

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON APRIL 9, 2025

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, April 9, 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, Dan Dwyer, Tommy Pairet, Adam Yoelin, Donald Hunter, and John Hardy.

Staff present were Town Manager C. Scott Davis, Town Attorney Gary Elder, Finance Director Julie Moore, Chief of Police Andy Ellington, Captain William Hogan, 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 all guests were welcomed.

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

An invocation was led by Mayor Vincent for anyone wishing to join in prayer. Vice-Mayor Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF APRIL AS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Mayor Vincent read the proclamation and presented the signed document to Vicky Page who accepted on behalf of the Friends of the Barbara Rose Johns Farmville-Prince Edward Community Library.

**PROCLAMATION
IN RECOGNITION OF APRIL AS
NATIONAL POETRY MONTH**

WHEREAS, the Academy of American Poets established the month of April as National Poetry Month in 1996; and

WHEREAS, National Poetry Month seeks to highlight the ongoing achievement of American poets by introducing Americans to the pleasures and benefits of reading poetry; by bringing poets

and poetry to the public in immediate and innovative ways and by making poetry an important part of our children's education; and

WHEREAS, as National Poetry Month, under the leadership and direction of the Academy of American Poets, is now the largest literary celebration in the world; and

WHEREAS, poetry enriches the lives of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, poetry, as an essential part of the arts and humanities, affects every aspect of life in America today, including education, the economy, and community pride and development; and

WHEREAS, poetry has produced some of the nation's leading creative artists and has inspired other artists in fields such as music, theatre, film, dance, and the visual arts; and

WHEREAS, National Poem in Your Pocket Day will be celebrated on April 17th. Poems will be available at Farmville Downtown Businesses and at CENTRA Hospital.

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS PROCLAIMED, by the Mayor and Town Council that the month of April be recognized as National Poetry Month in the Town of Farmville, Virginia, in honor of poets across America who share their talent with the world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the Town of Farmville, Virginia to be affixed on this 9th day of April, in the year 2025.

Brian R. Vincent, Mayor

PUBLIC HEARING – NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

TOWN OF FARMVILLE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE: Notice of Proposed Real Property Tax Increase

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Farmville Town Council will hold a public hearing pursuant to Virginia Code § 58.1-3321 to discuss the proposed real property tax increase for Calendar Year 2025.

1. **Assessment Increase:** The total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 30%.
2. **Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment:** The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$0.0992 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."

3. **Effective Rate Increase:** The Farmville Town Council proposes to adopt a tax rate of \$0.22 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed rate would be \$0.12 per \$100, or 121%. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase."

Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.

4. **Proposed Total Budget Increase:** Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of Farmville Town will exceed last year's by 115%.

Public Hearing Information:

- **Date:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025
- **Time:** 6:00 PM
- **Location:** Farmville Town Hall, 116 N. Main Street, Farmville, VA 23901

All hearings shall be open to the public. The governing body shall permit persons desiring to be heard an opportunity to present oral testimony within such reasonable time limits as shall be determined by the governing body.

The provisions of this section shall not be applicable to the assessment of public service corporation property by the State Corporation Commission.

Notwithstanding other provisions of general or special law, the tax rate for taxes due on or before June 30 of each year may be fixed on or before May 15 of that tax year.

The purpose of this hearing is to provide residents and property owners an opportunity to comment on the reassessment and the resulting revenue-neutral tax rate adjustment. All interested parties are encouraged to attend and express their views. Written comments may be submitted to Mary H. McKay, Clerk of Council, 116 N. Main Street, Farmville, VA 23901, or via email to mmckay@farmvilleva.com by 5:00 PM on April 8, 2025.

Additional Information:

- Copies of the reassessment data and related documents are available for public inspection at the Clerk of Council's Office, 116 N. Main Street, Farmville, VA 23901, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

For questions or further information, please contact the Clerk of Council at (434) 392-9465 or mmckay@farmvilleva.com.

By Order of the Farmville Town Council
March 12, 2025

Patrick Carwile of 901 High Street in Farmville, addressed the Council concerning the tax rate. Mr. Carwile posed questions to consider while a proposed tax increase is being discussed such as has the Town looked at reducing the tax by increasing other items. He added that the tax increase is being placed on residents only and not those who visit Farmville for a lot of their needs. He stated \$0.09 per \$100 seems like a steep hike in a short amount of time which is going to affect the rental properties in town as landlords will pass that increase onto their tenants.

With no one else signed up to speak, Mayor Vincent closed the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Vicky Page from Green Bay, Virginia, addressed the Council on behalf of the Friends of the Barbara Rose Johns Farmville/Prince Edward Community Library. A thank you was expressed to all who attended the breakfast last month to further learn how allocated funds are used in service to the citizens. Ms. Page wished everyone a happy National Library Week and distributed a flyer about the April 17th Poem in your Pocket Day. An update was provided, and Ms. Page concluded her comments by distributing poems for the Council to enjoy.

With no one else signed up to speak, Mayor Vincent returned to the regular order of business.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Reid made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with all in favor stating “aye”, the motion passed. The Consent Agenda included the draft minutes of the March 5, 2025, Work Session, March 12, 2025, Regular Council Meeting, and the March 21, 2025 Special Called Meeting.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Dwyer made a motion to accept the Finance Report as presented, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with all in favor stating “aye”, the motion passed.

BACKGROUND: Finance Director Julie Moore reported on the March 2025 Finance Report and reviewed the amounts of earned income:

- ABM project - \$4,506 earned and down significantly due to another large payment being made to ABM;
- Virginia Investment Pool (VIP) - \$14,877;
- Benchmark Community Bank sweep accounts - \$7,827;
- Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) - \$37,559;

- Total earned for March 2025 - \$60,263.

Ms. Moore noted the Council-restricted funds have reached almost \$2.5 million for the Sewer Fund as agreed and should reach that amount with three additional payments.

REQUEST ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04-01 – AUTHORIZING THE ADDITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND COLLECTION FEES TO DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

Mr. Pairet made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-04-01, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with a recorded vote of Council members Reid, Dwyer, Pairet, Yoelin, Hunter, Hardy, and Amos voting “yes”, the motion passed.

BACKGROUND: This item was brought forward for discussion at the April 2, 2025, Work Session. The Town of Farmville is responsible for collecting taxes and other charges to support the proper operation of the Town. Virginia Code § 58.1-3958 authorizes localities to impose administrative fees and attorney or collection agency fees, not to exceed 20%, on delinquent accounts.

The resolution allows the Town to recover costs associated with collecting delinquent accounts that are referred to a collection agency or attorney. These fees will be charged only to those who are delinquent, ensuring that responsible taxpayers are not burdened with these additional costs.

Resolution No. 2025-04-01

**Approving the Addition of Administrative and Collection Fees to Delinquent Accounts
Pursuant to Virginia Code § 58.1-3958**

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

The Town Manager and Finance Director are hereby authorized to implement the provisions of Virginia Code § 58.1-3958, allowing the Town to assess administrative fees and collection agency or attorney’s fees, not to exceed 20%, to delinquent bills to cover the costs of collection.

These fees shall only be applied in the event that an account is assigned to a collection agency or attorney, and are intended to ensure that the cost burden of collecting delinquent accounts is borne by those responsible, rather than the general public.

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 Pairet: _____.
- The Honorable John F. Hardy: _____.
- The Honorable Donald L. Hunter: _____.
- The Honorable Adam Yoelin: _____.

REQUEST ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 239 – TO ESTABLISH THE REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025

Mr. Hunter made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 239 - to establish the real estate property tax rate for the calendar year 2025, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and with a recorded vote of Council members Dwyer, Pairet, Yoelin, Hunter, and Reid voting “yes”, and Council members Hardy and Amos voting “no”, the motion passed.

BACKGROUND: Discussions were held on several topics including:

- The possibility for an increase to be made over a three-year period;
- Increased costs in delaying the fire house project;
- Saving money for any emergency repairs to infrastructure;
- Stable revenue source giving a higher bond rating which in turn would allow a better interest rate when trying to secure a loan for the fire house renovation and new ladder truck;
- Loss of revenue due to the elimination of ICA-Farmville contract;

- A review of a lease/purchase compared to a lease in regard to the budget;
- Options from removing the fitness studio line item, if there would be another opportunity at the price being offered and if the Town could qualify for another grant program.

Discussion also was held on the real estate tax rate at the March 12, 2025, Regular Meeting. A Public Hearing was held on April 9, 2025, to hear citizen comments.

ORDINANCE NO. 239

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 58.1-3321 of the Code of Virginia, Prince Edward County conducted a general reassessment of real estate values within the Town of Farmville, resulting in a 30% increase in the total assessed value of real property, excluding new construction and improvements; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with this reassessment, the "lowered tax rate" necessary to offset the increased assessment and levy the same amount of real estate tax revenue as the previous year is calculated to be \$0.0992 per \$100 of assessed value; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Farmville proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.22 per \$100 of assessed value for Calendar Year 2025, which constitutes a 121% increase over the lowered tax rate, in order to support the Town's increased budgetary and operational needs; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council provided public notice of the proposed tax rate in accordance with legal requirements and held a public hearing on April 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM at Farmville Town Hall, during which residents and property owners were afforded the opportunity to present oral and written comments regarding the proposed rate; and

WHEREAS, the proposed real property tax rate is necessary to support the Town's total budget increase of 115% over the previous fiscal year, due to changes in revenue and anticipated General Obligation bonds in Fiscal Year 2026; and

WHEREAS, all legal procedures for the establishment of the real property tax rate have been duly followed, including proper notice and public hearing, in compliance with state and local laws;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA:

1. That the real property tax rate for the Town of Farmville is hereby established at \$0.22 per \$100 of assessed value.

2. That this ordinance shall be effective upon its adoption.

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 _____.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Scott Davis provided an update on several items:

- In response to a previous request by Council member Hunter concerning the display of tires at a local business, it was reported to him by the Community Development Director that the tires are being cleaned up at that business location.
- Work is still being done with Hill Studios to receive stamped drawings for the Lions Park bathroom. It is hoped the project will go out to bid in the next month with construction to

commence soon thereafter. It was noted that the project is funded in the current year's budget and is part of the adopted work plan.

- With the sidewalk study also being part of the work plan, an inquiry had been made into that project. This item has been deferred for the 2026 budget year, but it is hoped to be moved forward in 2027.
- A meeting was coordinated with Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC) and the Mary E. Branch Heritage Group to discuss collaboration to renovate the community building and for SVCC to use a portion of the building if agreed in order to offer more career and technical education (CTE)-type courses for area students. Prince Edward County Administrator Doug Stanley was in attendance as well as Dr. Chip Jones from Cumberland who gathered all for the discussion. It was noted this item is part of the work plan.
- Staff are currently working with CivicPlus on revamping the Town's website.
- A revised airport lease has been reviewed by Town Attorney Gary Elder, and it is hoped to be brought forward for the Council's review at the May Work Session. This item also was noted as part of the work plan.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

- Mr. Hardy mentioned that the electric vehicle charge stations are covered with plastic bags. The Town Manager reported that ABM is actively working to get the stations up and running and further provided an update of the progress being made.
Mr. Hardy also commended Town employees for the cleanup after the recent storms.
The Town Manager reported the date for the Spring Clean-up as May 12th (7:30 AM).
- Mr. Yoelin thanked everyone for their support and participation.
- Mr. Pairet said a special thank you to the Finance Department, Town Manager Davis, and to all who were involved with the tax increase and providing financial information for the Council to review.
- Mr. Dwyer remarked on the tax increase made but believes it will strengthen the Town as an organization. He offered thanks also to the staff.
- Mayor Vincent thanked the staff as well and commented on the decisions made that are not made lightly. He commended Council members for dealing with a tough issue and supports

the decision made. Appreciation was expressed to those who spoke and who reached out to the Council. The Mayor asked everyone to please continue to engage.

There being no other business and on a motion by Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Hunter, with all in favor stating “aye”, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Brian R. Vincent, Mayor

Mary H. McKay, Clerk of Council