

REGULAR WORK SESSION OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MARCH 5, 2025

At the regular work session of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 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, Captain William Hogan, Community Development Director and IT Support Ashley Atkins-Austin, Human Resources Director Amanda Zirkle, Deputy Clerk Jacqueline Vaughan, and Clerk of Council Mary McKay.

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

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. Reid, and with all in favor stating “aye”, the motion passed.

DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest made.

FINANCE REPORT

Town Manager Davis reported that Finance Director Julie Moore was attending a kickoff meeting for the Women in Government event and that he would be providing the report in her absence.

- Revenue to Budget - Actual revenue is below budget due to seasonal patterns that have an impact on the year-to-date percentages. Other factors that contribute to the actual revenue not matching the budgeted amounts are grants which are tied to disbursements and specific project timelines such as for the Farmville Airport.
- Revenue to Previous Year - Two funds, the General Fund and Airport Fund, are below prior year’s revenue. The General Fund is below prior year as there were ABM lease proceeds recognized previously but not in FY2025. The Airport Fund is less because there are fewer ongoing projects this fiscal year.

- Expenses to Budget - The overall total expenses are currently below the seven-month budget mark except for the Transportation Fund, mainly due to the purchase and payment of two buses earlier in the year.
- Expenses Versus Prior Year – Total expenses are above the prior year with differences as discussed in previous months.

DISCUSSION: 2025 TOWN COUNCIL RETREAT

Town Manager Davis reported on the chronological work plan provided by the retreat facilitator, Kim Payne. Council members will be asked to adopt the work plan at the next regular meeting on March 12, 2025.

DISCUSSION: FY2025-2026 LOCAL CHOICE HEALTH INSURANCE RATES

Town Manager Davis introduced David Rowe, a Benefits Advisor with Bearing Insurance, who has been working with staff on the Local Choice plan renewal and a supplemental insurance offer for the next fiscal year. Mr. Rowe provided a presentation illustrating a 12% increase occurring with the health insurance renewal offer received for the Anthem Local Choice plan. The Town fell below 100 employees on the insurance plan and were rated not based on experience from being on the plan but upon other groups across the state having between 2-99 employees. Mr. Rowe suggested the following items to consider for next year's health insurance renewal: increasing the enrollment to 100 or more employees and discussing the topic of payments made to employees for not taking the health insurance benefit.

Town Manager Davis provided some background on the payment provided since 2004 to employees who do not take the health insurance benefit with the payment amount capped by the Town Council in 2021 at \$8500 per year per employee. Currently there are 137 employees eligible for health insurance with 98 holding the coverage, and 39 receiving the in lieu of payment at a total annual cost of \$331,500. The Town Manager continued his presentation by providing Council members with various figures of different options of real estate tax rate increases. A review was made of the equalization of the current tax rate with an average 30% tax reassessment. Noted was the total in lieu of payments being made is more than the 12% insurance increase. It was proposed that the 39 employees receive a \$1000 annual payment instead of \$8500 per year.

Discussion was held with Council members posing questions and providing input.

The Town Manager continued his review of various charts with different scenarios to reduce the budget deficit. Tax rates for other localities were reviewed.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Town Manager mentioned he needed an amount to cut from the budget.

Council member Hardy asked the Town Manager to provide an average annual dollar amount from the increased reassessment and the impact on residential customers.

Brief comments were made as to when there was a last tax increase.

A motion was made by Mrs. Amos to stay with Anthem Local Choice insurance with the current 250/500 plans, seconded Mr. Hunter, and with a recorded vote of Council members Reid, Dwyer, Pairet, Yoelin, Hunter, Hardy, and Amos voting “yes”, the motion passed.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

It was mentioned that a report would be provided at the next regular meeting.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

Council member Hunter thanked the Town Manager for having the rocks removed from the splashpad park area.

He further asked if Willie Brown had been provided with an update on the fence issue. Town Manager Davis advised that Community Development Director Ashley Atkins-Austin needs to contact Town Attorney Gary Elder to have the issue taken to court.

Tire storage at one of the businesses was brought up again with the Town Manager reporting the business owner will be receiving a letter stating the violation of their conditional use permit.

Council member Pairet thanked all the town employees for their hard work during the aftermath of the recent storm.

Mayor Vincent followed Mr. Pairet’s remarks and commented also on the nice gathering for Public Works Director Robin Atkins’ retirement luncheon held last Friday.

There being no other business and on a motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Reid, with all in favor stating “aye”, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Brian R. Vincent, Mayor

Mary H. McKay, Clerk of Council