

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr. called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on April 9, 2014 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, Town Attorney Tom Berry, Acting Police Chief Greg Harler, Director of Public Utilities Tom Fore and Office Manager Colan Davis were present.

Mayor Kilgore asked for a moment of silence.

Mayor Kilgore presented Johnny Eagle who has served the Town for many years, including the last 25 as a water plant operator, and is retiring as of May 1. It was noted that Mr. Eagle had a large role in the Town receiving a 2013 Excellence in Waterworks Operation/Performance Award from the Virginia Department of Health. Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and approved 5-0 to adopt a resolution recognizing Mr. Eagle's service to the Town. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye". A copy of the resolution is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Michael Dowell came forward on behalf of the Second Stage group to give a report on the group's plans for the 2014 season. Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and approved 5-0 to provide \$600 sponsorship toward the 2014 farmer's market program. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye".

Mr. Cliff Hart, 219 Garland Avenue, came forward to express his support of the proposed real estate and personal property tax suspension, employee raises, increased reconnect fees/trip charges and the new dormant utility account fee.

Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 5-0 to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2014 meeting. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye".

It was noted that the Planning Commission will be working to update the Town's comprehensive plan via a contract with the Region 2000 Local Government Council.

Mayor Kilgore gave a report on the status of the renovations to the new Town Hall at 174 S. Main Street.

The Town Manager gave a presentation on a proposed FY15 budget for the Town of Amherst.

Mr. Wydner made a motion that the Town advertise an increase in the Town's meals and beverage tax from 4% to 5% as part of the FY15 budget. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Mr. Wydner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner to advertise a 10¢ per pack cigarette tax as part of the FY15 budget. Following discussion, the motion failed 1-4. Mr. Wydner voted "Aye" and Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Nay".

Mr. Wydner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts to advertise a 6% increase to the proposed water rates as part of the FY15 budget. After Council discussion, Mr. Watts withdrew his second and Mr. Wydner withdrew his motion.

Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 4-0-1 to increase the proposed FY15 police ammunition budget by \$400. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Wydner voted "Aye"; Mr. Watts abstained. It was understood that the revised proposal will be advertised for the required public hearing at the May Town Council meeting.

There was a discussion on a series of policies that are being updated or proposed. It was understood that these would be considered for adoption at future meetings.

The Town Manager gave a status report on Town construction projects.

The Town Manager reminded the Councilors that the terms of several Town committee members will expire on June 30. The Town Manager was asked to inquire whether current committee members would be willing to accept reappointment prior to advertising the vacancies.

The Town Attorney gave a report on the demolition of the Beverly house on Washington Street.

Mayor Kilgore read a proposed mayoral proclamation that established April 5-12 as the Week of the Young Child<sup>ltn</sup> in the Town of Amherst.

Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved 5-0 to sponsor a \$600 table at the 2014 Amherst County Chamber of Commerce Business Appreciation Award dinner. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye".

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

Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and approved 5-0 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. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye" via the roll call method.

There being no further business, Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and approved 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 P.M. Messrs. Bumgarner, Mozingo, Thompson, Watts and Wydner voted "Aye".

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J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.  
Mayor

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

*Resolution*  
*of the*  
***Town Council of the Town of Amherst***

**WHEREAS**, Johnny Eagle will have served residents and business operators of the Town of Amherst as an employee of the Town of Amherst from April 7, 1988 until May 1, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, Johnny Eagle will have served the Town of Amherst as a highly proficient, professional and effective waterworks operator from March 1, 1989 until May 1, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Amherst recognizes Johnny Eagle's effort to acquire a Class I waterworks operator's license and a Class III wastewater works license; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Amherst wishes to acknowledge the services that Johnny Eagle has given to the Town of Amherst and to express its appreciation for all that Johnny Eagle has done for the Town of Amherst on the occasion of his impending retirement;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of the Town of Amherst does, on this date, acknowledge the outstanding public health service that Johnny Eagle has given to our community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Council of the Town of Amherst hereby declares that the Town of Amherst has been improved as a result of Johnny Eagles' tenure as the lead waterworks plant operator for the Town of Amherst; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Council of the Town of Amherst hereby extends Johnny Eagle its wishes for a happy and prosperous future during his retirement; and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Council of the Town of Amherst is ordered to deliver an original copy of this Resolution to Johnny Eagle as a token of the Council's deep appreciation of his contributions to our community and that this resolution be spread upon the minute books of the Town Council of the Town of Amherst as a tribute to a

**Good Neighbor and a Friend of the Town of Amherst.**

*This Resolution was adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Amherst on April 9, 2014*

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Mayor Paul Kilgore

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