

The regular meeting of the Amherst Town Council was held on February 13, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Amherst County Administration Building at 153 Washington Street with Mayor Jacob P. Bailey presiding. Council members present were: Bobby J. Bondurant; Jason Campbell; Haney Mottley; Harold Swisher; and C. Manly Rucker, III. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Police Chief Kenneth Watts, Director of Public Utilities Tom Fore and Office Manager Colan Davis were also present.

The Rev. Decatur H. Rodgers, III from Amherst Presbyterian Church 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".

Representatives from the Amherst LIVE! group gave a presentation on its planned activities for the 2008 season and asked for the Town Council's support. Mr. Mottley made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Swisher to approve a resolution to establish an Amherst LIVE! Committee. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Campbell, Mottley, Swisher and Rucker voted "Aye". A copy of the resolution is attached and made a part of these minutes.

A group from the Community Design Assistance Center at Virginia Tech gave a presentation on the E. Court Street improvement project. It was understood that selecting a concept to follow is necessary before the Town can move into the design, construction planning, right of way and permit acquisition phase of the project. The Town Manager was asked to prepare a report as to how the selected concept could be pursued by the Town for consideration at the March meeting.

Mr. Rucker made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Campbell to approve the January 9 and January 26, 2008 minutes as distributed earlier. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Campbell, Mottley, Swisher and Rucker voted "Aye".

A report from the Town Engineer on the bids for the construction of the Union Hill water tank that were opened on January 29 was received. There being no irregularities, authorization of a contract with The Crom Corporation was recommended. Mr. Campbell made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Swisher to award the contract and authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with The Crom Corporation to effect the installation of the Union Hill Water Tank. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Campbell, Mottley, Swisher and Rucker voted "Aye".

Mr. Campbell made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mottley to authorize the Town Manager to extend the landscape maintenance contract with Dalton's Lawn Care to the 2008 season. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Campbell, Mottley, Swisher and Rucker voted "Aye".

Mr. Rucker made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bondurant to authorize the Town Manager to extend the Town's contract with Davidson, Doyle & Hylton to cover the FY08 audit. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Campbell, Mottley, Swisher and Rucker voted "Aye".

The Police Chief gave a presentation on work needed to complete the Town Hall renovation project. Mr. Rucker made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bondurant to authorize the Police Chief to contract with Coleman/Mays Building to effect following aspects of the project: front foyer/service counter, front entrance, hallway break counter, the replacement of the basement door and window and the replacement of all chairs in the Council Chamber. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Campbell, Mottley, Swisher and Rucker voted "Aye".

The Police Chief reminded the Council of the \$15,000 in the FY08 capital budget for replacement of the Town's parking meters. A proposal to replace the meters was discussed. By consensus, it was decided to suspend the operation of the parking meter program for a trial period.

The issue of the recent reassessment that has increased the real estate tax base by 51% was referred to the Finance committee.

The Town Manager reported that it did not appear to be practical to pursue refinancing of the Town's debt, and the issue was tabled.

The Mayor reminded the Councilors of the March 4 filing deadline for the May 6 municipal elections.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 P.M.

Jacob P. Bailey
Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council

A RESOLUTION TO CREATE AN AMHERST LIVE! COMMITTEE.

The Town Council of the Town of Amherst hereby establishes an Amherst LIVE! Committee as outlined below.

Background and Intent

The Amherst LIVE! group sponsored successful events in 2006 and 2007. The Town Council of the Town of Amherst desires to encourage additional similar events in 2008 and intends to develop mechanisms to support and sanction that group's operation and articulate the Town's role and goals for future events.

Goals

The Town Council of the Town of Amherst has established goals for Amherst LIVE! for the 2008 season. It is understood that other organizations may have different goals, and it is the intent of the Town Council to support the goals of the other organizations in all practical ways insofar as they do not conflict with the Town Council's goals. The Town of Amherst goals for Amherst LIVE! are as follows:

- Support recreational events held in downtown Amherst that can be enjoyed by residents of the greater Town of Amherst area
- Promote Town businesses, particularly those in the downtown area
- Provide for the safety and security of all involved
- Foster the development of a consistent/"branded" event – i.e. all feature early evening live music, gated admission, fixed location, a beer garden and food vendors
- Although the Town would facilitate the Amherst LIVE! group and support this seasons activities, at some point the downtown events need to be operated by a separate organization
- The Town will remain fiscally whole – i.e. be reimbursed for any "out of pocket" expenses incurred such as for public works or police personnel

Responsibilities, Authority and Expectations

- The Committee shall monitor the development of Amherst LIVE! events on behalf of the Town Council pursuant to Town goals.
- The Committee should meet on a regular basis as the 2008 Amherst LIVE! season develops.
- Any communication by a member of the Committee or any of its subcommittee members that represents the position of the Committee, or stating any recommendation made or action taken, shall be authorized by the Committee during a formal meeting of the Committee.
- The Committee shall make recommendations to the Town Council or make decisions with respect to Amherst LIVE! events, as necessary and proper, and submit a final report on its recommendations for Amherst LIVE! events to be held in future years.

Membership

The Committee shall be comprised of the following individuals:

- Doris Bryant
- Leigh Pigg
- Ken Althouse
- Brian Mays
- Joey Bondurant

Doris Bryant shall serve as the Chairperson of the Committee. The Town Manager or his designee shall serve as the Secretary for the Committee in 2008 and shall organize meetings, prepare agendas and minutes, serve as the Town's liaison with the Committee, and make periodic reports on the Committee's activities.

Term

It is intended that this Committee, and the appointments made herein, is for the 2008 season. As such, the provisions of this Resolution shall expire as of December 31, 2008.

Funding

The Committee and the activities of Amherst LIVE! shall not be financed by the Town of Amherst. Committee members are considered volunteers and shall not receive compensation for their service on the Committee.

However, the Town Manager is authorized to make Town staff available to support meetings of the Committee (agenda preparation, hosting meetings in the Town Hall, minutes, reasonable photocopying, etc.) and to serve as the information desk for Amherst LIVE! in 2008.

This resolution was adopted on February 13, 2008 and is to become effective immediately.

Jacob P. Bailey
Mayor

Attest:

Town Clerk