

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr. called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on April 8, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 174 S. Main Street. Council members Kenneth Bumgarner, André Higginbotham, Rachel Thompson, and Kenneth Watts were present; Michael Mozingo was absent. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Town Attorney Tom Berry, Police Chief Robert Kimbrel, Director of Public Utilities Tom Fore and Office Manager Colan Davis were present.

The Mayor asked for a moment of silence.

Mr. Gary Jennings, 257 Grandview Drive, came forward to display the 2014 Harry L. Day, Jr. award that was presented to him by the Amherst County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Ronald Horwege, 292 Grandview Drive, as a recently retired 43 year Sweet Briar College employee, asked Town Council for support of an injunction to keep the school open.

Mr. Matthew Carton came forward to offer a prayer as a citizen comment.

Joe Archambeault came forward to present Centra Health's proposal to reroute water and sewer utilities for its new clinic behind Ambriar Shopping Center. Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved 4-0-1 to approve Centra Health's concept and authorize the Town attorney to review the contracts and prior to final Town Council approval. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Mr. Mozingo was absent.

Craig Pleasants and Michael Dowell came forward to review the Second Stage group's plan to manage the Second Street Farmers Market for the 2015 season, to request inclusion on the bypass billboard advertisement approved in March and to request funding. Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved 4-0-1 to provide \$1,000 support for the 2015 season of the Second Street Farmers Market. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Mr. Mozingo was absent.

Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and failed 1-3-1 to allow the Second Street Farmers Market information to be placed on the bypass billboard advertisement approved in March if it was not too late to make the change or if there was additional expense for the change then the Second Street Farmers Market would incur the expense. Mr. Bumgarner voted "Aye"; Messrs. Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voted "Nay"; Mr. Mozingo was absent.

Mrs. Thompson presented a proposed resolution encouraging the Sweet Briar College board to reconsider its decision to close the college. She reminded the Council of the long association she and her family have had with Sweet Briar College and explained her strong feelings on how the announced closure has been handled by the College and the potential for her being asked to serve on a new Sweet Briar College board. There was some discussion on an alternative proposal that had been prepared Matt Rowe of Bowling Green, Virginia.

Mr. Rowe of Bowling Green, Virginia came forward to ask the Councilors to change the resolution to ask for the resignation of the Sweet Briar College Board of Directors and the college's president.

Mrs. Megan Rowe of Bowling Green, Virginia came forward to ask the Councilors to make the resolution as strong as possible.

Mr. Scott Bryant, 356 Deerfield Drive, came forward to state he is in favor of any activity by the Town Council to save Sweet Briar College.

Mr. Michael Dowell and Mr. Craig Pleasants came forward to ask the Town Council make the resolution strong.

Mr. Tom Fore came forward to ask the Town Council remind Sweet Briar College of how much the Town has done for and in conjunction with the College in the past and that the resolution needs to be firm.

Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 4-0-1 to authorize the Mayor to write a letter to the Sweet Briar Board of Directors and President with a copy of the letter to the Amherst County Attorney and the local press expressing the Town Council's feelings, concerns and support for the college remaining open. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Mr. Mozingo was absent.

Doris Bryant from the Amherst County Chamber of Commerce came forward to request support for her group's annual business appreciation awards dinner. Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and approved 4-0-1 to support and sponsor this event at the gold sponsorship level with a contribution of \$800. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Mr. Mozingo was absent.

Mayor Kilgore read a proclamation that declares April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Amherst. It was noted that an event on this topic is being planned for the MiniPark at noon on April 23. Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson to ratify the Proclamation. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye". A copy of the proclamation is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Mayor Kilgore noted that the Town had been recognized by the Virginia Department of Health via an Excellence in Waterworks Operation/Performance Award.

Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and passed 4-0-1 to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2015 meeting. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Thompson, and Watts voted "Aye"; Mr. Mozingo was absent.

Mr. Watts gave a report on the status of the USDA-financed sewer pipe project on behalf of the Utilities Committee. Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and approved 4-0-1 to award an engineering contract for a project that would prepare for the USDA-financed sewer pipe project to WW Associates. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Mr. Mozingo was absent.

The Councilors discussed efforts to furnish the new Town Hall and finish up all items related to the move.

Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and approved 4-0-1 to authorize the procurement of a replacement police vehicle. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Mr. Mozingo was absent.

The Town Manager gave a presentation on the proposed FY15/16 budget. After some discussion it was agreed that the required public hearing on the FY15/16 budget would be held at the May meeting.

There was a discussion on anticipated committee appointments. Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved 4-0-1 to appoint or recommend a series of individuals to the boards for the terms listed below subject to their willingness to continue serving. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voted “Aye”; Mr. Mozingo was absent.

Board	Appointed	Term
Planning Commission	William Jones	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2019
Planning Commission	Clifford Hart	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2019
Board of Zoning Appeals	Gary Mays	September 1, 2015 - August 31, 2020
Industrial Development Authority	Lewis Addison	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2019
Industrial Development Authority	Richard Wydner	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2019
Property Maintenance Investigation Board	Bessie Kirkwood	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2018

The Town Manager gave an oral report on the status of various projects.

The Council discussed an upcoming series of Region 2000 Small Business Development Center-sponsored seminars that are intended to help improve downtown Amherst.

The Councilors agreed to have a workession on the pay and classification study on a date to be determined.

Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passed 4-0-1 that the Town Council convene in closed session for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel per the exemption at §2.2-3711A.7 of the Code of Virginia. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Thompson, and Watts voted “Aye”; Mr. Mozingo was absent.

Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved 4-0-1 by a roll call vote that the Councilors 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, Higginbotham, Thompson, and Watts voted “Aye” by the roll call method; Mr. Mozingo was absent.

There being no further business, at 11:15 P.M., Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved 4-0-1 to adjourn the meeting. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Thompson, and Watts voted “Aye”; Mr. Mozingo.

J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.
Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council

A PROCLAMATION TO ESTABLISH APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN THE TOWN OF AMHERST.

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community problem that depends on involvement among people throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, child maltreatment occurs when people find themselves in stressful situations, without community resources, and don't know how to cope; and

WHEREAS, the majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and supportive community; and

WHEREAS, all citizens should become involved in supporting families in raising their children in a safe, nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among families, social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community.

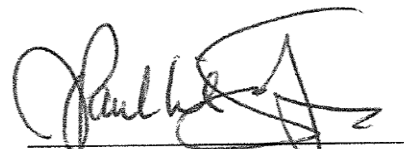
THEREFORE, I DO HEREBY PROCLAIM April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and neglect and strengthening the communities in which we live.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, J. Paul Kilgore, Jr., Mayor of the Town of Amherst do hereby recognize April 2015 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in the Town of Amherst and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this 19th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen.



Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.