

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON JANUARY 11, 2012**

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday January 11, 2012, at 7:00 pm, in the Council Chambers 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, and A.D. Reid. Council members absent were O.S. Overton and E.I. Gordon.

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

Mayor Newman called the meeting to order. Mr. Whitus gave the invocation, and Mr. Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mayor Newman announced the public comment period. Mr. Paul Hoffman, Field Representative for Congressman Robert Hurt addressed Council. Mr. Hoffman introduced himself and said that Congressman Hurt's first goal is to balance the budget and second is the creation of jobs. He asked that if there were any issues that he could assist the Town with and said his office is located at the Small Business Development Center on South Main Street.

Dr. Chuck Ross with the Downtown Farmville Committee addressed Town Council. Dr. Ross invited Council to the Virginia Main Street Kick Off celebration scheduled for 5:30 pm on Monday, January 23, 2012 at the J Ferguson Gallery.

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2011 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

On motion by Mr. Whitus, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, and with all Council members voting "aye", the minutes of the December 14, 2011 regular Council meeting were approved, as previously presented to each Council member.

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4, 2012 REGULAR COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, and with all Council members voting "aye", the minutes of the January 4, 2012 regular Council work session were approved, as previously presented to each Council member.

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF THE DECEMBER 2011 BILLS**

On motion by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with a recorded vote with Council members Whitus, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, and Reid voting “aye”, Council approved payment of the December 2011 bills as presented.

*(Bills Printed in Minute Book)*

**DEPARTMENTAL MONTHLY REPORTS**

Members received copies of the following monthly reports:

- Building Inspector’s Report
- Property Inspector’s Report
- Recreation Activity Report
- Recycling Report
- Parking Meter Tally

The Town Manager reported that in 2011, the Town issued 359 building permits with an estimated construction cost of over \$34,731,000.

**REQUEST REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE FARMVILLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, and with a recorded vote with Council members Whitus, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, and Reid voting “aye”, Council agreed to support the recommendation of the Town Manager and request that the Circuit Court of Prince Edward County re-appoint Mr. Jamie Davis and Mr. Jack Houghton to the Farmville Industrial Development Authority. Mr. Davis’ and Mr. Houghton’s new terms will run through February 28, 2016.

CLERK’S NOTE: Mr. Jack Houghton is not eligible for reappointment until February 28, 2014.

**REQUEST REAPPOINTMENT TO THE FARMVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION**

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Pairet, and with a recorded vote with Council members Whitus, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, and Reid voting “aye” Council agreed follow the

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recommendation of the Town Manager and reappointed Mr. Samuel V. Wilson, Jr. to the Farmville Planning Commission. Mr. Wilson's new term will run through February 28, 2018.

**INFORMATIONAL – 2011 TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT**

The Chief of Police provided members with a year-end report of the total accidents in the Town of Farmville. He said there were 91 reportable accidents in 2011 and all of those were at intersections governed by traffic signals.

**COBBLESTONES ON MAIN STREET**

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, and with a recorded vote with Council members Whitus, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, and Reid voting "aye" Council followed the recommendation of the Town Manager and authorized him to obtain bids and move forward with replacing the cobblestone on Main Street with stamped concrete.

**BACKGROUND:** Mr. Hunter asked for an update on the cobblestones on Main Street. Mr. Spates said Council has had many discussions regarding issues with the cobblestones. He said he has also received criticism from residents complaining about the roughness of the cobblestones. Mr. Spates added that after a heavy rain, the gravel between the cobblestones runs off, and the street has to be cleaned. The gravel is continuously being replaced, creating an ongoing issue for the Public Works Department. Mr. Spates said he has spoken with a contractor and for approximately \$15,000.00 – the cobblestones could be replaced with stamped concrete.

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

Mr. Spates reported on the following:

- The Town has received a rural development grant for \$25,000, which requires a 45% Town match. The funds will be used to purchase one new police vehicle and computers, server and software for the Treasurer's Office.
- Local Government Day at the General Assembly is Thursday, February 9, 2012, any Council members interested in attending should contact the Town Office.
- Redistricting – Mr. Spates said he has contacted the Attorney General assigned to elections and hopes to know by next week if the Town will have to postpone its elections.
- The Marines are in town until January 20, 2012. They are conducting practice exercises at Mottley Lake, the Town landfill and the Farmville Regional Airport. A community

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event is scheduled for Saturday, January 14, 2012, at the Farmville Regional Airport from 12:00 pm through 4:00 pm.

- The Town has switched its instant alert system to CodeRED. Mr. Spates said the system has the ability to quickly deliver messages to a targeted area or the entire Town of Farmville and Prince Edward County area. The system could be used to notify residents in an effective area of water breaks, street closures, etc. CodeRED also has the capability to issue severe weather alerts.
- Chief Mooney provided an update on the activities of the Farmville Police Department.

**CLOSED SESSION - CODE OF VIRGINIA SECTION 2.2-3711.A.3 FOR THE DISCUSSION OR CONSIDERATION OF THE DISPOSITION OF PUBLICLY HELD PROPERTY**

On motion by Mr. Whitus, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with all Council members voting “aye”, Council went into closed session pursuant to **Section 2.2-3711.A.3** of the *Code of Virginia* for discussion or consideration of the disposition of publicly held real property.

On motion by Mr. Whitus, 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: Whitus

SECOND: Reid

AYES: Whitus, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet, and Reid

NOES: None

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ABSENT DURING VOTE: Overton and Gordon

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**REQUEST ACTION ON FORMING AN AUTHORITY**

On motion by Mr. Whitus, seconded by Mr. Hunter and with a recorded vote with Council members Whitus, Hunter, Thompson, Pairet and Reid voting “aye”, Council agreed to continue to operate the water and sewer departments as departments within the Town and not form a single member water and sewer authority.

**BACKGROUND:** On October 13, 2011, Town Council announced that the Town has ended negotiations with Prince Edward County on forming a joint water and sewer authority and is exploring creating a single member authority, offering Prince Edward County a seat.

From meetings with legal counsel and financial consultants, it was determined that forming a single member authority would cost the Town taxpayers approximately \$200,000 to \$400,000 and would mean multiple water and sewer rate increases.

In reviewing the Town’s financial obligations and the current interest rates, financial advisers have recommended that the Town consider refinancing some of its debt. Council indicated their support to move in this direction.

Members also addressed a letter received today from Chairman William Fore of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County requesting Town Council reopen negotiations with the County to develop a joint water and sewer authority. Council spoke in support of their decision to continue to operate the water and sewer departments as departments within the Town of Farmville. However, members stated their willingness to talk to the County or representatives from the County about water and sewer solutions that are beneficial to the Town and County.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

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Mayor S. C. Newman, Jr.

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Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk