

Vice Mayor Kenneth Watts called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on February 13, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 186 S. Main Street. Council members Mike Mozingo, Rachel Thompson, Kenneth Watts were present. Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr. and council members Kenneth Bumgarner and Richard Wydner were absent. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Police Chief Kelvin Brown, Director of Public Utilities Tom Fore, Office Manager Colan Davis, and Town Attorney Tom Berry were present.

The Rev. Decatur H. Rodgers, III gave an invocation.

Philipp Gabathuler from Region 2000 Local Government Council came forward to present a proposed Region 2000 Hazard Mitigation plan. Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and approved 3-0 to approve a resolution that would have the effect of approving the plan. Members Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Wydner were absent. A copy of the resolution is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Derrick Brown came forward to ask the Council to support his planned April 21, 2013 IRON Race to the Top 5k Run/Walk event. It was understood that the IRON group would be responsible for obtaining permission from VDOT to close some or all of S. Main Street for the event, for notifying residents, businesses and public safety agencies that would be affected the closure, and that traffic control services would be provided by the Police Department. Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 3-0 to approve the request. Members Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Wydner were absent.

Mary Ellen Barron came forward to present her group's urban art program and Suny Monk came forward to give a status report on the ArtMeters project. Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and approved 3-0 to approve the continuance of the ArtMeters project as presented. Members Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Wydner were absent.

Mr. Tim Ware came forward to advise the Town Council that he is working to organize a cruise-in event for April 27. It was understood that a proposal would be delivered for consideration at the March Town Council meeting.

Mrs. Shirley Boe, owner of 105 East Court Street, came forward with a utility bill that was unusually high due to a leak and requested relief from payment above what is allowed by the Town's policy. There was no action to give the additional relief requested.

Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and approved 3-0 to approve the minutes from the January 9 and 19, 2013 meetings. Members Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Wydner were absent.

The Police Chief was asked to review a parade routing request from Derin Foor and provide a report on the matter for the Council's review in the next few months.

The Police Chief reported that he plans to eliminate the buildup of compensatory time in his department by the end of March. He was asked to provide a monthly report on work schedules and actual work times by employee to the Public Safety Committee.

Vice Mayor Kenneth Watts read a personal statement regarding conflicts of interest. Per his request, a copy of the statement is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 3-0 to authorize the purchase of a pickup truck as recommended by staff. Members Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Wydner were absent.

Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 3-0 to authorize the purchase of a bucket truck as recommended by staff. Members Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Wydner were absent.

Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 3-0 to authorize a contract with Davidson Doyle and Hilton for the FY13 audit as recommended by staff. Members Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Wydner were absent.

Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and approved 3-0 to authorize the procurement of engineering work for the Ambriar Water Line Loop as recommended by staff. Members Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Wydner were absent.

Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and approved 3-0 to table the discussion and procurement of engineering work for the water plant chemical feed and rate of flow controller replacement project until the March meeting. Members Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Wydner were absent.

Discussion on the Town Hall location and needs project was deferred until all Councilors are available for participation.

The Council discussed the January 19 Town Council retreat and agreed by consensus that a summary developed by the Town staff is appropriate for promulgation. The Community Relations Committee was asked to look into how go about meeting the priorities related to improving the Town's identity and demonstrating that the Town is business-friendly.

After a discussion on the Town's active application for USDA sewer project funding, the Town Manager was asked to communicate to USDA that the Town would like to keep its application active.

Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and approved 3-0 to authorize the procurement of electricity and street light services from APCO for the July 1, 2012-December 31, 2013 period as negotiated and recommended by VML. Members Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Wydner were absent.

The Town Attorney gave a report on his work to have the Beverly House demolished and the work underway to clear the Brockman Park title.

Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 3-0 to appoint Leon Moss to the Planning Commission to fill the unexpired portion of Bill Hathaway's term which expires on June 30, 2014. Members Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Wydner were absent.

After Mr. Watts noted that the Town Manager is currently enrolled in a degree program that will help him maintain and improve his skills as a Town employee, Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson to allow him to attend his classes as continuing education so he will not have to use annual leave time for that purpose. The motion carried 3-0; members Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Wydner were absent.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:26 P.M.

Kenneth Watts, Vice Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE REGION 2000 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, as amended, requires that local governments develop and adopt natural hazard mitigation plans in order to receive certain federal assistance, and

WHEREAS, the Region 2000 Project Management Team representing the Town of Amherst, as well as the remaining 10 localities of Region 2000 were convened in order to study the Region's risks from and vulnerability to natural hazards, and to make recommendations on mitigating the effects of such hazards on the Region; and

WHEREAS, the Project Management Team was provided staff support by Region 2000; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the Project Management Team, the staff of Region 2000 as well as members of the public, private and nonprofit sectors, have resulted in the development of the Region 2000 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Amherst Town Council that the Region 2000 Hazard Mitigation Plan dated December 2012 is hereby approved and adopted for the Town of Amherst.

This Resolution was adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Amherst on February 13, 2013.

Kenneth Watts
Vice Mayor

Attest:

The Town's citizens should expect a Town Councilor to be independent, to exercise fairness toward all groups, and to not obtain financial benefit for him or his family members due to his position.

Everyone should know that I view my position as a Town Councilor as one where I am obligated to put the law and the interests of the Town of Amherst above all personal considerations.

It is to be understood that the Town Attorney has advised me that I have no known legal conflict of interest in my role as a Town Councilor.

On the other hand, my former position as the Chief of the Town of Amherst Police Department and the fact that my son Ryan Watts is employed by the Town impels me to address potential concerns regarding what some Town residents might perceive as a conflict of interest.

I intend to be involved in monitoring all Town activities and discussing and voting on all general items that come before the Town Council. I intend to participate in all discussions and votes regarding budgets, ordinances, policies and general personnel matters.

Chief Brown is responsible for managing the Police Department. He is responsible for proposing a law enforcement program via the Town budget process. He is responsible for efficiently and professionally implementing the law enforcement program and meeting budgetary restrictions that have been approved by the Town Council. As a Town Councilor, I intend to monitor, discuss and vote on items of that sort that pertain to the Amherst Police Department as a whole.

Since it protects the Town, me, Chief Brown and my son from potential criticism, I intend to abstain from voting on any matter that specifically or directly involves my son.

I have provided a copy of this statement to the Clerk of Council and ask that it be copied into the minutes for this meeting.



Kenneth Watts
February 13, 2013