner of Revenue, the amount of real estate tax depends on the current use of the property. The mere act of rezoning a piece of property does not necessarily make the real estate tax go up or down. Many variables go into an assessor affixing a value to a piece of property. Therefore, the property owners should not be concerned about this affecting their real estate values.

- There are no glaring incongruities with the proposed zoning changes.
- The proposed zoning changes compliment Cumberland County's adjacent zoning.
- Protects the interests of homeowners and businesses from the intrusion of heavy industrial enterprises.
- Does not preclude the reasonable, potential use by respective landowners of undeveloped property.
- Harmonizes with and is congruent with the "Downtown Renewal/Development" initiative.
- Grandfathers existing M-1 Zone enterprises.
- Respects the natural design and aesthetics of the High Bridge State Park concept.
- Does not contradict or contravene the special flood zone overlay regarding the Appomattox River.

The proposed map amendment affects approximately fifty (50) properties. Conversations took place. In conclusion, Council supported moving forward with an advertisement for a joint public hearing.

The Town Manager presented the remaining agenda items. No action was taken by Council.

Mr. Spates provided a verbal update on various projects. He spoke briefly on the following matters:

- Unkempt and decrepit properties
- ICA
- Streetscape Phase II Project
- Milnwood Road Project
- Farmers Market
- Letter from Mr. Cralle of Green Front Furniture regarding their styrofoam compression machine

Prior to convening in closed session for personnel issues, members moved to the Town Manager's conference room located on the first floor.

CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTER

On motion by Dr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Whitus, and with all Council members voting “aye”, Council convened in Closed Session pursuant to the *Code of Virginia* Section 2.2-3711.A.1 for discussion of the annual performance evaluation of the Town Manager.

On motion by Dr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Reid and with all Council members voting “aye”, Council returned to the regular order of business.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

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: 5 “Ayes”, 0 “Noes”

MOTION: Dr. Gordon

SECOND: Mr. Whitus

AYES: Whitus, Thompson, Pairet, Overton, Reid and Gordon

NOES: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Hunter

ABSENT DURING MEETING: Hunter

Clerk

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Mayor S.C. Newman, Jr.

Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk