

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr. called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on April 13, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 174 S. Main Street. Council members Andr  Higginbotham, Rachel Thompson, Michael Mozingo, Kenneth Bumgarner and Kenneth Watts were present. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Town Attorney Tom Berry, Police Chief Robert Kimbrel, Public Utilities Director Tom Fore, Office Manager Tracie Wright and Deputy Town Clerk Debra Eby were present.

Mayor Kilgore led a moment of silence.

Mayor Kilgore asked Steve Wilder, coordinator of the first Honey Bee Festival and members of his staff to come forward to be recognized for their successful event.

Mayor Kilgore recognized Tracie Wright who will be serving as the Town's new Office Manager.

Debbie Habel, from Amherst County Habitat for Humanity, came forward to request the Town's endorsement of an event that would be held in the Town Square. Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Higginbotham and carried 5-0 that Town Council approve the proposed May 21, 2016 Rock the Block for Habitat event proposed by Amherst County Habitat for Humanity according to the following:

- 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 is approved,
- The Town will sponsor an application for VDOT to close E. Court and Goodwin Streets from 1 PM to 9 PM on the day of the event,
- The Town will loan event sponsors available snow fencing, traffic barricades, cones and trash cans for use during the event for installation and take-down by others,
- The Town will provide the usual and customary non-financial promotional assistance (fliers, Facebook, word of mouth, e-blast, etc.),
- The Town will request that the chamber of commerce provide promotion and event organization assistance,
- The event area will be monitored by the Town of Amherst Police Department at no charge during this first event but the event sponsor will be responsible for providing adequate security services during future events,
- The event sponsor will provide an insurance certificate naming the Town, its employees and agents as additional insureds for all activities in connection with the event, and
- The event sponsor is responsible for obtaining all other required permissions such as alcoholic beverage permits and use of Amherst County property.

Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo, Watts and Thompson voted "Aye".

A duly advertised public hearing on the potential sale of the land and building at 186 S. Main Street was opened at 7:25 P.M. Mrs. Maryvonne Laparriere came forward to discuss her plans for the building and the hope of opening for business in the fall. There being no one present who wished to speak on the matter, the public hearing closed at 7:27 P.M.

Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and carried 5-0 that the Town Council ratify a contract for the sale of land and building at 186 Main Street to Mrs. Laparriere as previously executed by the Mayor. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo, Watts and Thompson voted "Aye".

Tom Fore came forward on behalf of the Christmas Decorations Committee to explain the estimate cost of installing Christmas decorations from Wells Fargo bank to Ambriar Shopping Center on S. Main Street. Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and carried 5-0 that Town Council approve the \$13,526 option for wiring and installation of Christmas decorations along S. Main Street. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo, Watts and Thompson voted "Aye".

The Town Manager gave a report on a donation request by the IRON organization. Mr. Higginbotham made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and carried 5-0 that the Town donate \$2,000 to the IRON Lives, Inc. organization to support civic beautification program it has proposed with the following understandings:

- Monies for tools will be provided on a reimbursement basis (i.e. receipts will be provided).
- All tools purchased will be owned, stored and maintained by IRON for use in future years.
- Sites that would be improved and maintained will be selected as the sole discretion of the IRON group.

Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo, Watts and Thompson voted "Aye".

Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and passes 5-0 to approve the minutes from the March 9 and March 25, 2016 meetings. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo, Watts and Thompson voted "Aye".

Mr. Watts, on behalf of the Public Safety Committee, gave a report on the March 31 Public Safety Committee meeting. Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Higginbotham and passed 5-0 to authorize Chief Kimbrel to apply for a Community Oriented Policing Services "COPS" grant that would fund a portion of the cost of a sixth officer for several years. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo, Watts and Thompson voted "Aye".

Mr. Watts led a discussion on the implementation of a cigarette tax. After a short discussion, the Town Manager was asked to research this topic and give a report at a future meeting.

The Town Manager suggested the need to designate a group of interested individuals that would support an upcoming downtown pedestrian safety study. The Town Manager was asked to solicit names of interested individuals and for consideration at the June meeting.

The Town Manager presented a proposed budget for the July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 fiscal year. Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and carried 5-0 to authorize advertising the budget proposal for a public hearing at the May 11 Town Council meeting. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo, Watts and Thompson voted "Aye".

The Town Council agreed to meet with the Amherst County Board of Supervisors over dinner on June 28.

The Town Council was reminded that it has been invited to attend the May 4 Planning Commission to hear the consultant's final presentation on the Urban Development Area project.

There being no further business, Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and passed 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 P.M. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo, Watts and Thompson voted "Aye".

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J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.  
Mayor

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