

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr. called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on April 10, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 186 S. Main Street. Council members Kenneth Bumgarner, Rachel Thompson, Kenneth Watts and Richard Wydner were present. Councilor Mike Mozingo was absent. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Town Attorney Tom Berry, Police Chief Kelvin Brown, Director of Public Utilities Tom Fore and Office Manager Colan Davis were present.

Pastor Kelvin Brown from Mount Olive Baptist Church gave an invocation.

Jim and Kathy Beck of 181 Glenway Drive came forward to ask the Town to remove the \$45.00 reconnect fee that had been applied to their Town utility account. Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 4-0 to waive the fee for this account under the once in a lifetime exception according to the Town's utility billing policy. Messrs. Bumgarner, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye". Mr. Mozingo was absent.

Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 3-0-1 to authorize the Police Chief to order a new vehicle with the understanding that the purchase would not exceed the amount budgeted. Messrs. Bumgarner, Thompson and Wydner voted "Aye"; Mr. Watts abstained and Mr. Mozingo was absent.

Mr. Wydner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved 4-0 to approve the minutes from the March 13 (as corrected), March 25 and April 4, 2013 meetings. Messrs. Bumgarner, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye"; Mr. Mozingo was absent.

Mr. Watts led a discussion on ways to be more business friendly and other ways to improve the Town's image. The Mayor and Town Manager were asked to investigate ways the Town could support the arts center being proposed for the old Amherst Baptist Church building.

The Mayor asked Mr. Bumgarner to take the lead in negotiating an expanded cell phone tower lease at the Town Shop with Crown Castle.

The Town Manager gave an oral presentation on a proposed FY14 budget document. A public hearing on the proposal was scheduled for the May 8 meeting.

Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved 4-0 to appoint D. Kevin Belcher to the Planning Commission for the remainder of a term which expires on June 30, 2014. Messrs. Bumgarner, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye"; Mr. Mozingo was absent.

The Council discussed the staffing situation at the Amherst Fire Department.

Mayor Kilgore gave a report on his work to secure an option for a potential Town Hall site at 174 S. Main Street.

There being no further business, Mr. Wydner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and approved 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 P.M. Messrs. Bumgarner, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye"; Mr. Mozingo was absent.

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J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.  
Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council