

REGULAR WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON AUGUST 7, 2024

At the regular work session of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, located at 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 Scott Davis, Town Attorney Gary Elder, Police Chief Andy Ellington, Finance Director Julie Moore, Community Development Director and IT Support Ashley Atkins-Austin, and Clerk of Council Mary McKay.

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

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest made.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Julie Moore provided a report for June 2024, the twelfth month in fiscal year 23-2024. The revenue compared to the budget should be at 100% but is slightly down as stated previously due to some items in the budget not true revenue and some revenue items not yet recognized. Ms. Moore noted ARPA funding booked just this day that should be recognized as true revenue to budget when the audit is completed. Revenue compared to prior year is higher than last year at this time except for the airport fund and as reported previously, there was a large project in the prior year and this year there is not. Expenses to budget are not at 100% which is considered positive. The only fund above budget is the street maintenance fund due to some paving. A request will be made at next month’s meeting to add carryover funds from in the past to the new budget year for committed items not yet received and paid for so that the street maintenance fund will not be over budget. Expenses to prior year are higher due to larger purchases this past year such as the splash pad and finance software.

Ms. Moore advised that a resolution would be brought forward at the August Regular Council Meeting for the Council's consideration. Included in the FY24-2025 budget was a lease purchase like what was done for the past couple of years for vehicles and equipment. The loan was put out to bid by the Virginia Municipal League (VML) and U.S. Bancorp Government Leasing and Finance, Inc. won the proposal, having the best rate of 4.52 percent. That percentage rate is lower than what is being earned currently with the money placed in the Local Government Investment Pool. The loan term would be for three years instead of five to reduce the amount of interest paid.

UPDATE ON WASTEWATER PLANT UPGRADE

Town Manager Davis reported that the Town was trying to move away from using chlorine gas to a liquid for a safer process at the wastewater treatment plant. During the conversion review, the TRC engineer asked why not look at the ultraviolet (UV) light process being used now in many plants.

Tasked with taking on the project, Finance Director Julie Moore reported on the details of using the UV process which eliminates the need for a lot of chemicals. Staying with the liquid process, the needed chemicals would be harder to find, including the increasing chemical costs and there also would be a need to continuously replace the sand filters. The cost of converting to the proposed UV process would range from \$2.5 to \$3.5 million. There is \$600,000 already allocated to use for the wastewater treatment plant for the conversion of gas to liquid so that funding could go towards this project. In addition, there is \$2.5 million of ARPA funding not yet committed that was originally allocated for the water and sewer line replacement but that funding must be committed by the end of the year. Ms. Moore advised that a certain amount every month could be set aside from the sewer fund to make up that \$2.5 million so that when the water and sewer line replacement project is ready to be completed, the sewer fund has saved the money to use for that project.

Interim Wastewater Plant Superintendent Ken Cook provided details of the use of chemicals and filters at the plant.

The Town Manager reported on the problem with one of the chemicals in the sand filtering process and the corrosion it causes.

Council members asked questions about the information being provided. Discussion was held on the funding for the water and sewer infrastructure project and the ARPA money needing to be committed by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026.

At next week's meeting, Ms. Moore will provide a potential dollar amount to set aside for funding the water and sewer infrastructure project and the costs for chemicals with the current system and those eliminated if a UV system were used.

UPDATE ON LEAD PIPE SURVEY

Town Manager Davis reported on the federal government's requirement that all localities complete a survey to determine that there is no lead or copper present in the pipes.

Finance Director Julie Moore is also leading this project and reported on the assistance of Kim Thompson, Purchasing Agent for the town, to locate a consulting firm to help with the project. Of the proposals received, TRC submitted the better pricing and staff have met with Greg Smith concerning the work to be done. Plan documents will be reviewed by TRC engineers to list every line and size to the main connection as well as to the houses for over 3000 addresses. TRC staff will place the information into the survey and answer any questions received by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Lines unable to be found will be listed as unknown, with a date of October 2027 to be updated.

The first phase, Tasks A and B, is for the survey to be completed and to have questions from the EPA answered for a cost of \$112,500. The next task will be for the investigation of the unknown information with a scenario of 100 meters mentioned if digging is needed, with a cost of approximately \$70,000. Homeowner surveys to obtain information were noted as an option. A proposal to spend \$112,500 for the survey completion will be brought forward at the next week's meeting for Council's review and consideration.

The Town Manager advised each locality will be fined if the survey is not completed and submitted by October 16, 2024.

UPDATE ON NEW RESTAURANT SITE PLAN

For informational purposes, the Town Manager reported on a proposed restaurant to be located at the site of the former Ken's Car Coop. The Planning Commission approved the site plan at their last meeting. Council members were provided a PowerPoint slide of the plan to view. Community Development Director Ashley Atkins-Austin was present and answered questions from Council members. From questions asked, Ms. Atkins-Austin reported that the proposed

restaurant site is pretty much on the existing paved area of the former Car Coop business. Inside seating, a patio area with some seating as well as a pickup window will be available. A lighting plan was not reviewed as there is no town ordinance for lighting. Twenty parking spaces are required by code with 26 spaces proposed.

Town Manager Davis reported the proposed restaurant site is a national chain, but the name is not definitively known.

A brief discussion was held on the spaces needed for the pickup window and the direction of that traffic flow. Ms. Atkins-Austin reported that the proposed site will have the required total seven stacking spaces.

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 234 – FENCES

Community Development Director Ashley Atkins-Austin provided an update on the proposed fence ordinance that was approved by the Planning Commission. Before coming to Town Council, one change was made by the Planning Commission to add *b.* to (5) *Fences*. *“Fences shall not impair vehicular or pedestrian travel visibility...”*

Council member Hardy reported on feedback received. It is felt there is a bit of overreach concerning the proposed ordinance and that restrictions should be kept at a minimum to where traffic is not impeded. Placing limits on fence heights and the way the finish must be is getting a bit restrictive on a person’s property.

Council member Amos added to Mr. Hardy’s comments and thinks the ordinance should note *5.a.* and *5.b.* only and remove *5.c.* and *5.d.* She does not want the height restriction at all and for the ordinance to just state that a fence must not impair vehicular or pedestrian travel visibility.

Council member Hunter advised the problem started with the height of a fence and he feels the proposed ordinance should be left as is. The Planning Commission has taken the time to review and make a recommendation and he thinks Council needs to go off their recommendation.

A Public Hearing is scheduled for August 14, 2024, at the Regular Council Meeting.

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 235 – BUSINESS LICENSES

Town Manager Davis advised of the clean-up of language in the proposed ordinance to the current state code.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

The Town Manager provided an update on upcoming tropical storm Debby that is anticipated to bring four-six inches of rain to the area and when to expect potential flooding. Council members are being updated by email.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

Council member Hunter reported that one of his constituents and an actress, Robin Allen, will be starring in an upcoming movie on August 10, 2024, featured on the Lifetime channel and everyone was asked to view if they have a chance. More details will be provided once additional information is received.

Council member Yoelin reiterated his request to remedy the troubles with the microphone at the podium so that community members aren't missing the input being received.

Council member Dwyer reported on an observation of the pop-up yard sales on West Third Street having moved across the street from a previous spot and inquired if this is legal. The location appears to be outside of another business.

Mayor Vincent reminded all to stay safe. The next 24-48 hours will produce the heaviest amount of rainfall from the tropical storm.

CLOSED SESSION 2.2-3711 (A)(7)

On motion by Mr. Yoelin, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with Council members Amos, Reid, Dwyer, Pairet, Yoelin, Hunter, and Hardy voting "yes", Council went into closed session under the provisions of Paragraph A.7. of Section 2.2-3711, Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Farmville Town Council has convened a closed session 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 session meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and only such public business matters as were identified in the

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motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Farmville Town Council.

VOTE: Seven ayes, No noes

MOTION: Yoelin SECOND: Hardy

AYES: Reid, Dwyer, Pairet, Yoelin, Hunter, Hardy, and Amos

NOES: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: None

ABSENT DURING MEETING: None

Clerk of Council

There being no other business and on a motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Hardy, with all in favor stating “aye”, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Brian R. Vincent, Mayor

Mary H. McKay, Clerk of Council