

The regular meeting of the Amherst Town Council was called to order on October 8, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 186 S. Main Street with Vice Mayor Richard Wydner presiding. Council members Bobby J. Bondurant; J. Paul Kilgore; Haney Mottley; Harold Swisher; and Richard Wydner were present. Mayor Jacob P. Bailey was absent. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Police Chief Kenneth Watts, Director of Public Utilities Tom Fore and Office Manager Colan Davis were also present.

The Rev. Kelvin Brown from Mount Olive Baptist Church gave an invocation.

Town Auditor Amy Gallagher from the firm Davidson, Doyle & Hilton came forward to present the present the Town's FY08 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Mr. Bondurant made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Kilgore to approve the September 10, 2008 minutes as distributed earlier. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted "Aye".

Mr. Bondurant reported on the Community Relations Committee's work to develop a Banner Program. Mr. Mottley made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Swisher to approve a banner program policy and form as recommended by the Committee. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted "Aye". The Town Manager was asked to pursue the installation of a better banner hanging system on S. Main Street closer to the traffic circle.

A petition requesting two-hour parking regulation on S. Main Street was received. This issue was referred to the Ordinance committee.

It was noted that there is still one vacant seat on the Planning Commission and that the matter of creating a Town centennial planning committee is still pending.

Mr. Mottley made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bondurant to validate the Police Chief's expenditure of \$10,563.00 for the installation of computer networking equipment. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted "Aye".

The Town Manager gave a report on the status of the Town's various major projects.

The Council was reminded that it tabled action on the Town Square project on August 13 pending a meeting with the Hill Hardware owner/operators which has since taken place. Action on the Town Square project was tabled until the November council meeting.

The Council was reminded that it is scheduled to attend a dinner function with the Amherst County Board of Supervisors on October 16, 6PM at Sweet Briar College.

Mr. Mottley made a motion that the Town Council reconvene in a closed session for (a) discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body pursuant to §2.2-3711 A.3 of the Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended and (b) 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 §2.2-3711 A.1 of the Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swisher and carried 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted “Aye”.

After reconvening in open session, Mr. Mottley made a motion that 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 on a roll call vote. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted “Aye”.

Mr. Kilgore made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mottley to hold a public hearing on the disposal of the Town Shop cell phone antenna tower site at the November meeting. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted “Aye”.

Mr. Swisher made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mottley to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 P.M. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted “Aye”.

Richard D. Wydner
Vice Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council