

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2024

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chamber 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, Donald Hunter and John Hardy.

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

Mayor Vincent called the meeting to order and welcomed all guests present and watching online.

The Clerk called the roll, noting Council member Adam Yoelin as absent.

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.

PUBLIC HEARING – RESOLUTION NO. 2024-02-01 - TO AMEND THE TOWN BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024 IN A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$30,454,150. TO RECORD REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES RELATED TO THE USE OF BANK OF AMERICA LEASE PURCHASE FOR THE ABM PROJECT FOR THE FY 2023-2024 BUDGET IN THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$4,896,000.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Before opening the Public Comment Period, Mayor Vincent provided some introductory remarks concerning the Town’s contract with ICA-Farmville. He reported that in September 2023, the Town Council voted in favor of seeking a way to remove itself from an intergovernmental service agreement between the federal government and ICA-Farmville. Since then, there was an

extension as ICA sought another agreement, but it was not with the Town. He advised that the Town does not have any projected revenue in its budget next year from the ICA-Farmville facility regarding per day money. He also welcomed all who signed up to speak for the Public Comment Period and offered some general guidelines for receiving comments.

Flor Lopez, 626 E. Broad St. #200, Richmond, VA 23219, was present to address the Council concerning the Farmville Detention Center. Ms. Lopez expressed her appreciation for Mayor Vincent's update about the Town's plans for the upcoming budget to not include funding from the IGSA contract. She stated her understanding that the Town continues to withdraw from the contract. Ms. Lopez concluded by commenting that people's freedom should not be something that a price is placed and hopes that Farmville becomes an ally moving forward to ensure that this facility does not continue to exist in Virginia.

Amber Qureshi, 1200 18th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036, provided in-person remarks concerning the Immigration Detention Facility in Farmville. Ms. Qureshi also submitted a detailed written statement, along with Jesse Franzblau, a Senior Policy Analyst at the National Immigration Justice Center. She reported on behalf of her colleagues at the National Immigration Project and the individuals their organization serves and expressed solidarity with those who have experienced ICE detention calling on the Town to end their involvement in immigration detention. Ms. Qureshi further reported on documents received through public records requests concerning the short-term contract extension and the attempts by ICA to restructure the contract before the March 29, 2024 expiration.

Gabriella Bustillos, 315 W Third Street, Farmville, VA 23901, was present to provide comments concerning the Immigration Detention Center. Ms. Bustillos spoke of coming together in unity to address a common cause stating immigration is about human rights and freedom.

Ms. Bustillos also read a written comment from Jocelyn Watson of 201 High Street, Farmville, VA, concerning the Immigration Detention Center. Ms. Watson urged the Town Council to let the contract expire and to not renew any more of Farmville's contracts with ICE.

Sarah Gandam, 16280 Aspen Trail Ct., Triangle, VA, was present to address the Council concerning the contract between Farmville and ICE. Ms. Gandam advised she is the daughter of immigrants and the President of the Asian Student Involvement Association of Longwood University. She also stated she was present on behalf of the Free Them All Virginia Coalition and the Virginia Legal Aid Justice Center. She urged the Town Council to vote against renewing the

contract with ICE. Ms. Gandam spoke on the facility's disregard for the health and safety of its detainees.

Victoria Somerville, a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Northern Virginia, provided written comments concerning the Farmville Detention Center Contract. The Clerk read the comments provided by Ms. Somerville.

Danny Cendejas, 626 E. Broad St. #200, Richmond, VA 23219, was present to provide comments concerning the ICA-Farmville. Mr. Cendejas reported he is a member of LA Coltiva and the Free Them All Virginia Coalition, calling on the Town Council to end the contract with ICA and ICE.

Beatriz Batrez, 626 E. Broad St. #200, Richmond, VA 23219, was present to provide comments concerning the Farmville Detention Center. Ms. Batrez also reported she is a member of LA Coltiva and the Free Them All Virginia Coalition and voiced her opposition to detention. Flor Lopez offered a translation as Ms. Batrez spoke.

Howard Armistead, 706 A Hill St., Farmville, VA, was present to address the Council concerning Black History Month. As an AIDS, Ebola and COVID-19 Researcher, Mr. Armistead reported on a book he has written, *Understanding COVID-19: How 500,000 American Lives Could Have Been Saved*. He spoke briefly on five bills introduced in the Virginia General Assembly recently regarding sickle cell anemia disease and referenced a paper he wrote and shared with the Council, "Sickle Cell Disease and Selenium".

With no one else signed up to speak, Mayor Vincent closed the Public Comment Period and returned the meeting to the regular order of business.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Hardy, and with all Council members stating "aye", the consent agenda was accepted as presented. The consent agenda includes the draft minutes of the January 10, 2024 Regular Council meeting.

FINANCE REPORT

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

BACKGROUND: Finance Director Julie Moore provided a report for January 2024. There was \$22,938.11 earned for the ABM Project and this income will go towards future payments on the project. A total of \$16,329.46 was earned at the Virginia Investment Pool (VIP), making a total

earned so far of \$158,987.81 since investing with VIP in April 2023. There was a total earned of \$17,866.96 in the sweep accounts with Benchmark Community Bank, for a total earned so far of \$149,640.85. The total earned income in January with the money invested at the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) was \$34,958.70, with a total earned at LGIP of \$257,082.21 in fiscal year 2024. The total earned income for January 2024 was \$69,155.12, excluding income received for the ABM Project.

PHASE I RIVER WALK PROJECT

Mrs. Amos made a motion to cut losses and stop the project, no longer move forward with any phase of the River Walk Project, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with a recorded vote of Council members Reid, Dwyer, Pairet, Hunter, Hardy, and Amos voting “yes”, the motion passed.

BACKGROUND: Town Manager Davis reported that the Council was provided with a project update at the February 7, 2024 Work Session. As requested by Mr. Hardy, Council members were also provided with the information of the onset of the project and its phases. It was reported if the current phase is exceeding what was projected, it is anticipated future phases will be over projection as well.

Mr. Dwyer asked if the projected estimates for phases two and three factored in current figures or did the estimates allow for inflation. It was thought by the Town Manager that the third phase did not factor in inflation costs as that phase would have an approximate date of 2030 for being built.

REQUEST ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-02-01, AMEND THE TOWN BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024

On motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Reid, and with a recorded vote of Council members Reid, Dwyer, Pairet, Hunter, Hardy, and Amos voting “yes”, the motion passed to adopt Resolution No. 2024-02-01.

RESOLUTION #2024-02-01

BUDGET AMENDMENT

To amend the Town Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 in a total amount of \$30,454,150. To record revenue and expenditures related to the use of Bank of America Lease Purchase for the ABM Project for the FY 2023-2024 Budget in the aggregate amount of \$4,896,000.

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

That additional revenue and expenditure in the amount of \$4,896,000 be added to the FY 2023-2024 Budget so that the amended total of the Town of Farmville's FY 2023-2024 budget shall be \$35,350,150; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT \$4,896,000 shall be appropriated by the Town of Farmville as follows:

- Lease purchase revenue and expenditure for the ABM Project in the general fund - \$1,594,109.46
- Lease purchase revenue and expenditure for the ABM Project in the water fund - \$3,301,890.54

1. That this resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its 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 Pairt _____.

The Honorable John Hardy _____.

The Honorable Donald L. Hunter _____.

The Honorable Adam Yoelin _____.

BACKGROUND: The Town entered into a Lease Purchase Agreement on December 27, 2023, for an infrastructure improvement project with ABM Building Solutions. The lease purchase revenue and expenditure needed to be added to the Town's fiscal year 2023-2024 budget for the General Fund and Water Fund. Resolution No. 2024-02-01 authorizes the Finance Director to amend the revenue and expenditures for \$1,594,109.46 in the General Fund and amend the revenue and expenditures for \$3,301,890.54 in the Water Fund for the ABM Project. A Public Hearing was held on February 14, 2024.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

On motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Hardy, and with a recorded vote of Council members Dwyer, Pairet, Hunter, Hardy, Amos, and Reid voting "yes", the motion passed to approve the Planning Commission 2023 Annual Report.

BACKGROUND: Section 15.2-2221 of the Code of Virginia states that the local planning commission shall: "5. *Make recommendations and an annual report to the governing body concerning the operation of the commission and the status of planning within its jurisdiction.*"

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE 2023 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS ANNUAL REPORT

On motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with a recorded vote of Council members Pairet, Hunter, Hardy, Amos, Reid, and Dwyer voting "yes", the motion passed to approve the 2023 Board of Zoning Appeals Annual Report.

BACKGROUND: Section 15.2-2308 of the Code of Virginia states: "C. *...The board shall keep a full public record of its proceedings and shall submit a report of its activities to the governing body or bodies at least once each year.*"

REQUEST ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-02-02, AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO WRITE OFF \$553.32 IN REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES INCLUDING PENALTIES AND INTEREST

On motion by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with a recorded vote of Council members Hunter, Hardy, Amos, Reid, Dwyer, and Pairet voting "yes", the motion passed to adopt Resolution No. 2024-02-02.

Resolution No. 2024-02-02

Authorization for the Finance Director to write-off \$553.32 in Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes including penalties and interest as presented to Council.

WHEREAS, the Farmville Town Council, at its Work Session on February 7, 2024, discussed the write-off of delinquent real estate and personal property taxes; and

WHEREAS, authorization for the Finance Director to write-off \$553.32 in Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes including penalties and interest as presented to Council; and

WHEREAS, the combined total for the uncollectible Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes are \$553.32; and

WHEREAS, it has been verified that the Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes are uncollectible.

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

1. Authorization for the Finance Director to write-off \$10.09 in Real Estate Taxes including penalties and interest, and \$543.23 in Personal Property Taxes including penalties and interest, as presented to Council.
2. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its approval.

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 Pairt _____.

The Honorable John F. Hardy _____.

The Honorable Donald L. Hunter _____.

The Honorable Adam Yoelin _____.

BACKGROUND: At the February 7, 2024 Work Session, the Finance Director reported on the Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes that must be written off. These consist of Real Estate taxes that need to be written off from TACS (Taxing Authority Consulting Services), which are past the statute of limitations to collect. Resolution No. 2024-02-02 authorizes the Finance Director to write off \$10.09 in Real Estate Taxes including penalties and interest, and \$543.23 in Personal Property Taxes including penalties and interest.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Davis provided an update:

- The traffic signal light at North and West Third Street is currently working on a set time loop system until ordered equipment is received and can be installed.
- ABM Building Solutions should start some of the projects at the end of this week or next week on water conservation projects and two-three roof jobs on some of the buildings.
- There is a preliminary water and sewer asset management assessment from Hurt & Proffitt. A lot of information is missing as to the age of some of the infrastructure, type of piping, etc. and Council probably soon will be asked to add work to the original agreement. As previously reported, the initial cost was very low compared to what was estimated. Some of the information may be known in-house, but most likely will need Hurt & Proffitt to physically look at the infrastructure to provide the information.
- Town Council gifted \$350,000 to the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to assist the Farmville Downtown Partnership (FDP) with their goal of getting an Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) grant from the state. IDA still has those funds, as FDP has not found out whether they were awarded the IRF grant. The information has been submitted and reviewed but an announcement hasn't been made from the Governor's office that an award has been made.

- The proposed FY25 budget may not be presented at the March 7, 2024 Work Session but in the near future, possibly at Council's Regular Meeting in March and will still be on schedule for the end of the fiscal year June 30, 2024. Meetings with department directors were held this week to review their submitted budgets and capital improvements.
- The Town Manager reported he will be heading to the Virginia Local Government Manager's Conference for the rest of the week.
- A reminder was made that Monday, February 19, 2024, is the President's Day holiday and town offices will be closed for the day.

COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

Mr. Hunter reported on a couple of bills in crossover now that may need to be watched, one of which concerns what the state is paying for the local facilities to hold their prisoners when they are out of compliance. There is support from the Virginia Municipal League (VML) and the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO). Mr. Hunter advised the approximate cost to hold an inmate at Piedmont Regional Jail is \$75 a day and the state isn't giving \$22 currently. He further explained there will be a problem as it will indirectly affect the town in the future so he thinks we should watch and offer some support as well.

Mayor Vincent provided a monthly update:

- Attended Department of Wildlife Resources meetings this past month.
- He and the Town Manager met for a *Farmville Herald* photo shoot and interview for the upcoming *Progress* magazine.
- Attended VML Local Government Day in Richmond and visited with representatives to lobby on behalf of bills we want to support.
- Attended the Business After Hours at Green Front Furniture.
- Attended the first 2024 Fireworks After Dark Meeting.
- Attended the Small Cities Council Kickoff meeting for the National League of Cities this past week and discussed topics including affordable housing and recruitment of small businesses and town revenue for small localities.
- A reminder was made that the Farmville Citizens Police Academy is still accepting applications.

- A shout out was offered to the Farmville Downtown Partnership for their Façade Improvement Grants for local businesses to improve their storefronts.

Mayor Vincent concluded by mentioning that a status of the ICA facility had been provided. He expressed appreciation for the engagement in local government and the decorum which everyone held. A welcome was offered to all.

On motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Pairet, and with all in favor stating “aye”, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Brian R. Vincent, Mayor

Mary H. McKay, Clerk of Council