

The regular meeting of the Amherst Town Council called to order on May 14, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 186 S. Main 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.

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 Town's FY09 budget was opened at 7:02 P.M.

Mr. Barry Thompson, a resident of 287 Waughs Ferry Road, outlined his concerns regarding water rates, the Town Square project and the S. Main Street sidewalk then questioned whether there is a need for the Town.

There being no one else present wishing to speak the hearing was closed at 7:17 P.M.

A duly advertised public hearing on an ordinance that would effect an access management program for the Ambriar area was opened at 7:18 PM.

John Batman, Tommy Brooks and Dick Carrington came forward to express concern as to how the proposed ordinance would affect the development of the Ambler property across from Amherst County High School.

There being no one else present who wished to speak, the hearing was closed at 7:47 PM.

Mr. Swisher made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bondurant to approve the April 9 and 14, 2008 minutes as distributed earlier. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Campbell, Mottley, Swisher and Rucker voted "Aye".

The Town Manager reported that the bidder on two of the surplus vehicles for which sale was authorized on April 9 could not be reached. Mr. Mottley made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Swisher to approve authorize the sale of the Chevrolet vehicle to Steve Martin, the second-highest bidder for that item. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Campbell, Mottley, Swisher and Rucker voted "Aye". It was reported that the second highest bidder for the Ford verbally declined to purchase and that the third highest bidder has not indicated whether he would be willing to purchase the vehicle. By consensus, the Ford will be held until over for a future surplus sale process.

The Council was reminded that terms for a number of Town committee members will expire soon and that applications for those seats have been requested so that appointments can be made at the June 11 Council meeting.

The Council discussed the overbilling of Town dumpster customers by the Town's contractor and Wilton Burgess's suggestion that the Town either cancel or rebid the arrangement with the Town's current dumpster contractor. There was no action on this item.

Potential amendments to the business license program articulated in Sec. 8.1-700 of the Town Code and the Town's industrial wastewater pretreatment ordinance at Sec. 17-15 of the Town Code were referred to the Ordinance Committee.

The Town Manager reported that VDOT is on track to approve the full grant request on the S. Main Street sidewalk project, and so the Town is in a position to begin the engineering work on the second part of the project. If the design work is authorized soon then the Town will be able to ask for approvals and begin construction at the earliest practical date. No action was taken on this item.

The Town Manager reported that the Board of Supervisors has given preliminary approval for the Town Square project and estimates for the utility relocation have been prepared, so the next "step" for the project is the design phase. Mr. Campbell made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Swisher to authorize the Town Manager to contract with the Town Engineer for this design work. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Campbell, Mottley, Swisher and Rucker voted "Aye".

It was reported that Phase 1 of the South Main Street Sidewalk project has entered the bid process.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 P.M.

Jacob P. Bailey
Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council