

The regular meeting of the Amherst Town Council was called to order on December 10, 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 Bobby J. Bondurant; J. Paul Kilgore; Haney Mottley; Harold Swisher; and Richard Wydner were present. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Police Chief Kenneth Watts, Director of Public Utilities Tom Fore and Office Manager Colan Davis were also present.

The Rev. Kathy Chase from Ascension Episcopal Church gave an invocation.

Suny Monk came forward to present an idea for a public art project involving the old Town parking meters. Mr. Swisher made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bondurant to support the efforts of Mrs. Monk's group and to ask the Community Relations Committee to clarify what is expected of the Town and the group in this matter for further consideration by the Council. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted "Aye".

Petitions from the Motley family requesting three street lights at 369 Sunset Drive were received. Mr. Mottley made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Wydner to approve a streetlight on AEP pole number 1067-214. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted "Aye".

Mr. Swisher reported that the Ordinance Committee had developed a proposed ordinance that would repeal regulations pertaining to parking meters and install one that would establish a two-hour parking limit on downtown, on-street parking spaces. After some discussion, the Council agreed to adjust the area where the two hour parking limit would be enforced, to include an exemption for fire and rescue vehicles and to hold a public hearing on the matter at the January Town Council meeting.

Mr. Kilgore gave a report on his work with the Town Attorney on the potential disposal of a portion of the Town Shop property. Mr. Kilgore agreed to continue his negotiations with a proposer.

Mr. Barry Thompson of 287 Waughs Ferry Road came forward to present objections to the Town square project.

Mr. Wydner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bondurant to approve the November 12, 2008 minutes as distributed earlier. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted "Aye".

The Town Manager reported that construction at the Union Hill water tank site is nearly complete and the remaining CD's purchased with bond proceeds will mature at the end of December. The excess proceeds will be used to pay down the loan and "re-set" the monthly payment amount as per the earlier understanding as soon as these monies are become available.

The Council discussed the FY 10 Budget Process.

By consensus, the Council agreed to shift the November 2009 Town Council meeting to November 10 to avoid the Veterans Day holiday.

The Council discussed the upcoming Town Centennial event. Further discussion on the matter was referred to the Community Relations committee.

It was reported that Mr. Lyle Garrett has resigned from the Town of Amherst Planning Commission.

By consensus, Council approved Mr. Fore's request to purchase a pump for installation at the sewer plant with the goal of improving the lime feed system there. The cost, including installation, is expected to be about \$7,000.

Mayor Bailey asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss annexation matters. Mr. Wydner made a motion that the Town Council reconvene in a closed session for the purpose of negotiating any issues which are or would be subject to the Commission on Local Government's review pursuant to §15.2-2907. D of the Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bondurant and carried 5-0. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted "Aye".

After reconvening in open session, Mr. Kilgore 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. Wydner and carried 5-0 on a roll call vote. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted "Aye".

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Jacob P. Bailey
Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council