REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, September 10, 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 A.D. "Chuckie" Reid, Daniel Dwyer, Tommy Pairet, Adam Yoelin, Donald Hunter, and John Hardy.

Staff present were Town Manager Scott Davis, Fire Chief Daniel Clark, Chief of Police Andy Ellington, Deputy Town Manager/Finance Director Julie Moore, Human Resources Manager Amanda Zirkle, Public Works Director Stephen Edwards, Community Development Director Ashley Atkins-Austin, Town Attorney Gary Elder, 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 Council member Sallie Amos was absent.

Before proceeding with the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Vincent expressed his need to address the abhorrent political violence in recent events. He affirmed that democracy is about debate, and differences should be settled with ideas and speech. He concluded his comments with the hope that this community will continue to stand on the principles of decency, hope, and civility over conflict.

An Invocation was recited for anyone wishing to join in prayer. Vice-Mayor Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance. An acknowledgement was made of Mr. Reid's birthday.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Hunter made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and with all Council members stating "aye", the motion was passed.

DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest made.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Travis Mason, 706 High Street, Farmville, VA, addressed the Council to speak on the sidewalk topic. He reported walking nearly 60 miles around town in the last month and found the sidewalks poorly maintained and not very pedestrian friendly, especially for community members who use wheelchairs. He mentioned issues like clutter, narrow paths, and missing crosswalks and believes the Town has an opportunity to improve the infrastructure by widening, adding bump-outs, better lighting, and signage. Mr. Mason also stressed the importance of prioritizing pedestrian safety in all new developments and creating a more welcoming and accessible community.

David Crute, 807 High Street, Farmville, VA, agreed with the concerns about crosswalks and accessibility but focused his comments on sidewalks for new construction. He urged that developers be required to build sidewalks as part of the infrastructure in new developments. Mr. Crute expressed his view that the Town should not have to allocate all the funds from a tax increase to cover infrastructure that should have been initially placed by a developer.

With no one else signed up to speak, Mayor Vincent closed the Public Comment period and returned to the regular order of business.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Dwyer made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Reid, and with all Council members stating "aye", the motion passed. The Consent Agenda included the draft minutes of the August 6, 2025, Work Session and the August 13, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Reid made a motion to adopt the August 2025 Finance Report as presented, seconded by Mr. Hardy, and with all Council members stating "aye", the motion passed.

BACKGROUND:

Deputy Town Manager/Finance Director Julie Moore provided a report for August 2025:

- ABM project - $1,604 earned in August, that will go towards future payments.
- Virginia Investment Pool (VIP) - $13,838 earned.
- Benchmark Community Bank sweep accounts - $4,996 earned.
- Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) – $31,968 earned.

The total income earned for August 2025 was $50,802.

Ms. Moore provided a review of the current unrestricted balances after a request was made by Mr. Yoelin.

Mr. Pairet asked if Ms. Moore could speak on the possibility previously mentioned of moving over the ARPA money set aside for the UV project to pay for the fire truck. It was reported that a resolution could be passed to pay for the fire truck and then once the bond proceeds are received, receive reimbursement for that purchase and move that money back over to cover the UV project.

DISCUSSION: GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND TO FINANCE FIRE STATION RENOVATIONS AND LADDER TRUCK

Ted Cole from Davenport & Co. provided discussion materials for Council members to review during his presentation. He advised that the dates of September 22nd and 23rd are set for meetings with the rating agencies and that those dates can be cancelled or rescheduled. Advertising for a public hearing for October 8th would be the first action related to the issuing of bonds. The resolution to be considered by the Council after the public hearing would authorize staff and others to move forward with the issuance of the bonds. He mentioned there being no problem with the bond attorney to include the borrowing of funds for the reimbursement of the fire truck purchase.

Mr. Cole reviewed the schedule for the bond issuance process and the Town's current debt and plan for new debt after December 2025. A 25-year term was referenced when trying to get the annual payment that fits within the existing debt service. The opportunity to refinance the debt after 10 years was talked about. Information was provided on the current market with discussion held on the refinancing and payments on the debt.

The Town Manager reported that a financing plan for the fire station renovation and new fire truck, as outlined in the Strategic and Action Plans from Council's February 2025 Retreat, has been presented. He also reported that the plan also says for the renovated fire station to be occupied by 2028, and that staff have heard from the architect that the project could be completed in 15 months. The current PPEA bid also includes the requirement that the renovation be completed in that timeframe. The Town's previous debt was reviewed, and it was noted that the General Fund portion will be paid in October 2025. Direction was sought about whether to move forward with the scheduled dates.

Mr. Dwyer made a motion to move forward with the scheduled dates as presented by Davenport & Co, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with a recorded vote of Council members Reid, Dwyer, Pairet, Yoelin, Hunter, and Hardy voting "yes", the motion passed.

BROWN EDWARDS MEMORANDUM TO FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

Deputy Town Manager/Finance Director Julie Moore mentioned the required communication provided to the Council before the FY2025 audit begins. The letter outlines the audit services to be provided with contact information for the auditors should the Council have any questions or concerns. Ms. Moore encouraged Council members to reach out to the auditors with their questions.

REQUEST FOR LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR THE FARMVILLE DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Hardy made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to provide a letter of recommendation to Farmville Downtown Partnership, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with a recorded vote of Council members Dwyer, Pairet, Yoelin, Hunter, Hardy, and Reid voting "yes", the motion passed.

BACKGROUND: The Town Manager asked if the Council would allow him to write a letter of support for a grant that the Farmville Downtown Partnership is pursuing to turn the Downtown Plaza into an interactive play area, based on a presentation and plans shared at last week's Work Session.

DISCUSSION: EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

Mr. Dwyer made a motion to proceed with a $2,000 raise for the police department and $1,000 raise for each other full time employee, effective September 14, 2025, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with a recorded vote of Council members Pairet, Yoelin, Hunter, Hardy, Reid, and Dwyer voting "yes", the motion passed.

BACKGROUND: Town Manager reported on his recommendation for raises, using $160,269.93 from the General Fund with a total cost of $192,159.78. He suggested most of the costs be covered by reallocating $158,000 from the contingency fund and the remaining through overages in the part-time staffing budget of which +$148,920. is anticipated. There was a discussion about possibly giving emergency communications staff the same pay increase as police officers. The increase is intended to address current police department vacancies, with broader fixes planned for the next budget year. An additional raise for certified officers and potential increases from the evaluation process were also mentioned. The Town Manager stated his recommendation of $2,000 raise for all police and a $1,000 raise for all other full-time employees, effective September 14, 2025. He will present a formal resolution at next month's meeting for the transfer of funding.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Davis reported that he and Julie Moore had been busy trying to obtain information for Council members and with the preparations with Davenport for the bond rating meeting.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

Mr. Hunter mentioned not wanting to ask for an extension of the public hearing or public comment periods but encouraged individuals who had more to say to submit a written copy of their statements to the Clerk so that Council members could receive their full comments. Mayor Vincent noted that he would reiterate this request at the beginning of the comment periods.

Mr. Yoelin thanked the Public Works Director and staff for the work being done around the town on the curbs and water diversion. He asked about the status of the discussions of the comprehensive plan. Town Manager Davis noted that input was still needed from Council members and asked for topics to be emailed to him. He mentioned that Mr. Pairet's comments had been received.

Mr. Pairet asked for a status on completing the ABM project and wanted to discuss the public restrooms for the splashpad. The Town Manager reported that ABM is still working through the punch list items, and the final check is being held until completion. A few ideas for a prefab design for the restrooms will be provided with the hope to include a cost per square foot. A brief discussion was held on the interest in bidding on a prefab design. A request was made by Mr. Pairet to see what the life expectancy is for a prefab building compared to a block-built construction. Additional conversation is anticipated at the October Work Session.

Mayor Vincent expressed happy birthday wishes to Vice-Mayor Reid and noted this time of year always feeling like it should slow down but it speeds up. He said to make sure you get your mentals right, referencing as Marshawn Lynch would say, and get outside and take a moment for yourself to calm down, and remember that we're all in this together.

Mr. Hunter inquired about converting the Town-owned cinderblock building near the splashpad into a bathroom. The Town Manager explained that the building is currently being leased with no fee to Habitat for Humanity and used for storage. The cost of converting the building to a bathroom was questioned as a potential cost-saving measure.

There being no other business and on a motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Hardy, and with all Council members voting "aye", the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

APPROVED: ATTEST:

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Brian R. Vincent, Mayor Mary H. McKay, Clerk of Council