

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2023

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall, 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia, there were present Mayor Brian Vincent, presiding, and Council members Sallie Amos, A.D. “Chuckie” Reid, Daniel Dwyer, Tommy Pairet, Adam Yoelin, Donald Hunter and John Hardy.

Staff present were Town Manager C. Scott Davis, Deputy Police Chief William Hogan, Town Attorney Gary Elder, Finance Director Julie Moore, Public Works Director Robin Atkins, Fire Chief Daniel Clark, Deputy Clerk Jacqueline Vaughan, Interim Community Development Director and IT Support Ashley Atkins-Austin, and Clerk Mary McKay.

Mayor Vincent called the meeting to order and welcomed all guests including Professor Eric Hodges’ Political Science class from Longwood University.

An acknowledgement was made of the recent passing of the Pairet family matriarch, Frances Thomas Pairet. Mrs. Pairet was the mother of Council member Tommy Pairet and an educational icon and coach who affected the lives of many in the community. A moment of silence was offered in her honor.

The Clerk called the roll, noting all Council members were present.

The Lord’s Prayer was recited for anyone wishing to join in prayer. Vice-Mayor Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Hunter to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Reid, and with all in favor stating “aye”, the motion passed.

DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest made.

PRESENTATION OF THE TOWN’S FY2022-2023 AUDIT BY BROWN, EDWARDS & COMPANY, L.L.P.

The following documents were previously provided to Council members for review:

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)

Financial Analysis

Required Communication with Those Charged with Governance

Comments on Internal Control and Other Suggestions for Your Consideration

Finance Director Julie Moore introduced Chris Murray, Director at Brown, Edwards, and Company, L.L.P. Mr. Murray provided an overview of the documents and reported that the Town received an unmodified (clean) opinion again this year as well as achieved a Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Town Manager Davis provided a follow-up comment to the audit and gave credit to the Finance Director and her staff for their work.

HIGH BRIDGE TRAIL UPDATE

Park Manager Daniel Jordan provided a presentation on the High Bridge Trail State Park. Mr. Jordan reported on the park's economic impact to the community and the mutual benefits. Capital improvements mentioned included the High Bridge Visitors Center which includes Camp Paradise Road being paved and a mile of trail to finish the western end towards Pamplin. Photo boards were displayed. Additional updates were provided:

- New park benches will be added to areas in Town, one on Main Street, one just west of Buffalo Creek Bridge.
- All railings have been replaced on Buffalo Creek Bridge.
- New half-mile markers have been placed. The Friends of High Bridge Trail donated the plastic markers that resemble the old concrete markers.
- The Friends of High Bridge Trail group has adopted Aspen Hill Road to provide clean-ups to that area.
- A Veterans Day Extravaganza will be held at the Three Roads Brewing Company and the trail this weekend.
- A 100K High Bridge Challenge is scheduled for December 2, 2023, with approximately 300 people signed up to participate.

Mr. Jordan concluded his presentation by adding that last fiscal year, High Bridge welcomed 221,000 visitors, with 133,000 visitors so far, this fiscal year.

Mr. Yoelin made an inquiry about the concrete markers and asked about the number one event held at High Bridge Trail State Park. Mr. Jordan noted that the Firefly Festival routinely held on Father's Day weekend is the most popular event for the park. Mayor Vincent provided information on the State Park annual parking pass.

ABM PRESENTATION

Chrissy Sherriff and Whit Blake from ABM Building Solutions were present to follow-up on items discussed at the November 1, 2023 Work Session and to answer any additional questions.

- EV Charging Solution - The project was revised to reflect a combination of one level two and one DC fast charge at the two locations, Farmers Market and Downtown Plaza.
- Available ground space for solar at the Sports Arena - Due to the low electrical consumption, this area is not a candidate for the solar power purchase agreement.

A brief discussion was held on solar options for other locations within town, and the maintenance for the overall project. Additional discussion was held on the impact of deep snow on the water meters and the compatibility of the safety stick technology with the proposed parking meter solution. A concern was brought forward about staff retention from the implementation of the project. The Town Manager reported that staff will be trained in how to provide maintenance on the new equipment.

The Town Manager gave a description of the financing for the project. An inquiry was made to see if Council is satisfied to move forward with the project as presented, so that final figures may be sought. A proposed loan document and contract with ABM could then be brought forward for Council's consideration. It was noted that ABM's pricing is valid through December 2023.

Implementation timeframes were provided by Mr. Blake.

Mayor Vincent mentioned as an update that ABM Building Solutions submits proposals for localities to become more efficient in their energy savings, buildings, and infrastructure. The asset management topic was brought forward and set by Council in their 2023 Retreat.

Ms. Sherriff noted that a rebate from Dominion Energy could be received from implementing the proposed lighting upgrades.

An informal vote was made with all Council members stating "aye" to agreeing to continue to move forward to obtain the financing for the proposed project.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE NO. 227 – TO AMEND CHAPTER 25 TAXATION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN CODE TO ADD ARTICLE XI AUTHORIZING REVENUE SHARING FOR SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS AND ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

With no one signed up or wishing to speak, the Public Hearing was closed.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Town Manager Scott Davis read an email received from Flora Lopez-Trejo, that provided comments from Beatriz Batres and Marvin Reye Ventura concerning the ICA-Farmville facility.

Jen Cox, Director of Local and Community Relations at Longwood University, was present to provide an update on current and recent events:

- November 10-12, 2023 - Longwood's Homecoming and Alumni Weekend
- Saturday, November 11, 2023 - Opening Basketball Game in Joan Perry Brock Center
- Saturday, November 18, 2023 - Admissions Open House
- Joan Perry Brock Center hosted a successful concert featuring local talent Oliver Anthony.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE – JOHN RAMSEY

Interim Community Development Director Ashley Atkins-Austin introduced John Ramsey as the town's new Residential Code Inspector. Mr. Ramsey will be attending the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) training courses to earn his residential and property inspector certifications. In addition to providing residential inspections, Mr. Ramsey will be working on town code enforcement.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Hardy, and with all Council members stating "aye", the consent agenda was approved as presented. The consent agenda includes the draft minutes of the October 11, 2023 Regular Council meeting.

FINANCE REPORT

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and with all Council members stating "aye", the finance report was approved as presented.

BACKGROUND:

Finance Director Julie Moore provided a report for October 2023. A total of \$15,753.55 was earned at the Virginia Investment Pool (VIP), making a total earned so far of \$110,793.92. There was a total earned for October of \$17,474.03 in the Sweep Accounts with Benchmark Community Bank, for a total earned so far of \$99,218.55. The total earned income in September with the money invested at the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) was \$34,559.30, and \$34,405.45 in October, with a total of \$493,062.80 earned since investing at LGIP. The total earned income for October is \$67,633.03, excluding the amount earned in September with LGIP.

REQUEST ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2023-11-02 – APPOINTMENT OF DANIEL CLARK AS FIRE OFFICIAL FOR THE TOWN OF FARMVILLE

Mr. Hunter made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-11-02 – Appointment of Daniel Clark as Fire Official for the Town of Farmville, seconded by Mr. Reid, and with a recorded vote of Council members Pairet, Yoelin, Hunter, Hardy, Amos, Reid, and Dwyer voting “yes”, the motion passed unanimously.

BACKGROUND:

The Town Manager advised since the Fire Chief position was changed from a volunteer to a full-time position, the job description was also changed to include those duties of Town Fire Official with enforcement of the statewide fire prevention code. It was noted that the Fire Official duties were previously held by the Building Official. Due to the location of the required courses and testing for the certification, it wasn't until October 2023 when the training was held closer to home and in Richmond, that Daniel Clark became certified as a Fire Official through the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The State Fire Prevention Code requires a Fire Official appointment without expiration.

Resolution #2023-11-02

Appointment of Daniel Clark as Fire Official for Town Farmville

WHEREAS, Section 105.1 of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code states each enforcing agency shall have an executive official in charge of, hereinafter referred to as the “fire official”; and

WHEREAS, Section 105.1.1 states in part that the fire official shall be appointed in a manner selected by the local government having jurisdiction and this is a permanent appointment which is not required to be completed each year; and

WHEREAS, Fire Chief Daniel Clark will take on the additional duties of Fire Official in addition to serving as the Fire Chief; and

WHEREAS, Chief Clark has met all the Virginia Certification Standards to serve as Fire Official; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL:

1. The Town of Farmville Town Council appoints Daniel Clark as Fire Official for the Town of Farmville.

2. This resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage.

Approved:

Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council

I certify that the above resolution was:

Adopted on _____.

Ayes: _____. Nays: _____. Absent: _____. Abstain: _____.

The Honorable A.D. “Chuckie” Reid: _____.

The Honorable Sallie O. Amos _____.

The Honorable Daniel E. Dwyer _____.

The Honorable Tommy Pairret _____.

The Honorable John Hardy _____.

The Honorable Donald L. Hunter _____.

The Honorable Adam Yoelin _____.

**REQUEST ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 227 – TO AMEND CHAPTER 25 TAXATION
OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN CODE TO ADD ARTICLE XI AUTHORIZING REVENUE
SHARING FOR SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS AND ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS**

Mr. Hardy made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 227 – to amend Chapter 25 Taxation of the Farmville Town Code to add Article XI authorizing revenue sharing for solar energy projects and energy storage systems, seconded by Mr. Pairret, and with a recorded vote of Council members

Reid, Dwyer, Pairet, Yoelin, Hunter, Hardy, and Amos voting “yes”, the motion passed unanimously.

BACKGROUND: In order to receive any tax revenue from a solar energy project stemming from someone’s business venture, a locality must have a revenue share ordinance in place. A Public Hearing was held on November 8, 2023.

ORDINANCE NO. 227

**ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 25 TAXATION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN CODE
TO ADD ARTICLE XI AUTHORIZING REVENUE SHARING FOR SOLAR ENERGY
PROJECTS AND ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of The Town of Farmville:

Article XI: Revenue Share for Solar Energy Projects and Energy Storage Systems

Section: 25-205 Purpose, definition, relation to other ordinances.

- (A) *The purpose of this article is to implement § 58.1-2636 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, titled “Revenue Share for Solar Energy Projects and Energy Storage Systems.”*
- (B) *Terms used in this article shall have the defined meanings found in §§ 58.1-2636, 58.1-3660, 58.1-3507, or 58.1-3508.6 of the Code of Virginia, as amended.*
- (C) *To the extent that the provisions of this article conflict with any other prior ordinance or provision of the Town of Farmville ordinances, this article shall control.*

Section: 25-206 Applicability.

- (A) *This article shall apply to all solar photovoltaic (electric energy) systems except those:*
 - (1) *Described in § 56-594, 56-594.01, 56-594.02 or 56-594.2;*
 - (2) *20 megawatts or less, as measured in alternating current (AC) generation capacity, for which an initial interconnection request form has been filed with an electric utility or a regional transmission organization on or before December 31, 2018.*
- (B) *Pursuant to Va. Code 58.1-2606.1(B), as amended, this Article shall apply to solar photovoltaic (electric energy) generation facilities of 5 megawatts or less.*
- (C) *This article shall not apply to any solar photovoltaic (electric energy) project or energy storage system for which an application was filed with the Town and approved by the Town prior to January 1, 2021, unless one of the following apply:*

1. *The Town and the applicant or owner agree to revise any existing voluntary payment agreement, or enter into any new voluntary payment agreement, under which the applicant or owner agrees to voluntarily waive a portion of the exemption from machinery and tools as provided in Section 58.1-3660 of the Code of Virginia, as amended.*
2. *The Town and the e applicant or owner agree to substitute the amount of such voluntary payment for a similar amount of a solar energy revenue share authorized by Section 58.2-2636 of the Code of Virginia.*
3. *For purposes of this subsection, “application has been filed with the locality” means an applicant has filed an application for a zoning confirmation from the Town for a by-right use, or an application for land use approval under the Town’s zoning ordinance to include an application for conditional use permit, special use permit, special exception, or other application as set out in the zoning ordinance.*

Section: 25-207 Revenue share rate per megawatt and waiver of machinery and tool tax.

- (A) The Town hereby imposes a revenue share to be assessed at a rate of \$1,400.00 per megawatt on any solar photovoltaic (energy) project or energy storage system, which rate shall be increased by ten percent on July 1, 2026, and every five years thereafter by ten percent. The generation or storage capacity shall be measured in alternating current (AC) generation or storage capacity of the facility and the determination of the generation or storage capacity shall be based on submissions by the facility owner to the interconnecting utility.*
- (B) The exemption for solar photovoltaic (electric energy) projects and energy storage systems greater than five megawatts as provided by Va. Code Ann. § 58.1-3660 and § 58.1-2606.1, as amended, shall be 100 percent of the assessed value.*
- (C) Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent any other tax or fee as provided by the Code of Virginia.*

Secs. 25-208 - 25-305 – Reserved.

1. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon approval.

Approved: _____
Mayor

Attest: _____

Clerk of Council

I certify that the above ordinance was:

Adopted on _____.

Ayes: _____. Nays: _____. Absent: _____. Abstain: _____.

The Honorable A.D. “Chuckie” Reid: _____.

The Honorable Sallie O. Amos _____.

The Honorable Daniel E. Dwyer _____.

The Honorable Tommy Pairret _____.

The Honorable Adam Yoelin _____.

The Honorable Donald L. Hunter _____.

The Honorable John Hardy _____.

**REQUEST ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2023-11-01 – AUTHORIZING THE
FINANCE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER BUDGETED FUNDS FROM FY22-23 TO FY23-24
IN THE GENERAL FUND AND WATER FUND**

Mr. Dwyer made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-11-01, seconded by Mrs. Amos, and with a recorded vote of Council members Dwyer, Pairret, Yoelin, Hunter, Hardy, Amos, and Reid voting “yes”, the motion passed unanimously.

BACKGROUND:

Resolution No. 2023-11-01 provides for the transfer of funds from various departments in the General Fund and Water Fund for items and projects that have not been received or invoiced as of June 30, 2023.

Resolution No. 2023-11-01

To transfer FY22-23 budgeted funds to the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 budget, in an aggregate amount of \$240,051.81. To transfer prior year’s budgeted funds from FY22-23 to FY23-24 to the General Fund in the amount of \$224,367.21 and Water

Fund in the amount of \$15,684.60. The purpose of the transfer is for items and projects that have not been received or invoiced as of June 30, 2023.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FARMVILLE:

1. That a transfer of funds from FY22-23 to FY23-24 in the aggregate amount of \$240,051.81; to the General Fund in the amount of \$224,367.21 and Water Fund in the amount of \$15,684.60 for the purpose of budgeted funds for items and projects that have not been received or invoiced as of June 30, 2023.
2. That this resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage.

Approved:

Mayor

Attest:

Town Clerk

I certify that the above resolution was:

Adopted on _____.

Ayes: _____. Nays: _____. Absent: _____. Abstain: _____.

The Honorable Sallie O. Amos: _____.

The Honorable A.D. "Chuckie" Reid _____.

The Honorable Daniel E. Dwyer _____.

The Honorable Tommy Pairet _____.

The Honorable Adam B. Yoelin _____.

The Honorable Donald L. Hunter _____.

The Honorable John F. Hardy _____.

REQUEST ACCEPTANCE OF AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

Mr. Pairet made a motion to accept the results of the audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with a recorded vote of Council members Yoelin, Hunter, Hardy, Amos, Reid, Dwyer, and Pairet voting “yes”, the motion passed unanimously.

BACKGROUND:

A presentation of the Town’s FY2022-2023 audit was provided by Chris Murray, Director at Brown, Edwards & Company, L.L.P., at the November 8, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

Town Manager Scott Davis provided Council members with several updates:

- For the missing traffic signal light at North Street and West Third, the existing pole will be turned around to where it can be used instead of trying to locate a new pole.
- The Splash Pad project is nearing completion, and a report was provided of the upcoming work to be performed at the site.
- Public Works Deputy Director Bill Caldwell will work with Information Technology vendors on how security cameras can be stationed onto the building at the new Splash Pad. Mr. Hunter previously asked if security cameras could be placed at that location.
- An update was provided on the usage of recycling bins which was brought up for discussion by Mr. Dwyer at the last meeting. There would be additional costs to purchase bins for residents to use the bags in, or the need for a separate truck to dump recycling bins. Discussion was held on the options reported. It was noted that the Town’s recycling vendor, STEPS, prefers the usage of bags versus a recycling bin, but their staff are willing to work with the bin option if used.
- Currently there doesn’t appear to be a need for a crosswalk at Edmunds and Griffin Boulevard as there are already crosswalks at Redford less than two blocks down, and one at the parking lot area. The area of Edmunds and Griffin doesn’t appear to have the same amount of traffic.
- Additional time is needed to explore Mr. Yoelin’s request for ramp access to Crute Stage.
- A Virginia Commonwealth University student in the master’s program for Urban and Regional Planning, is working on her Capstone project in Farmville, having been referred by the Farmville Downtown Partnership. Her focus is on stormwater management and flood resilience, and she will be conducting research on the Gross’ Creek and Buffalo Creek areas possibly providing help in reducing the flood impact of those two creeks.

- After the first of the year, the topic of planned unit development ordinances will be brought forward again for discussion with the Council and Planning Commission.
- Annual Tree Lighting event is scheduled for Sunday, November 19th, 5:00 PM at the Downtown Plaza.
- Annual holiday luncheon for employees and staff is scheduled for Thursday, December 14th, at the Fireman's Sports Arena.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

Mr. Pairet mentioned wanting to discuss and review some of the current zoning ordinances for possible improvements, with the Town Manager advising just needing to know the ordinances Council would like to review.

Mr. Yoelin provided a welcome remark to Mr. Ramsey and addressed Professor Hodges' class concerning the opportunity to attend the High Bridge Trail State Park Firefly Festival that occurs annually on Father's Day weekend.

Mr. Hunter congratulated Daniel Clark on his appointment as the town's Fire Official. Information was also reported on the free meals to be provided at the Farmville Train Station on November 17, 2023, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. The meals are being offered by an organization Mr. Hunter is a member of.

Mr. Hardy commented that he received a few calls concerning the placement and removal of the trash containers, and asked if additional clarification could be made for residents concerning the change. The Town Manager provided a review of the policy.

Mayor Vincent provided a report on his monthly activities:

- Visited the Splash Pad project site and shared his excitement for the ongoing project.
- 2023 Leaf Pick-up has begun with the schedule being posted on the website.
- Attended the 10th Annual Virginia Childrens' Book Festival at Longwood University and volunteered as an author escort.
- Attended the tip-off reception for Longwood Men's Basketball. The Homecoming games are scheduled for this weekend for both men's and women's basketball.
- Recapped the last council meeting on the Call FLO show, as routinely done the Thursday after the meeting.

- A thank you was expressed to Farmville Downtown Partnership and all the downtown businesses for a successful Halloween event downtown. Appreciation was expressed also to the Police Officers who kept everyone safe and for their assistance with the traffic flow.
- Annual Tree Lighting is scheduled for Sunday, November 19, 2023.

An acknowledgement was made to the citizens who added their names to run for office in the recent elections with congratulations expressed to the winners. A thank you was mentioned to the poll workers, particularly in Prince Edward County.

Mr. Hunter made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Pairet, with all in favor stating “aye”, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Brian R. Vincent, Mayor

Mary H. McKay, Clerk of Council