

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MAY 14, 2025

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, May 14, 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, 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

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

DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest made.

UPDATE FROM PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

Council members were provided with a copy of the written report reviewed by County Administrator Doug Stanley. Topics included:

- 2025 General Reassessment has been completed. The equalized tax rate was noted as \$0.37, with the Board of Supervisors setting the rate at \$0.39 per \$100;
- The County is continuing work on the joint dispatch project with an answer to be provided by mid-June to Chief Ellington on grant funding for combining the two dispatch centers;
- Emergency Radio System Project – Virtual meeting was held with Dominion Energy regarding use of their tower on Milnwood Rd/East Third St. It appears this space can be utilized and with the two potential towers located in the County, the project will have the number of towers needed to move forward with the project;

- The proposed regional economic development organization held its first meeting, adopted bylaws, and hired Executive Director Alex McCoy, who will be the first contact with Virginia Economic Development Partnership to help feed prospect leads back to the community;
- Economic Development Strategic Plan – A final draft has been completed, and a link has been sent to Town Manager Davis for distribution to the Council with input welcomed;
- Board of Equalization will hold their organizational meeting on May 19, 2025, and will set a calendar of hearing dates to begin considering reassessment appeals;
- Prince Edward County Comprehensive Plan – A final draft update has been completed and a joint public hearing with the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors is scheduled for June 24, 2025.

Mr. Yoelin asked if there would be another event for household hazardous waste disposal. Mr. Stanley reported on an event being planned for fall 2025, and information will be shared with Town staff once a date is set.

PUBLIC HEARING -RESOLUTION NO. 2025-05-01, FY2025-2026 TOWN BUDGET

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Farmville Town Council will hold a public hearing at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, VA. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear citizen comments on the following matters:

- **Adoption of Resolution No. 2025-05-01, FY 2025-2026 Town Budget**

**TOWN OF FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA
BUDGET SUMMARY
FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026**

Fund	Revenue	Expenditures
10 General Fund	33,311,990	33,311,990
15 Street Maintenance Fund	2,621,672	2,621,672
40 Water Fund	3,176,458	3,176,458
42 Sewer Fund	2,688,059	2,688,059
44 Transportation Fund	1,159,745	1,159,745
45 Airport Fund	379,565	379,565
Total	43,337,489	43,337,489

The above budget includes a real estate tax rate of \$0.22 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value, a personal property tax rate (business only) of \$1.50 per \$100.00 of assessed value, a \$0.27 cent per pack cigarette tax rate, and a 7 percent tax rate on amount paid for meals and lodging within the Town of Farmville limits.

- **Adoption of Resolution No. 2025-05-02, Capital Improvement Plan**

Citizens are encouraged to participate in this public hearing. Any person(s) wishing to comment on the above matters should plan to attend this meeting or submit written comments. Please email Mary McKay at mmckay@farmvilleva.com or mail written comments to PO Drawer 368, Farmville, VA 23901, to arrive by 4:00 PM on Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

Questions and comments regarding the proposed budget may be directed to the Town Manager's Office, 116 North Main Street, PO Drawer 368, Farmville, Virginia, 23901 or by calling (434) 392-5686, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. It is the intent of the Town to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Should you need special accommodation, please contact C. Scott Davis, LP.D., Town Manager, at (434) 392-5686, prior to the meeting.

Mayor Vincent opened the public hearing period.

Carol Broadwater addressed the Council on behalf of the Prince Edward Rescue Squad. She reported that in 2024, over half of their call responses were within the Town limits and spoke on the change in support for their agency with a reduction from the Town's prior commitment of \$50,000 for vehicle maintenance. The \$5,000 reduction would be in a crucial fuel line item making it difficult for their agency to budget appropriately. Ms. Broadwater issued a request and further advised that the support needed to execute a standard level of service is not currently reflected in the Town's proposed budget.

Gary Barton, 308 Third Avenue, Farmville, addressed the Council concerning the Town budget and advised there needs to be a balance with the Town and County both wanting to raise taxes. He spoke about the inflation and current debt, posing questions as to who determines the needs of the Town, what it would cost to maintain the streets and provide services, and who determines the wants.

PUBLIC HEARING – RESOLUTION NO. 2025-05-02, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

With no one signed up to speak, Mayor Vincent closed the public hearing period.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Hunter made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mrs. Amos, and with all in favor stating “aye”, the motion passed. The Consent Agenda included the draft minutes of the April 2, 2025, Work Session, April 9, 2025, Regular Council Meeting, and the April 23, 2025, Special meeting.

FINANCE REPORT

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

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

- ABM project - \$3,687, which will go towards the debt payment;
- Virginia Investment Pool (VIP) – \$14,408;
- Benchmark Community Bank sweep accounts – \$7,338;
- Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) – \$36,732;
- Total earned for April 2025 - \$58,478, excluding the ABM income.

She mentioned that Council members were provided with the 2024 Retail Sales Report, reporting that retail sales have declined for a consecutive year which needs to be closely monitored. Overall, business activities continue to grow but at a slower pace than previous years.

Mayor Vincent asked about the rescue squad figures provided in the Finance Report that were referred to in the public hearing. He asked Ms. Moore about the reference made to cutting back as the figures show a \$40,976 year-to-date contribution for labor, materials, equipment and fuel for the rescue squad.

Ms. Moore mentioned the effort in trying to balance the budget, looking to see how much is being spent in all areas before making cuts. Town Manager Davis added as an example a review of the allocated funds spent by the rescue squad from fiscal years 2020-2024. It was mentioned that if allocated funds are not spent, the funding is reduced and is allocated to other items that are needed. He further added that the residents of Farmville and Prince Edward County who own a vehicle are levied an additional fee for EMS (emergency medical services) and the County appropriates those funds.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

An update was provided on several items:

- A contract has been awarded to Colony Construction and paving should begin the first part of June 2025. Most of the streets will be on the north side of East Third Street with a crossover to South Bridge and South Virginia Streets;
- The splashpad will open on Saturday, May 24, 2025, for the Memorial Day weekend until its closing right after the Labor Day weekend;
- Drawings have been received for the restrooms at the splashpad area. A bid will be put out either next week or soon thereafter so that an award can be made for the construction;
- The Town's website is currently being updated and includes the usage of a chatbot that will assist viewers by answering questions and finding needed information;
- A new Public Works Director has been hired. Stephen Edwards will assume the position on June 1, 2025, and his first day at work will be Monday, June 2, 2025;
- A construction meeting was held with the general contractor for Chipotle. Demolition of the current structure at the site and grading will begin hopefully in the next several weeks;
- A meeting is tentatively set for next week with VDOT and consultant Michael Baker to talk about the betterments with the roundabout project and items the Town would be responsible for concerning the infrastructure. The Town Manager mentioned \$2.5 million is being saved to go towards those items on Oak Street;
- Reminder of National Police Week – May 11-May 17, 2025, and Peace Officers Memorial Day - May 15, 2025;
- Congratulations were expressed to Finance Director Julie Moore on receiving her master's degree in public administration from Liberty University last week.

Mayor Vincent offered a congratulatory remark to Ms. Moore.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

Mr. Hardy congratulated Julie Moore on her accomplishment.

Mr. Hunter also congratulated Ms. Moore and sent out a reminder of a response needed for the Open House at Holly Manor Rehab on May 21, 2025, 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

Mr. Reid offered congratulations also to Ms. Moore.

Mrs. Amos congratulated Ms. Moore and offered thanks to Treasurer Carol Broadwater and President Bridget Davis of the Prince Edward Rescue Squad for their attendance. Appreciation also was expressed for the opinion voiced and for all that they do.

Mayor Vincent reported on recent activities in the past month:

- Attended a National League of Cities meeting concerning data centers;
- Attended the Empty Bowls fundraiser event for FACES food pantry;
- Citizen Police Academy graduation was held recently. Thanks were expressed to the Police Officers and Volunteers;
- Prince Edward/Farmville area was recognized yesterday as a storm ready community by the National Weather Service. The collaboration between the entities enhances the community's preparedness for severe weather events;
- Virginia Municipal League Small Towns Conference is scheduled for June 5-6, 2025. Appreciation was expressed to Longwood University and Hotel Weyanoke;
- Asked recently to become Vice-Chair of the Virginia Municipal League legislative committee which is a policy committee designed around creating policy to advocate at state and federal levels. Mayor Vincent asked if there are any policy issues to bring forward, please reach out to him.

There being no other business and on a motion by Mr. Pairet, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, with all in favor stating "aye", the meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Brian R. Vincent, Mayor

Mary H. McKay, Clerk of Council