

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MARCH 13, 2024

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:00 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, Adam Yoelin, 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, Captain William Hogan, Emergency Communications Manager Crystal Barton, Deputy Clerk and IT Support Jacqueline Vaughan, and Clerk of Council Mary McKay.

Mayor Vincent called the meeting to order and mentioned two local basketball teams, (Longwood University and Hampden-Sydney College), making national headlines. The mayor also noted that Longwood University’s Adriana Shipp-Davis was in attendance.

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

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest made.

INTRODUCTION OF FARMVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEW OFFICER, PROMOTIONS, AND OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Chief of Police Andy Ellington was present to introduce one of the department’s newest officers, Hope Dowler. Three newly promoted officers were also recognized, Corporal Dalton Foley was promoted to Sergeant, and Officers Kyle Britton and Derek Thompson were promoted to Corporal. For the second consecutive year, Corporal Thompson was named the 2023 Stuart O. Dunnivant DUI Award winner. Sergeant Harvey Hoyle, who was not in attendance, was recognized as the 2023 Officer of the Year.

Mayor Vincent offered a welcome and congratulations to all.

PRESENTATION: PROPOSED FY2024-2025 TOWN BUDGET

The Town Manager provided a presentation of the 2024-2025 proposed budget for the Town of Farmville, remarking on the team effort from all departments and that the budget is based on the need to provide efficient, effective, and equitable service to the community. A thank you was expressed to Finance Director Julie Moore and to his Executive Assistant, Jackie Vaughan. Council members were provided with copies of the proposed Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for review.

The revenues and expenditures balance, which is required, with the overall budget being made up of the General, Street Maintenance, Water, Sewer, Transportation, and Airport funds. In the General fund, an overview of some key expenses was noted:

- Two new positions have been added, one full-time firefighter position and one part-time recreation position.
- Providing upgrades in equipment and capital assets:
 - \$234,000. for police cars,
 - \$246,000. for new 911 call handling equipment,
 - New EMS vehicle for the Fire department,
 - Painting of the Town Hall to be phased in with the first floor being completed this year and the second floor the next year,
 - More renovations to be completed at the Train Station,
 - Mini excavator for the Public Works Department,
 - New garbage truck,
 - New pickup truck for the Street Maintenance Department,
 - \$144,000. for a prefab changing station and bathroom at the Splash Pad Park,
 - \$75,000. over the next three years for renovation to the Public Works facility,
- Minor increase for the Heart of Virginia Festival,
- An increase to the library funding, and
- Provide for a \$3000. raise for all full-time employees, and \$1.00/hour raise for part-time employees.

The Town Manager also shared with the Council that this upcoming fiscal year, no funds will be transferred to the General Fund from any other fund. Since his employment began in 2017,

funds from the Water or Sewer fund had been transferred to make the General Fund balance and this coming year will be the first year the General Fund will be funded on its own.

- The Street Maintenance fund has a slight deficit, which will be made up from the prior year fund balance.
- With the Water fund, the dump truck will be replaced with a new one and a new water truck will replace the current one from 1993. There are funds allotted for the lead and copper mandates that need to be completed or at least reported by October, as well as replace sedimentation drain valves at the Water Treatment Plant. The Water fund has a built-in contingency.
- With the Sewer fund, a new sewer jet machine will be purchased as well as a service truck with a crane to replace the existing truck. The Sewer fund also has a built-in contingency.
- For the Transportation fund, no new capital was reported for this year but will be in future years depending on when buses are needed and available state funding. There is a slight deficit which will be made up with the prior year fund balance.
- For the Airport fund, there is a slight deficit which will also be made up with the prior year fund balance. A recent meeting was mentioned and some of the capital projects may be shifted around for the Airport depending on FAA federal funding for projects in the coming year.

If Council members have had time to review the proposed Budget and Capital Improvement Plan, it was suggested that a discussion be held at the April 3, 2024, Work Session for questions or suggestions to discuss, and then hold a Public Hearing the following week at the April 10, 2024, Regular Council meeting. Adoption of the budget could be requested at the May 8, 2024, Regular Council Meeting with a final approved budget in place on July 1, 2024, for the new fiscal year.

Mayor Vincent thanked the Town Manager for his presentation and for the concerted efforts to eliminate the transfers into the General Fund. A thank you also was expressed to the Longwood University students from Professor Eric Hodges' class for their attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Vincent provided an introductory remark before opening the Public Comment Period. He reported that the previous evening, the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors

voted to enter into an agreement with the Immigration Centers of America. The town's contract with ICA-Farmville will expire at the end of March 2024.

Rick Ewing, Director of the Barbara Rose Johns Farmville-Prince Edward Community Library, was present to address the Council and commented that he had previously emailed information on the library's budget request. He noted also being available for questions at the upcoming scheduled public hearing or at any time. Information was provided about the library's electricity costs and salary competition. Mr. Ewing thanked Council members for their support of the library over the years and mentioned that the town is very fortunate to have such a wonderful library.

Jen Cox, Director of Local and Community Relations at Longwood University, was present to provide an update on the Men's basketball team winning the Big South Tournament with Selection Sunday to be held on March 17, 2024, at 6:00 PM, at the Joan Perry Brock Center. Council members were asked to join the staff for the event. Additional information was provided on the available championship tournament t-shirts, posters to be distributed around downtown, and a website with information concerning the event. A thank you was expressed for the continued support of Longwood University.

Kailyn Snyder, a freshman at Longwood University and a current student in Dr. Eric Hodges' Political Science class, addressed the Council to provide information on the topic of food insecurity. Ms. Snyder reported that the class is working to find political solutions to local issues in Farmville and Prince Edward County. She referenced a case study in Texas of a way that a town is helping their population with food insecurity through the development of an ordinance which created a Food Policy Board. She encouraged the Council to consider creating a position or program to help citizens who suffer from food insecurity. A thank you was expressed for the opportunity to speak on the issue.

Vicky Page, with Friends of the Farmville-Prince Edward Community Library, was present to request that April be recognized as National Poetry Month. As in the past, the town has provided a proclamation in recognition of the event. Ms. Page provided a copy of the 2021 proclamation signed by former Mayor David Whitus to the clerk and reported on the upcoming Poem in Your Pocket Day. A thank you was expressed by Ms. Page.

Mayor Vincent closed the Public Comment Period and thanked all for their participation, including the students who step up to have their voices heard.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Hunter made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with Mr. Hardy's addition, seconded by Mr. Hardy, and with all Council members stating "aye", the motion passed. The Consent Agenda includes the draft minutes of the February 7, 2024 Work Session and the February 14, 2024 Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Hardy requested that the draft minutes of the February 7, 2024 Work Session reflect his comments asking that we look at all possibilities for zoning and ordinance before moving forward with the PUD.

FINANCE REPORT

On motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with all in favor stating "aye", the finance report was approved as presented.

BACKGROUND:

Finance Director Julie Moore provided the February 2024 report. There was \$21,072.08 earned for the ABM project and this income will go towards future payments on the project. The first payment was made to ABM in February in the amount of \$1,237,207.00. A total of \$15,375.26 was earned at the Virginia Investment Pool (VIP), making a total earned so far of \$174,363.07 since investing with VIP in April 2023. There was a total earned of \$16,966.71 in February in the sweep accounts with Benchmark Community Bank, for a total earned so far of \$166,607.56. The total earned income in February with the money invested at the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) was \$32,683.25, with a total earned at LGIP of \$289,765.46 in fiscal year 2024. The total earned income for February 2024 was \$65,025.22, excluding income received for the ABM project.

Mr. Yoelin asked Ms. Moore about what was mentioned the previous month concerning the VIP and the LGIP not earning the same going forward and that a reduction could be expected in 2024.

Ms. Moore advised currently she thinks the town is earning approximately 5% in both accounts but that those rates are based on other interest rates. If those other interest rates start to decrease, such as car loans and house loans, then our earnings rates are going to go down as well. She mentioned that she listened to a VIP webinar and projections are that those rates are going to decrease, and eventually be at 3% or 2½%. It was also predicted that the first quarter would

decrease, and the rates haven't dropped yet so she thinks the rates will be a little slower going down than what was originally expected.

REQUEST ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-03-01, REVISED FINANCIAL POLICIES

Mr. Pairet made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-03-01 Revised Financial Policies, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and with a recorded vote of Council members Reid, Dwyer, Pairet, Yoelin, Hunter, Hardy, and Amos voting "yes", the motion passed unanimously.

BACKGROUND: This topic was discussed at the March 6, 2024 Work Session. Revising the Town's current financial policies allows for optimizing resource allocation, streamlining processes, and enhancing overall financial efficiency.

Resolution No. 2024-03-01

Approving the revised Financial Policies.

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

1. The Town Manager and Finance Director are hereby authorized to implement the revised Financial Policies as provided in the attached document.
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 Pairret _____.

The Honorable John F. Hardy _____.

The Honorable Donald L. Hunter _____.

The Honorable Adam Yoelin _____.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF FY2024-2025 LOCAL CHOICE HEALTH INSURANCE RATES

Mr. Hunter made a motion to approve the FY2024-2025 Local Choice Health Insurance Rates, seconded by Mr. Reid, and with a recorded vote of Council members Dwyer, Pairret, Yoelin, Hunter, Hardy, Amos, and Reid voting “yes”, the motion passed unanimously.

BACKGROUND: The proposed rates were discussed at the March 6, 2024 Work Session. It was noted that there was no increase in the rates from the previous year.

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THE LOCAL CHOICE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

TOWN OF FARMVILLE

GROUP # T69913

RATES EFFECTIVE 07/01/24 - 06/30/25

RATES WITH COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL			
ACTIVE EMPLOYEES	SINGLE	DUAL	FAMILY
Key Advantage Expanded	\$1,012	\$1,872	\$2,732
* Key Advantage 250	\$921	\$1,704	\$2,487
* Key Advantage 500	\$850	\$1,573	\$2,295
Key Advantage 1000	\$810	\$1,499	\$2,187
High Deductible Health Plan	\$668	\$1,236	\$1,804
RETIREEES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE			
Key Advantage Expanded	\$1,012	\$1,872	\$2,732
* Key Advantage 250	\$921	\$1,704	\$2,487
* Key Advantage 500	\$850	\$1,573	\$2,295
Key Advantage 1000	\$810	\$1,499	\$2,187
High Deductible Health Plan	\$668	\$1,236	\$1,804
RATES WITH PREVENTIVE DENTAL ONLY			
ACTIVE EMPLOYEES	SINGLE	DUAL	FAMILY
Key Advantage Expanded	\$995	\$1,841	\$2,687
* Key Advantage 250	\$904	\$1,672	\$2,441
* Key Advantage 500	\$833	\$1,541	\$2,249
Key Advantage 1000	\$793	\$1,467	\$2,141
High Deductible Health Plan	\$651	\$1,204	\$1,758
RETIREEES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE			
Key Advantage Expanded	\$995	\$1,841	\$2,687
* Key Advantage 250	\$904	\$1,672	\$2,441
* Key Advantage 500	\$833	\$1,541	\$2,249
Key Advantage 1000	\$793	\$1,467	\$2,141
High Deductible Health Plan	\$651	\$1,204	\$1,758

*** Benefit Plans Currently Offered**

COVERAGE UNDER ALL THE LOCAL CHOICE PLANS IS APPLICABLE TO THE FOLLOWING :

- Active Employees and their Dependents
- Retirees not eligible for Medicare and their Dependents not eligible for Medicare, and/or Dependents of Medicare eligible Retirees who are not Medicare eligible.

IF COVERAGE IS OFFERED TO MEDICARE ELIGIBLE RETIREES AND THEIR MEDICARE ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS, it must be obtained through one of our Medicare Supplemental Contracts which require participation in both Parts A and B of Medicare to receive maximum benefits.

THE PCORI FEE is the responsibility of the group and payment should be submitted directly to HHS; therefore, this fee is not included in the rates.

THE LOCAL CHOICE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM
TOWN OF FARMVILLE
GROUP # T69913
COBRA RATES EFFECTIVE 07/01/24 - 06/30/25

COBRA RATES WITH COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL			
ACTIVE EMPLOYEES	SINGLE	DUAL	FAMILY
Key Advantage Expanded	\$1,032.24	\$1,909.44	\$2,786.64
* Key Advantage 250	\$939.42	\$1,738.08	\$2,536.74
* Key Advantage 500	\$867.00	\$1,604.46	\$2,340.90
Key Advantage 1000	\$826.20	\$1,528.98	\$2,230.74
High Deductible Health Plan	\$681.36	\$1,260.72	\$1,840.08
RETIREES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE			
Key Advantage Expanded	\$1,032.24	\$1,909.44	\$2,786.64
* Key Advantage 250	\$939.42	\$1,738.08	\$2,536.74
* Key Advantage 500	\$867.00	\$1,604.46	\$2,340.90
Key Advantage 1000	\$826.20	\$1,528.98	\$2,230.74
High Deductible Health Plan	\$681.36	\$1,260.72	\$1,840.08
COBRA RATES WITH PREVENTIVE DENTAL ONLY			
ACTIVE EMPLOYEES	SINGLE	DUAL	FAMILY
Key Advantage Expanded	\$1,014.90	\$1,877.82	\$2,740.74
* Key Advantage 250	\$922.08	\$1,705.44	\$2,489.82
* Key Advantage 500	\$849.66	\$1,571.82	\$2,293.98
Key Advantage 1000	\$808.86	\$1,496.34	\$2,183.82
High Deductible Health Plan	\$664.02	\$1,228.08	\$1,793.16
RETIREES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE			
Key Advantage Expanded	\$1,014.90	\$1,877.82	\$2,740.74
* Key Advantage 250	\$922.08	\$1,705.44	\$2,489.82
* Key Advantage 500	\$849.66	\$1,571.82	\$2,293.98
Key Advantage 1000	\$808.86	\$1,496.34	\$2,183.82
High Deductible Health Plan	\$664.02	\$1,228.08	\$1,793.16

*** Benefit Plans Currently Offered**

COVERAGE UNDER ALL THE LOCAL CHOICE PLANS IS APPLICABLE TO THE FOLLOWING :

- Active Employees and their Dependents
- Retirees not eligible for Medicare and their Dependents not eligible for Medicare, and/or Dependents of Medicare eligible Retirees who are not Medicare eligible.

IF COVERAGE IS OFFERED TO MEDICARE ELIGIBLE RETIREES AND THEIR MEDICARE ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS, it must be obtained through one of our Medicare Supplemental Contracts which require participation in both Parts A and B of Medicare to receive maximum benefits.

THE PCORI FEE is the responsibility of the group and payment should be submitted directly to HHS; therefore, this fee is not included in the rates.

REQUEST ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-03-02, REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

A motion was made by Mrs. Amos to approve Resolution No. 2024-03-02, seconded by Mr. Hardy, and with a recorded vote of Council members Pairet, Yoelin, Hunter, Hardy, Amos, Reid, and Dwyer voting “yes”, the motion passed unanimously.

BACKGROUND: Federal Requirements, specifically the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, require that state and local governments develop and adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible for federal mitigation grant funding. Per those requirements, the Plan must be updated every five years. Having a FEMA-approved plan is required for localities to be eligible for funding under pots of money including the Hazard Mitigation Grant program (which is available when a presidential disaster declaration affects our area), Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (formerly Pre-Disaster Mitigation, available annually), and Flood Mitigation Assistance (also available annually). Farmville is covered under the CRC's Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which covers all seven counties and incorporated towns (except Pamplin) in Planning District 14. The previous update was completed in 2018. The completion of the current update will pick up all of the covered localities. FEMA has granted the current update Approval Pending Adoption. Once all of the covered localities adopt the Plan, FEMA will issue final approval. In the resolution the Town is adopting the Plan "as applicable to the Town," meaning the Town is only bound to the parts of the Plan that pertain specifically to the Town.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-03-02

**TO ADOPT COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL COUNCIL
REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Town of Farmville is vulnerable to an array of hazards that can cause loss of life and damage to public and private property; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to seek ways to mitigate situations that may aggravate such circumstances, and the development and implementation of a hazard mitigation plan can result in actions that reduce the long-term risk to life and property from hazards; and

WHEREAS, the Town is covered under a regional hazard mitigation plan that outlines ways to protect its citizens and property from the effects of hazards, in accordance with Section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; and

WHEREAS, that plan must be reviewed and updated every five years for the Town to remain in compliance with Section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and to remain eligible for certain types of federal assistance in the event of a disaster affecting the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) has undertaken an update of the regional hazard mitigation plan, which includes Farmville, with input from the appropriate local and state officials; and

WHEREAS, citizens have been afforded an opportunity to comment and provide input in the Plan and the actions in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have reviewed the updated hazard mitigation plan for legislative compliance and have approved the plan pending the completion of local adoption procedures.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council for the Town of Farmville hereby adopts the updated CRC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, as applicable to the Town, and agrees to take such official actions as reasonably necessary, and as available resources allow, to carry out the proposed actions in the plan.

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 Pairat _____.

The Honorable John F. Hardy _____.

The Honorable Donald L. Hunter _____.

The Honorable Adam Yoelin _____.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- An invitation was extended for a Grant Announcement to the Chiefs Association by Dominion Energy on March 14, 2024, 11:00 AM, Farmville Fire Station.
- Reference was made to the comments provided by the Longwood University student who spoke on the topic of food insecurity. From attending the ICMA Conference in Austin, Texas, last fall, Town Manager Davis spoke on one of the mobile workshops entitled Neighborhood Partnering Tour. He described one of the stops on the tour as a neighborhood food forest with trees and vegetation planted along a trail. Food items such as nuts and berries are locally grown on public property for individuals who might also be homeless, that they could go and pick from. It was mentioned that the town does have some land that could be used to plant some different food items if something like this is considered. A talk with the town's horticulturist would be needed on how difficult an area such as this would be to maintain.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

- Mr. Hardy welcomed Officer Hope Dowler to the Farmville Police Department and offered congratulations to all who received promotions and the Officer of the Year award. A thank you was also expressed to everyone who worked hard to get the budget completed so that it can get approved and implemented with ample time allowed.
- Mr. Hunter asked for an update on the bathroom at the Firemen's Sports Arena so that the public is notified that the issue is being addressed. The Town Manager reported on some water issues in the women's restroom. It was thought that it was groundwater at one point, but today it may have been determined that the leak is from one of the toilets with a plan now in place to try to remedy the problem. He noted also that the leak is not from the sewer part but is clean water that is leaking. The leak is being looked into a bit further. The floor will need to be replaced in that section of the bathroom.

Mr. Hunter reported that the park on Andrews Drive does not have a porta john and is the only park in Farmville that does not. The Town Manager advised he was not aware but could look into the additional porta john.

- Mr. Yoelin thanked all in attendance and for their participation, and noted the new meeting time, 6:00 PM for the Work Session and 6:00 PM for Regular Council Meeting, one week after another.

The Grove Street Park was mentioned as having a porta john and a building that is assumed to be for utilities at some point that is now closed. Mr. Yoelin asked for information on the type of structure to be placed near the water park and if it will be a temporary structure. The Town Manager advised the proposed prefabricated structure is listed in the Capital Improvement Plan and will be brought in and assembled on a pad as a permanent structure, instead of being stick-built.

- Mr. Reid asked if the organization that used the arena this past weekend has been notified if a refund would be issued. The Town Manager reported there were no rental charges. Non-profit organizations may receive a free rental once per year.
- Mrs. Amos thanked the student for sharing the information provided during the Public Comment Period and mentioned she was very impressed.

Mayor Vincent provided closing comments:

- He and Mr. Reid recently attended the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference, attending a Small Cities Council meeting and a University Communities Council meeting where town and gown relations were discussed.
- Mayor Vincent mentioned, while listening to an America playlist on his headphones, he ran almost eight miles around downtown Washington D.C. taking in every major memorial possible, noting he felt appropriately inspired and proud. A remark about the country's determination in that it is important that we all are active in that determination and that the students who participated in tonight's meeting are applauded for showing up for democracy.
- The mayor reported being tapped for the Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Leadership Society at Hampden-Sydney College, with a ceremony to be held on April 12, 2024. He and Kerry

Mossler from Centra were the two honorary inductees as well as students receiving the honor.

- Attended the Virginia Council for Social Studies reception at the Moton Museum for social studies educators across the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Moton Museum's Cainan Townsend and Cameron Patterson received the Kaur Foundation Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) award which celebrates the work each has done in the community.
- Attended a meeting with the National Fitness Campaign which does work on the building of outdoor fitness spaces in localities.

There being no other business and on a motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Hardy, with all in favor stating "aye", the meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Brian R. Vincent, Mayor

Mary H. McKay, Clerk of Council