

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr. called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on February 11, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 174 S. Main Street. Council members Andr  Higginbotham, Michael Mozingo, Rachel Thompson, and Kenneth Watts were present. Councilman Kenneth Bumgarner was absent. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Town Attorney Tom Berry, Police Chief Robert Kimbrel, and Director of Public Utilities Tom Fore.

Eric Carranza came forward to offer a prayer as a citizen comment.

Amherst County School board representative Beth Gamble came forward to request a reduction in water and sewer rates for the Central Elementary School/Amherst Middle School/bus garage complex. There was no action on this matter.

Tim Ware and Pat Dreher came forward to request support for the sixth Amherst Cruise-In proposed for on April 25. Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and passed 4-0, with Messrs. Higginbotham, Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voting "Aye" and Mr. Bumgarner absent, to approve Mr. Ware's event subject to the following understandings:

- The Town of Amherst generally endorses the event as being a positive activity that provides community recreation and promotes business traffic in downtown Amherst,
- Use of Town parking lots at the end of E. Court Street and at 174 S. Main Street and Town bathrooms at 174 S. Main Street is approved,
- The Town will sponsor an application for VDOT to close E. Court and Goodwin Streets from 3 PM to 8 PM that evening,
- The Town will loan event sponsors available traffic barricades, cones and trash cans for use during the event,
- The Town will provide the usual and customary non-financial promotional assistance (fliers, Facebook, word of mouth, e-blast, etc.),
- The Town will request the chamber of commerce to provide promotion and event organization assistance, and
- The event area will be monitored by the Town of Amherst Police Department.

After Mayor Kilgore read a proclamation declaring 2015 as the Year of the Senior, Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passed 4-0 to endorse it. Messrs. Higginbotham, Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye" and Mr. Bumgarner was absent. A copy of the proclamation is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Higginbotham and passed 4-0 to approve the minutes from the January 14 and February 5, 2015 meetings. Messrs. Higginbotham, Mozingo, Thompson, and Watts voted "Aye" and Mr. Bumgarner was absent.

A proposed ordinance that would regulate truck parking in residential areas was discussed. By consensus, the Councilors agreed to continue the discussion on the matter at the March meeting.

The Town Manager was asked to solicit a proposal to complete the FY14/15 Audit from Davidson, Doyle and Hilton.

The Town Manager gave oral reports on the USDA-funded sewer pipe project and the VDH-funded Main Street water line project. The Councilors agreed on a list of "benchmark" communities for the pay and classification project.

Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and approved 4-0 to approve a resolution in support of a grant application that would fund the design of the W. Court Street/Mount Olive Road Water Line Project. Messrs. Higginbotham, Mozingo, Thompson, and Watts voted "Aye" and Mr. Bumgarner was absent. A copy of the resolution is attached and made a part of these minutes.

After some discussion on the matter, Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passed 4-0 to approve a resolution that would have the effect of suspending water and sewer availability fees until December 31, 2015. Messrs. Higginbotham, Mozingo, Thompson, and Watts voted "Aye" and Mr. Bumgarner was absent. A copy of the resolution is attached and made a part of these minutes.

After the Director of Public Utilities and the Town Manager gave reports on their proposed work plans for the 2015/2016 Council term, the Town Councilors agreed to discuss its priorities at the March meeting.

There being no further business, at 9:12 P.M., Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and approved 4-0 to adjourn the meeting. Messrs. Higginbotham, Mozingo, Thompson, and Watts voted "Aye" and Mr. Bumgarner was absent.

J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.
Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council

A PROCLAMATION TO ESTABLISH 2015 AS THE YEAR OF THE SENIOR IN THE TOWN OF AMHERST.

Whereas, Amherst County, Virginia, includes over 5,200 citizens who are age 65 or older, and will increase to over 7,200 by 2030; and

Whereas, the older adults in the Amherst County region have made countless contributions and sacrifices to ensure a better life for future generations; and

Whereas, the Town of Amherst is committed to helping all individuals live longer, healthier lives; and

Whereas, more than 1,000 services are provided in Region 2000 to help older adults remain healthy and active; and

Whereas, the Town of Amherst, in partnership with those for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, provides services that address the basic needs of those citizens who lack the resources to seek or obtain such services on their own; and

Whereas, a substantial decrease in the availability of funds coming to this community from the Commonwealth of Virginia, along with increased demands on charitable contributions, has created challenges this community will need to address in the months and years ahead.

Now therefore, I, as Mayor of the Town of Amherst, Virginia, do hereby proclaim 2015 as the Year of the Senior in the Town of Amherst. I urge every group, organization and resident to take time during this year to recognize older adults and those who serve and support them as powerful and vital individuals who greatly contribute to this community.

I also urge that Town, organization and community leaders work together to address the increasing needs of this valuable community resource, and take appropriate steps to agree on actions which will assure our ability to continue to provide the services needed to sustain their quality of life in the years to come.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this 11th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen.

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING AN APPLICATION 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 and construction 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 funds from Virginia Department of Health-Office of Drinking Water for:

W. Court Street and Mount Olive Road Water Line Replacement Project Design.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Manager is directed to pursue such funding and is hereby 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 11th day of February, 2015.

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.

Attest:

Clerk of Council

A RESOLUTION TO ENTICE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION IN AND NEAR THE TOWN OF AMHERST THROUGH THE SUSPENSION OF WATER AND SEWER AVAILABILITY FEES FROM FEBRUARY 12, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015.

Whereas, few new houses have been built in and near the Town of Amherst in the past several years, and

Whereas, this lack of new construction has resulted in an increase in the average age of the Town's housing stock, and

Whereas, the Town Council of the Town of Amherst desires to facilitate the development of desirable housing that would encourage new families to locate in and near the Town of Amherst, and

Whereas, one barrier to the construction of new housing construction is the initial cost of water and sewer utilities, and

Whereas, once a water or sewer customer is connected to Town utilities, that customer or his successor can be expected to use Town water or sewer utilities for decades,

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that the water and sewer availability fees assessed per §17-12b of the Town Code associated with new construction, whether that new construction is located inside of the Town of Amherst's corporate limits or areas served by the Town of Amherst water or sewer utilities outside of the Town of Amherst's corporate limits, will be suspended until December 31, 2015 subject to the following understandings:

1. This provision applies only to water services and associated sewer services requiring a 1" or smaller water meter for which a building permit has been obtained between February 12, 2015 and December 31, 2015..
2. Any new building benefitting from this shall have been completed and an occupancy permit issued prior to June 30, 2016. If an occupancy permit has not been issued by June 30, 2016, the Treasurer shall assess availability fees to the owner of the property.
3. The provisions of any special assessment area, such as that for the 60 West water service area as adopted on December 11, 2013, are not suspended and shall continue to apply.
4. The Treasurer will transfer monies sufficient to cover the cost of this economic development effort from the General Fund to the Water Fund and Sewer Fund as appropriate.

Adopted in the Town of Amherst, Virginia this 11th day of February, 2015.

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.

Attest:

Clerk of Council