

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr. called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on May 8, 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, Sergeant Greg Harler, Director of Public Utilities Tom Fore and Office Manager Colan Davis were present.

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

At 7:04 P.M. a public hearing on a FY14 budget proposal was opened. There being no comments, the hearing was closed at 7:05 P.M. It was understood that the Town Council would have a final discussion and consider adopting the proposal during its June 12 meeting.

Vernon Wood came forward to discuss his group's plans to raise funds to support the replacement of the downtown utility pole Christmas decorations. Mr. Wydner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved 5-0 to receive and disburse funds for the decorations. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye". The Community relations committee was asked to support Mr. Wood's group.

It was noted that the Virginia Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water has awarded the Town a 2012 Excellence in Waterworks Operations/Performance Award. The Councilors congratulated Mr. Fore on this achievement.

Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 5-0 to approve the minutes from the April 10 meeting. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye".

Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and approved 5-0 to approve a resolution supporting the Midland Trail initiative. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye". A copy of the resolution is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and approved 5-0 to appoint the following individuals to the respective boards for the terms indicated. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye".

<u>Committee/Board</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Term of Appointment</u>
Planning Commission	Ted Finney	July 1, 2013-June 30, 2017
IDA	Gary Jennings	July 1, 2013-June 30, 2017
IDA	Manly Rucker	July 1, 2013-June 30, 2017
Property Maintenance Investigation Board	Glenda Hash	July 1, 2013-June 30, 2016

The Mayor and Town Manager gave an oral report on the status of the study of the 174 S. Main Street site. A public hearing and open house on the matter at the July Council meeting date is being planned.

Mayor Kilgore gave a report on his conversation with Amherst County officials on the reuse of the former Amherst Baptist Church building as an arts center. No action was taken on the matter.

The Town Manager gave a report on the state contract vehicle fuel program and the staff's plans to move to that program when the county eliminates the jail fueling system.

Mr. Bumgarner gave a report on the negotiations with Crown Castle on its request to lease more of the Town Shop property.

The Councilors discussed the potential the Facebook and web site update ideas.

The Councilors agreed to discuss Town Manager and Police Chief evaluations at the June meeting.

There being no further business, at 9:35 P.M. Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and approved 5-0 to adjourn the meeting until May 20 at 7:00 P.M. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye".

J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.
Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN EXTENSION OF THE MIDLAND TRAIL AS A NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY INTO VIRGINIA.

WHEREAS, the West Virginia Byways Program strives to recognize, interpret, enhance, and preserve the intrinsic qualities of West Virginia byway corridors, with eleven State-designated Byways, ten State-designated Backways and four nationally -designated Byways, in place within the State of West Virginia.

WHEREAS, the State of West Virginia, West Virginia Department of Transportation and the West Virginia Division of Tourism recognizes that Byway designated funding has provided millions of dollars to enhance and promote significant historical, cultural, and visitor service sites along West Virginia roadways, attracting multitudes of visitors and making a significant economic impact through tourism.

WHEREAS, 119 miles of West Virginia roadway was designated as Midland Trail National Scenic Byway on June 15, 2000, resulting in a significant economic impact specifically to the communities along the Midland Trail.

WHEREAS, the Midland Trail Association of West Virginia – National Scenic Byway organization recognizes that the Midland Trail historical route (Route 60) extends into Virginia, and furthermore identifies a goal of having the route in Virginia designated as a National Scenic Byway within its Corridor Management Plan.

WHEREAS, there are more than 3,400 miles of roads designated as Virginia Byways, and to recognize and preserve Virginia’s scenic, cultural, and historic resources, and help attract visitors and support economic development through tourism, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC), the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), encourage local governments to nominate roads that meet the program criteria for Virginia Byway designation.

WHEREAS, there is an active effort to nominate the Virginia Midland Trail as a National Scenic Byway – extension of the West Virginia Midland Trail, by various Virginia localities and organizations, facilitated by and with guidance from the Virginia Tourism Corporation, Virginia Department of Transportation, and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads (including multi-state) as All-American Roads or National Scenic Byways based on one or more archeological, cultural, historic, natural, scenic and recreational qualities.

WHEREAS, The National Scenic Byways Program is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and the program is a grass-roots collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States.

WHEREAS, since 1992, the National Scenic Byways Program has provided funding for over 2,900 projects in 50 states and 1,500 state and nationally designated byway projects in 48 states.

WHEREAS, the Blue Ridge Parkway is designated as an All-American Road, providing visitors with the opportunity to learn the history and experience the culture of the entire multi-state region in which the Parkway meanders, while making a significant economic impact on the State of North Carolina and Commonwealth of Virginia, and serving as an example of a multi-state byway initiative by which the Midland Trail may follow.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Amherst expresses its support for the Midland Trail (Route 60) of Virginia to be designated as a Virginia Byway, and formally recognized as the Midland Trail, through the Town of Amherst, and throughout the Commonwealth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Amherst expresses its support for Midland Trail (Route 60) to be designated as a National Scenic Byway and extension of the already designated Midland Trail– National Scenic Byway.

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Amherst fully supports the effort to have the Midland Trail (Route 60) of Virginia designated as a Virginia Byway and National Scenic Byway, and extension of the already designated Midland Trail– National Scenic Byway in West Virginia, resulting in a multi-state National Scenic Byway.

Adopted in the Town of Amherst, Virginia this 8th day of May, 2013.

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council