

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

The Rev. Barbara Rodgers gave an invocation.

Larry Jackson from American Electric Power came forward to discuss the electrical distribution system in the Town.

Mary Ellen Barron came forward to discuss her group's ArtMural proposal. After some discussion, Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and approved 4-1 to:

- Endorsement the proposed installation of a mural on the Travelers Restaurant building,
- Authorize the Town crew to assist with the installation,
- Support an unveiling event, and
- Provide \$1,500, to be paid to the non-profit fiscal agent Amherst Glebe Arts Response (AGAR), to offset the costs of the project during the first year.

Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye"; Mrs. Thompson voted "Nay".

Tim Ware and Patrick Dreher (representing Amherst County Chamber of Commerce), came forward to request approval of the following items in support of the planned April 27 Cruise In event on E. Court and Goodwin Streets:

- General endorsement of the event,
- Town sponsorship of VDOT permit acquisition,
- Loan of available traffic barricades, cones and trash cans,
- Non-financial promotional assistance (fliers, word of mouth, e-blast, etc.),
- Coordination with chamber of commerce for promotion and event organization assistance, and
- Monitoring of the site by Town police.

After some discussion, Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 5-0 to approve the request. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye".

Peggy Whitehead of Blue Ridge Medial Center came forward to request a letter of support for the establishment of a new community health center. Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved 5-0 to authorize the Town Manager to sign a requested letter of support. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye".

Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 3-0-2 to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2013 meeting. Messrs. Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Wydner abstained.

On behalf of the Community Relations Committee, Mr. Watts discussed the following Town Council priorities:

- Developing a town Facebook page,
- Developing a Town map brochure that might include history and business promotion features,
- Using the cross-street banner to promote Town businesses,
- Providing easier access to restaurant menus via the web, on the map, on Facebook, etc., and
- Billboard advertising for restaurants, history, antiques, etc.

Mayor Kilgore led a discussion on the Town Hall location and needs project.

Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Wydner and approved 5-0 to authorize the procurement of engineering work for the water treatment plant chemical feed and rate of flow controller upgrades as recommended by staff. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted “Aye”.

Documents describing changes to the VRS employee disability program were discussed. It was reported that the Town Council could “opt out” of the program for non-police employees hired after January 1, 2014 but it was not clear as to how the Town could get rate quotes for such an alternative program. No action was taken.

There was a discussion on the nomination of Dulwich Manor for inclusion in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. No action was taken.

Mr. Wydner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved 5-0 to authorize the Town Manager to execute a rate study contract with Springsted, Inc. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted “Aye”.

Amherst Fire Department staffing was discussed.

The Town Manager gave a report on potential grant funding. Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and approved 5-0 to approve a resolution authorizing an application to the Virginia Department of Health. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted “Aye”. A copy of the resolution is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 4-0-1 to allow Investigator Tim Maberry to use vacation time prior to expending all accrued compensatory time for the time period of January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2013. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson and Wydner voted “Aye”; Mr. Watts abstained.

Mr. Mozingo reported that he will not be able to attend the April 10, 2013 Council meeting.

Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts that the Town Council convene in closed session for discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation per the exemption at §2.2-3711A.1 of the Code of Virginia. The motion passed 5-0 with Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted “Aye”.

Mr. Wydner made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson 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 passed 5-0 with Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye".

Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved 5-0 to adjust the pay rate for Colan Davis to \$43,368/yr (Grade 17 Step I) and adjust the pay rate for Dee Foltz to \$16.52/hr (Grade 13 Step I) effective with the next pay period. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye".

The Town Manager was asked to include a 2% pay increase in the FY14 budget proposal.

There being no further business, at 10:40 PM the meeting was adjourned until March 25, 2013 at 7:30 PM.

J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.
Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING BY THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – OFFICE OF DRINKING WATER.

WHEREAS, the Town of Amherst intends to apply for funding for various drinking water projects; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Health-Office of Drinking Water is able to provide funds for the planning of drinking water projects; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Amherst has determined that this type of funding would be appropriate for the work that is being considered;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Council of the Town of Amherst hereby authorizes the Town Manager to seek planning funds from Virginia Department of Health-Office of Drinking Water for:

Main Street Water Line Replacement Project Design

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Manager is directed to pursue such funding and be authorized to sign any and all documents to accept such funding contingent upon review and concurrence by the Town Attorney.

Adopted in the Town of Amherst, Virginia this 13th day of March, 2013.

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.

Attest:

Clerk of Council