

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON JULY 13, 2022

At the regular meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia, there present were Mayor D.E. Whitus, presiding, and Council members T.M. Pairet, A.D. Reid, B.R. Vincent, S.O. Amos, D.E. Dwyer and D.L. Hunter.

Staff present were Town Manager C. Scott Davis, Chief of Police Andy Ellington, Town Attorney Gary Elder, Director of Finance Julie Moore, Director of Public Works Robin Atkins, IT Support Ashley Atkins-Austin, Deputy Clerk Jacqueline Vaughan, and Clerk Mary McKay.

Mayor Whitus welcomed guests and announced Rev. Matthew Sorenson, Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, would provide the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice-Mayor Reid.

The Clerk called the roll, noting Council member G.C. Cole as absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Flora Lopez called in to provide a recording from someone detained for one and one-half years in the Immigration Centers of America (ICA)-Farmville and offered an interpreted testimony which included wanting the Detention Center to be shut down.

Ms. Dina Cruz called in to provide a testimony from Carlos who was detained for two years in the Immigration Centers of America (ICA)-Farmville. The testimony noted conditions Carlos experienced at the facility.

Mr. Ian Austin called in to read a testimony from Ms. Angelina Marquez concerning the Immigration Centers of America (ICA)-Farmville. Ms. Marquez' testimony included that the Detention Center in Farmville should not reopen.

With no one else signed up or wishing to speak, the Mayor closed the Public Comment Period and returned the meeting to the regular order of business.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Vincent, and with all Council members voting "aye", the consent agenda was approved as presented. The consent agenda includes the draft minutes of the June 1, 2022 Work Session, the June 8, 2022 regular Town Council meeting, and the June 15, 2022 Special Meeting.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Director reported on the June Financial Report which was provided to Council. The preliminary report does not contain all the year-end adjustments to be made and will be reissued after the audit is completed and all adjustments have been made. The audit is scheduled for the first week of September.

ADOPT RESOLUTION 2022-07-02 REVISE UTILITY ADJUSTMENT POLICY

On a motion by Mr. Vincent to adopt Resolution 2022-07-02 approving the revised Water and Wastewater Utility Adjustment Policy, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with a recorded vote of Council members Dwyer, Hunter, Pairet, Reid, Vincent, and Amos voting “yes”, the motion was approved.

BACKGROUND: The Town Manager noted Council reviewed the proposed policy at the July 6, 2022 Work Session.

The policy would be updated to reflect how the utility adjustment requests are processed. Each adjustment would cover one incident instead of one billing cycle, and an adjustment would be made only if the usage that was billed is at least 150% of the average usage for the account. The appeal process in Section 5 of the policy would be updated to make it more staff oriented instead of having to come to Council for appeals.

Resolution #2022-07-02

Approving the revised Water and Wastewater Utility Adjustment Policy

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL:

1. The Town Manager and Finance Director are hereby authorized to implement the revised operational policy for water and wastewater utility adjustments as provided in the attached document.
2. This resolution shall be in full force and effect upon 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 Brian Vincent _____.

The Honorable Donald L. Hunter _____.

The Honorable Greg Cole _____.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE THE TOWN MANAGER SIGN LEGAL REPRESENTATION LETTER FOR CHARTER CHANGE

Mr. Pairet made a motion for the Town Manager to Sign Legal Representation Letter for Charter Change, seconded by Mr. Vincent, and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion was approved.

BACKGROUND: A legal firm will be engaged to begin work and represent the Town throughout the process of changing the Charter.

REQUEST FOR A UTILITY ADJUSTMENT FOR RASHAH ALKIM

Mr. Dwyer made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Finance and Ordinance Committee and approve the utility adjustment request for Rashah Alkim, seconded by Mr. Vincent, and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion passed.

BACKGROUND: Town Manager noted the Finance Committee is recommending this adjustment be made that was discussed at their last meeting. Council was provided the information concerning the proposed utility adjustment request.

ADOPT RESOLUTION 2022-07-03 MARY BRANCH-INDUSTRIAL REVITALIZATION FUND GRANT

Mr. Reid made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-07-03 in support of Mary Branch-Industrial Revitalization Fund Grant, seconded by Mr. Vincent, and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion was approved.

BACKGROUND: Town Manager reported the topic was reviewed at the July 6, 2022 Work Session. There is a grant opportunity for the Mary E. Branch Community Center to seek funding to rehabilitate the building. The non-profit organization cannot go through the grant process, must go through a locality, and is working with the Town of Farmville and Prince Edward County to apply for the grant. Commonwealth Regional Council will be drafting the grant. After a motion was made and seconded, an inquiry was made by Mr. Pairet concerning any financial responsibilities for the Town. Town Manager reported the financial obligation is unknown until the grant is approved and the amount of funding is awarded. Also noted was the dollar-for-dollar match. The only item the Town is committed to, which is budgeted in professional services, is Prince Edward County and the Town of Farmville are going to share the cost equally for Mosley Architects to provide an estimate on the cost to rehabilitate the building.

Resolution #2022-07-03

Approving Application by Town of Farmville in Partnership with Mary E. Branch Community Center for the Industrial Revitalization Fund Grant Program

WHEREAS, the Mary E. Branch Community Center, a 501(c) (3) organization, has asked the Town of Farmville and Prince Edward County for assistance in methods to rehabilitate the former Mary E. Branch School structure and create a Mary E. Branch Heritage Center; and

WHEREAS, the cost to rehabilitate this structure will be costly, but the facility will have the ability to create more community work space, rental space, and a place to mentor and tutor students; and

WHEREAS, certain grants available to localities can be used to assist nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mary E. Branch Community Center has requested the Town of Farmville apply for the Industrial Revitalization Fund Grant through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Regional Council staff will assist in preparing the grant application on behalf of the Town of Farmville; and

WHEREAS, should the Industrial Revitalization Fund Grant be awarded to the Town of Farmville, the Town Council will have to further evaluate future matching funds to the grant; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL:

1. The Town of Farmville Town Council approves for staff to apply for the Industrial Revitalization Fund Grant to assist the Mary E. Branch Community Center.
2. The Town of Farmville Town Council will evaluate any matching funds and the sharing of the cost of matching funds with other localities or organizations should the grant be awarded.
3. This resolution shall be in full force and effect upon 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 Pairat _____.

The Honorable Brian Vincent _____.

The Honorable Donald L. Hunter _____.

The Honorable Greg Cole _____.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Mr. Pairet made a motion to accept the proposed Council meeting dates, seconded by Mr. Vincent, and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion was approved.

BACKGROUND: Town Manager reported the Council Meeting Dates requested are for July to December and will need to be advertised by calendar year thereafter, due to the change in the election terms of office.

July 13, 2022
August 10, 2022
September 14, 2022
October 12, 2022
November 9, 2022
December 14, 2022

Council meetings are held in the Council Chamber on the second floor of the Town Hall, at 116 North Main Street, Farmville Virginia, at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise scheduled.

Council work sessions are held the first Wednesday of each month in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall at 11:00 a.m. – Town Hall address listed above.

This list does not include any special meetings which may be called from time to time.

To verify meeting dates, contact the Clerk of Council.

REQUEST APPOINTMENT OF VICE-MAYOR/PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

On a motion by Mr. Hunter to reappoint Mr. Reid as Vice-Mayor/President of Council for six months, seconded by Mr. Vincent, and with all Council members voting “aye”, the motion was approved.

BACKGROUND: Town Manager noted this appointment will be for six months as the language in the Code will need to be changed to match the terms of office.

Town Code Section 2-21. – President states “The Council shall at its first regular meeting in July of each even year elect from their number a person to be known as *president* of the council, who shall, when the mayor is absent or cannot sit, have all the powers and perform all the duties conferred by law upon the mayor; provided, that any vacancy in the office of mayor shall be filled as required by law.” Mr. Reid has expressed interest in continuing to serve as Farmville’s Vice-Mayor/President of Council.

STAFF REPORTS

Director of Public Works Robin Atkins reported on the completion of the paving project.

Chief of Police Andy Ellington reported a change in the events this year and reminded everyone to mark their calendars:

National Night Out Event – Tuesday, August 2, 2022

One big event will be held at Riverside Park.

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

National Night Out Event - Friday, August 12, 2022

A second event will be held at Parkview Gardens.

5:00 p.m.-8 p.m.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Ordinance – No report.

Public Safety – Mr. Hunter reported Chief of Police reviewed items last week.

Personnel – No report.

Parks/Recreation – Mr. Vincent offered thanks to law enforcement, public works and all the staff who worked diligently to hold the Fourth of July event, and felt it was a fun event to have in downtown Farmville.

Infrastructure – Mr. Pairt asked the Town Manager to comment on the lighting situation on Jesse's Way.

Town Manager reported Creative Electrical Contractors, Inc. (CEC) was asked to look at what would be needed to sufficiently light other than the one light that was requested. Three additional lights are needed other than the two that currently exist. He and Mr. Gary Tuck, one of the residents who spoke at the May 11, 2022 Council meeting, have met to discuss the issue. CEC will provide a cost estimate for the three streetlights.

CLOSED SESSION: 2.2-3711(A)(3) DISCUSSION OF ACQUISITION OR LEASE OF TOWN PROPERTY

On a motion by Mr. Vincent, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with all Council members voting "aye", Council went into closed session under paragraph A.3. of Section 2.2-3711, of the Code of Virginia, for the Discussion of Acquisition or Lease of Town Property.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Farmville Town Council has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Farmville Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Farmville Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Farmville Town Council.

VOTE: Six "ayes", No "noes"

MOTION: Vincent

SECOND: Hunter

AYES: Hunter, Vincent, Pairet, Dwyer, Reid, and Amos

NAYS: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Cole

ABSENT DURING MEETING: Cole

Mary H. McKay, Clerk of Council

There being no other business, on a motion by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Vincent, and with all Council members voting "aye", the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

David E. Whitus, Mayor

Mary H. McKay, Clerk of Council