

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr. called a meeting of the Amherst Town Council, continued from the January 8, 2014 session, to order on January 15, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers in the Town Hall at 186 S. Main Street. Council members Mike Mozingo, Rachel Thompson, Kenneth Watts and Richard Wydner were present. Council member Kenneth Bumgarner was absent. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Director of Public Utilities Tom Fore and Office Manager Colan Davis were present.

Vinton Director of Finance/Treasurer Barry Thompson came forward to discuss Town revenue and collection practices.

Mayor Kilgore led a discussion on the Town Hall renovation project. Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 4-0 to authorize the Mayor to negotiate and execute a contract with Coleman Mays for the renovation work. Messrs. Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye"; Mr. Bumgarner was absent.

The Town Manager reviewed the status of the Council's priorities for the current term that were established on January 19, 2013.

Mrs. Thompson led a discussion on the potential impact of several tax rate adjustments. By consensus, it was agreed that suspension of the real estate and personal property taxes should be included in the FY15 budget proposal.

Mrs. Thompson led a discussion on utility fees and collection practices. By consensus, it was agreed that dormant account charges and trip charges should be included in the FY15 budget proposal.

Mrs. Thompson led a discussion on the collection of past due utility accounts. By consensus, it was agreed that a proposal to automatically file liens against real estate when past due utility accounts exceed \$200 should be included in the FY15 budget proposal.

There was a discussion on balancing the Town's construction program with available financing is needed to inform the budget development process. By consensus, it was agreed that the recommendations contained in the Springsted Utility Rate Fairness Study should be included in the FY15 budget proposal.

IDA Chairman Jim Meade came forward to discuss the proposal to recruit a hotel to the Town and the willingness of the Town Council to incentivize this by "writing down" the value of real estate at Brockman Park which would be justified via a payback calculation.

There being no further business, Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and approved 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 4:28 P.M. Messrs. Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye"; Mr. Bumgarner was absent.

J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.
Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council