

The regular meeting of the Amherst Town Council was held on June 13, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers with Mayor Jacob Bailey presiding. Council members present were: Bobby J. Bondurant; Jason D. Campbell; Haney Mottley; Harold Swisher and C. Manly Rucker, III.

Also present were Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Town Attorney W. Thomas Berry, Police Chief Kenneth Watts, Superintendent of Plants Thomas W. Fore and Office Manager Colan R. Davis.

Father William C. Crites from Church of the Epiphany gave an invocation.

Mr. Rucker made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mottley to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Campbell, Mottley, Swisher and Rucker voted "Aye".

A duly advertised public hearing on the FY08 budget, to include an increase in the lodging tax, was opened at 7:01 P.M. There being no one present who wished to speak, the hearing was closed at 7:02 P.M. By consensus the Council agreed to meet on June 27 at 7:00 P.M. for the purpose of approving the budget and the Centra bond matter.

Amherst County Planning Director Jeremy Bryant came forward to give a presentation on the proposed county comprehensive plan and the proposed future land use designations near the Town of Amherst. By consensus the Council agreed to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and to transmit the following comments to the Board of Supervisors:

- The Town of Amherst supports the proposed plan's future land use designations in the future Town water and sewer service areas,
- The Town of Amherst is concerned about the ability of the Town to support the growth in those areas from a water and sewer utility capacity standpoint, and
- The Town of Amherst suggests that the County lakes should be used to support the Town's water system as those areas are developed or during drought situations.

Mr. Swisher made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Rucker to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2007 Town Council meeting as previously submitted. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Campbell, Mottley, Swisher and Rucker voted "Aye".

By consensus Town Council agreed to hold a public hearing on revisions to the parking ordinance at its July 11, 2007 meeting.

Mr. Rucker made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bondurant to approve the ordering of a police vehicle in advance of approving the FY08 budget. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Campbell, Mottley, Swisher and Rucker voted "Aye".

The Council received a complaint regarding a building at 170 Jordan Street. By consensus, and pursuant to Section 4-2.2 of the Town Code, the matter was referred to the Property Maintenance Investigation Board for its investigation and report.

By consensus the Town Manager was authorized to sign bond council and legal services contracts for the Union Hill water tank project.

The Council discussed the use of the "fountain and mountains" mark and where it should be used in lieu of the Town seal. By consensus it was decided the Town would continue to use

the Town Seal for all official items and use the “fountain and mountains” for less official and marketing items such as tourism.

The Council discussed the wireless internet issue. The Town Manager was asked to ascertain the process for obtaining Amherst County’s permission to locate antennae on the tower located at the courthouse.

The Town Manager reported that Bill Gillespie is planning to lead a worksession on potential E. Court Street improvements at the July 11 meeting.

Mr. Rucker moved that the Town Council reconvene in a closed session for (a) discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of any public body pursuant to section 2.2-3711 A.1 of the Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bondurant and carried 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Campbell, Mottley, Swisher and Rucker voted “Aye”.

After reconvening in open session, each Councilor was given the opportunity to declare whether there was a departure from the subject matter and purpose during the closed session.

Mr. Rucker moved that the Town Council certify that to the best of each councilors’ knowledge that (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Title 2.2, Chapter 37 and 15.2-2907 of the Code of Virginia and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bondurant and carried 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Campbell, Mottley, Swisher and Rucker voted “Aye” by the roll call method.

After discussing the retirement dinner for Mr. Casey which is to be held on July 19 at Traveler’s restaurant, and since there was no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 P.M.

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Jacob P. Bailey, Mayor

Attest:

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Clerk of Council