

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON APRIL 23, 2025

At a special meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, April 23, 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 Scott Davis, Chief of Police Andy Ellington, Finance Director Julie Moore, Town Attorney Gary Elder, Fire Chief Daniel Clark, Deputy Clerk and IT Support 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. Dwyer made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Mrs. Amos, and with all in favor stating “aye”, the motion passed.

DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest made.

DISCUSSION: PROPOSED FY2025-2026 TOWN BUDGET

Mayor Vincent announced the meeting as one of two special called meetings to discuss the budget, and that Council may cancel the second meeting to be held next week if all business is discussed. He added that the Public Hearing on the FY2025-2026 Town Budget is scheduled for the May 14, 2025, Regular Council meeting.

Town Manager Davis opened the discussion by reporting on a minor change in the horticulture area of the proposed budget. The allocation of \$50,000 for new planters will be used for some needed tree maintenance at Grove Street Park. Replacements for the existing planters have been purchased using funds from the current year’s budget.

As there have been past conversations concerning savings, the Town Manager reported on increases that could be made to the contingency fund if there are funds left over from a project. After the fiscal audit is completed in October, a request to the Council could be made to transfer those remaining funds to the current budget from the end of the previous budget. He reported an approximate amount of \$600,000 currently in the contingency fund. Items for potential discussion

also were mentioned such as if the Council wanted to increase savings and use the money allocated for the fitness studio to set aside funds or place part in savings and add the sidewalk study.

Discussions were held with input on several topics being provided.

Mr. Hardy reported receiving input from community members asking why money is being spent on an item that only a handful of people will use. He suggested using the funding for items already planned such as the outdoor basketball/pickleball courts that would be used more often than a fitness court. To offset maintenance costs, the question was raised about possible sponsorship from local businesses for items such as gravel and mulch in the recreation areas.

Mr. Dwyer mentioned the program through community support that provided small flower gardens around the entranceways to the town.

Mr. Yoelin inquired about the upkeep of the proposed recreation pad. He further inquired about a sidewalk map denoting areas without sidewalks and having a template to work from. He mentioned having the recreational amenities distributed around the town as opposed to just one side of town.

Mr. Reid noted his concern as citizens have questioned the fitness court investment.

Mr. Hunter reported noticing an increase in starting salaries of area jail and sheriff's departments and asked if staff have looked into this. The Town Manager advised this had not been done as there was no funding to provide employee raises but reported being done in previous years.

Mrs. Amos opened a discussion and suggested using the funding towards salaries to keep employees, with the difference of a bonus being provided also discussed.

Mr. Dwyer returned the discussion to an item that the public might take advantage of. Use of the existing pickleball program was talked about.

Mr. Hunter provided comments on the location of the courts due to traffic and possible adult language at a basketball court being overhead by children.

Additional discussions were held on the location of the courts and the future recreation center, trees recently planted, security in the recreation area, and parking.

Mr. Pairet commented that the public may be more receptive to having a pickleball court considered instead of giving employee raises with a tax increase being made.

Mr. Yoelin further asked about the sidewalk study and the GIS data being updated, noting it as a tool for the benefit of the entire town.

Mr. Pairet commented that from the conversations held, it would appear the Council does not want to proceed with the fitness pad.

Mr. Yoelin expressed his concerns that the funding should be used for the entire town and for maintaining the quality of the town's infrastructure.

Mr. Dwyer mentioned the possibility of proceeding with the sidewalk study and still obtaining the pickleball court, if there was an idea of the related costs.

Mr. Pairet suggested placing the amount designated for the fitness court in the contingency fund for now until the costs for the pickleball court and sidewalk study are received, then at that time a decision could be made.

Town Manager Davis clarified Council members' intentions to place the funding allocated for the fitness studio into the contingency fund, come back before the Council after January 1 to report the costs, to which the Council would vote to take that funding out of the contingency fund.

Mayor Vincent asked for a verbal assent and confirmed there was a consensus with the Council. The Town Manager further clarified reducing the revenue by \$30,000 [to remove the grant funding for the fitness studio], which would then show the revenue as \$244,000, which would be placed in the expense category in the contingency fund.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

No report was offered.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

Mr. Hunter reported on an estimated cost of \$50,000 for the pickleball court.

Mayor Vincent reported that Barbara Johns Day is celebrated in Virginia today. All were reminded of the example of bravery and her ability to affect change.

He also provided an update on the Virginia Municipal League Small Towns Conference to be held in Farmville on June 5-6, 2025, and expressed thanks to Longwood University for their partnership.

There being no other business and on a motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, with all in favor stating "aye", the meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Brian R. Vincent, Mayor

Mary H. McKay, Clerk of Council