

REGULAR WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON FEBRUARY 2, 2022

At the regular work session of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 11:00 a.m., in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia, there present were Vice-Mayor A.D. Reid, presiding, and Council members D.L. Hunter, G.C. Cole, S.O. Amos, T.M. Pairet, B.R. Vincent, and D.E. Dwyer. Mayor D.E. Whitus was absent.

Staff present were Town Manager C. Scott Davis, Chief of Police Andy Ellington, IT Support Ashley Austin, Acting Finance Director Carol Anne Seal, Public Works Director Robin Atkins, Community Development Director Lee Pambid, Deputy Clerk Jackie Vaughan, and Clerk Mary McKay.

Vice-Mayor Reid called the work session to order. A moment of silence was offered for the two officers that were killed at Bridgewater College.

The Clerk called the roll.

INTRODUCTION OF FARMVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEW OFFICERS AND 2021 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Chief Andy Ellington requested the 2021 Officer of the Year announcement be postponed due to the unavailability of the Officer. An introduction was made of the Departments' new officers, Kyle Britton and Christopher West. Three recipients of the Otto Overton Meritorious Service Award were announced: Corporal Stewart Godsey, Lieutenant Bobby Ragland and 911 Communications Director Jackie Gilbert. Each received the award named in honor and memory of former Farmville Police Chief Otto S. Overton. The award is for Department members who demonstrate exceptional service to the community to a particular task or assignments. This is the fourth highest award the Department can bestow on a member and is accompanied by a certificate.

Director of Community Development Lee Pambid introduced Michelle Watkins, Administrative Assistant in the Community Development office.

DISCUSSION: REDISTRICTING

Town Manager introduced Melody Foster with the Commonwealth Regional Council who was attending the meeting virtually. At the last meeting the redistricting was discussed and how adjustments could be made to the Town's existing boundaries so that it meets the population

criteria. Ms. Foster reported all the districts should be within +- five percent and working with Ms. Ashley Austin, came up with some potential changes. The changes were reviewed in detail with Council members.

Mr. Reid asked if there was community input into these potential changes. Town Manager advised a committee was not formally established and does not know what a redistricting committee can add as there are not many options of reconfiguring the current districts. There needs to be a Public Hearing to receive input of comments, suggestions, or objections, but it is up to Council on whether to have a redistricting committee. What a committee is going to do and what their purpose would be needs to be set, and work with staff who then will work with Ms. Foster. Town Manager stated there is a short timeframe to have the process completed as Council will hear from the next speaker. The process will need to be completed 60 days before the next election. The redistricting will need to be voted on no later than the April meeting but would be best if it could be voted on at the March meeting.

Mr. Vincent reported his concern lies in organizing a committee, getting committee members up to speed on what is happening, and to what effect it will cause in setting up November elections.

Mr. Reid reported his only concern was trying to get community members involved.

Town Manager noted the possibility of hosting several informational sessions like those held for the Comprehensive plan. Anyone interested in the redistricting could come forward and receive information on what it is, how it's done, and what the changes are, if that meets some of the input being referred to, other than to have set representatives from the community.

Ms. Foster offered to provide large-scale maps of the before/after. Town Manager stated there are staff available to explain the proposed changes, and maps could be displayed in the front area of the Town Hall for all to view. Display maps and informational sessions could be provided, or there could be a discussion of committee members.

Mrs. Amos asked if Ms. Foster could provide a split screen of the before and after.

Mr. Vincent asked Ms. Foster if the 500 chunk of noise is the biggest significant block of noise injected into the districts. Ms. Foster reported she thought so. There is also a block out on the western part of town that has a - 93. Mr. Vincent noted for Ward B, it seems it takes away what is essentially some of the most active members of Ward B out of there and injects 500 people that don't exist.

Ms. Foster was able to switch back and forth to show Council the before screen and then what was created to meet the guidelines.

Mr. Reid asked how soon the informational meeting could be scheduled and have the maps displayed. Town Manager stated he felt certain the maps could be printed this week for display. For the informational meeting, a notice of about two weeks should be provided with an announcement on the radio and placed on the Town's website and Facebook, and a set date for people to come in for the informational meeting.

Mr. Vincent thought it was good to raise some awareness as to what may be shifting in the different wards with Mr. Reid in agreement.

Town Manager will set the date for two to three weeks for the informational meeting and have the larger maps for display.

DISCUSSION: UPDATE ON MAYOR AND COUNCIL FILING DEADLINES BY PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY REGISTRAR

Town Manager introduced Prince Edward County Voter Registrar Lynette Wright and reported the next update will tie in directly with the redistricting. Ms. Wright contacted the State office for clarification of what happens if the redistricting process takes place after a candidate packet is picked up. The At-Large and the Ward Candidates must carry petitions and gather signatures. The filing date for the primary election is June 21, 2022, at 7 PM. Ms. Wright stated if a candidate carries the petitions now before the redistricting is complete and submits the petition and signatures to the Registrar to be qualified as a candidate, but then after the redistricting if the signatures received had changed to a different ward, the candidate would be disqualified from the ballot. Ms. Wright stated she does have the candidate packets available.

Town Manager advised not only must we have the redistricting done for individuals to vote in the primary, but we also must have our redistricting done 60 days prior, so our citizens are able to be involved in the primary. Town Manager reported the explanation received from the State was the redistricting must be completed 60 days before the next election and noted what the Registrar is saying is for you to file to be a candidate in November, you must do it by June 21, 2022, and it must be in the district that you are going to represent.

Mr. Vincent inquired of the number of signatures needed for the petition. Ms. Wright stated 125 for At-Large and Mayor, and 25 for the Wards. Mr. Vincent noted the short timeframe to obtain the signatures if the redistricting is completed by April.

DISCUSSION OF COVID REVENUE LOSS/ARPA FUNDS

Town Manager reported that the interpretation by our auditors was that the final ruling of the US Treasury did become more flexible in use categories than the interim rule, and the funds may be used in several areas. From the calculations made there was a revenue loss of approximately \$820,000.00. From this loss, if Council wishes to do something additional, it could be under general government services and administration in the terms of incentive pay for employees for staying during the COVID pandemic.

Mr. Pairet suggested discussing or send to the Finance committee to review and possibly come back with a recommendation.

Town Manager advised the \$8 million overall of ARPA funds will need to be discussed and prioritized and have a strategy for what it will be used for. A study may need to be done in the future having received information from the state and federal government about lead and copper piping. The Town doesn't have lead or copper piping but does have lead joints in the pipes. We need to find out if lead joints in the pipes is something that needs to be looked at. We can use some of this money for those items that need to be done. We already have talked about the water and sewer plant and the upgrades that are needed. Expanding on the town's recreational abilities also would be good because as we know during the pandemic, being outside is one of those things that people could do. Town Manager asked if Council wants to reward employees for staying here during that time.

Mr. Cole noted we said we would revisit that once we had more information, and requested the information be sent back out to Council to be looked at and then decide next week during the council meeting on what to do.

Mr. Pairet stated he'd like to see about scheduling an Infrastructure Committee meeting and possibly trying to form a plan concerning the water and sewer. As mentioned, those items that are not seen need to be addressed more so than people realize.

Town Manager noted the numbers are available for the next meeting of what it would cost for \$1000.00 to \$2000.00 incentive pay.

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR POSITION AND THE
SUBDIVISION AGENT POSITION**

Town Manager reported Town Council must appoint the Zoning Administrator position and the Subdivision Agent position as noted in the zoning ordinances and recommended the duties for that position be given to the new Community Development Director Lee Pambid.

Mr. Cole made a motion to accept the Town Manager's recommendation to move those duties to Lee Pambid, seconded by Mr. Vincent, and with Council members Pairet, Reid, Vincent, Amos, Cole, and Dwyer voting "yes", the measure passed. Mr. Hunter was absent for the vote.

Town Manager advised Vice-Mayor Reid that the Officer of the Year announcement may be made by Chief Ellington at this time as the Officer is now available. Before making the announcement, Chief reported the person of interest in the shooting Sunday morning has been apprehended and taken into custody at Eastgate trailer park without incident.

Chief Ellington announced Detective B.H. Paulette has been awarded the 2021 Officer of the Year award. Nominations are supported by factors such as community involvement, commitment to the agency, superior performance with a specific difficult task and/or a complete and consistent body of work throughout the year that exceeds normal expectations. This is the third highest award the Department can bestow on a member and is accompanied by a uniform pin. Congratulations was given to Detective Paulette and a thank you for the fine job. Congratulations also expressed by Vice-Mayor Reid.

There being no other business, on a motion by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Pairet, and with all Council members voting "aye," the meeting adjourned at 11: 47 AM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

A.D. "Chuck" Reid, Vice-Mayor

Mary H. McKay, Clerk of Council