

The regular meeting of the Amherst Town Council was called to order on May 13, 2009 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, Office Manager Colan Davis and Town Attorney Tom Berry were also present.

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

Leah Gibbs and Jackie Beidler from the Amherst Centennial Program Committee came forward to present a status report on their group's efforts. By consensus, Town Council commended the committee and asked it to proceed with its work.

At 7:21 P.M., the Mayor opened a duly advertized hearing on the proposed FY10 Town of Amherst budget. Mr. Barry Thompson of 287 Waughs Ferry Road came forward and stated that it was good that the different funds were broken out and that the budget is going to be challenging in the next few years as the Town must balance rates against construction funding. Mr. Thompson also questioned if there was grant funding for phase II of the South Main Street sidewalk. There being no one further wishing to speak the hearing was closed at 7:26 P.M.

Mr. Wydner expressed concerns about the amount of water sold versus the time the water plant was operating and recommended reducing payroll costs. This matter was referred to the Utilities Committee.

The Town Manager reported that Barry Thompson (287 Waughs Ferry Road) has asked the Town Council to approve the installation of four street lights at 252-308 Waughs Ferry Road on pole numbers 1067B3-393, 394, 395 and 396. Mr. Thompson withdrew his request for the street light on pole number 396 due to the high estimated cost for that installation. Mr. Mottley made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Kilgore to approve street lights on pole numbers 1067B3-393, 394 and 395. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted "Aye".

Town Engineer Herb White came forward to report on requests by Kendall Brockman and Steve Martin pertaining to entrances to the lots they own adjacent to the S. Main Street Sidewalk Project. Mr. Mottley made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Wydner to approve two 36 foot wide entrances for Mr. Brockman and one 30 foot wide entrance for Mr. Martin. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted "Aye".

Town Engineer Herb White gave a presentation on the development of the Ambriar area and what would be required to improve water and sewer services in that portion of the Town.

Mr. Wydner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bondurant to approve the minutes for the April 8, 2009 meeting as previously submitted. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted "Aye".

Mr. Swisher reported that the Ordinance Committee has finished its work on recommendations to move the council elections to the fall and to amend the charter. By consensus, Council agreed to hold hearings on these two matters at the June Town Council meeting.

The Police Chief came forward to discuss a recent decision by the Virginia Supreme Court which has resulted in a recommendation by the Virginia Municipal League that the Town suspend enforcement of its noise ordinance. The noise ordinance matter was referred to the Town Attorney.

The Town Manager presented a report on what the Town is doing in the areas of beautification and landscape maintenance.

Mr. Mottley made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Wydner to plant grass in the traffic island on S. Main Street at the corporate limits. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted "Aye".

The matter of developing a fourth Welcome to Town sign on S. Main Street was referred to the Community Relations Committee.

The matter of replacing the Town Hall telephone system was referred to the Finance Committee.

The matter of installing banners, both across S. Main Street and on the downtown utility poles, was referred to the Community Relations Committee.

Mr. Wydner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bondurant to appoint Ted Finney (432 Waughs Ferry Road) to the Planning Commission for the portion of Lyle Garrette's term scheduled to expire on June 30, 2009 and to appoint Mr. Finney for a four-year term to expire June 30, 2013. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Bondurant, Kilgore, Mottley, Swisher and Wydner voted "Aye".

Councilman Kilgore asked the Town Council to consider the possibility of an ordinance that would allow golf carts on the Town's streets. The Police Chief informed Council that the speed limit would have to be reduced to 25 MPH anywhere golf carts are allowed.

Mr. Wydner discussed drainage issues on South Main Street down to Williams Creek.

Mr. Kilgore reported that negotiations with the Town Shop cell tower lease holder are ongoing.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

Jacob P. Bailey
Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council