

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr. called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on July 13, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 174 S. Main Street. Council members Andr  Higginbotham, Kenneth Watts and Rachel Thompson were present; Council members Kenneth Bumgarner and Mike Mozingo were absent. 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 Vicki Hunt were present.

Ms. Rachel Carton came forward to offer a prayer as a citizen comment.

Bradley Craig from Mattern & Craig came forward to introduce Brian Kincer from his firm and give an update on the Main Street Waterline Replacement Project. The most difficult part of the construction effort (i.e. from the traffic light to the circle) is underway and the project was characterized as being on budget and on schedule.

Felicia Sorrells, 138 Church Street, came forward to request that the Town maintain Millner Street. After the Town Council explained that the Town does not provide road maintenance services, Mr. Fore indicated that the crew would use a tractor blade to dress up her driveway the next time it is in her neighborhood. Discussion on the issue of property maintenance Church Street was deferred until the August meeting.

Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Thompson and passed 3-0 to approve the minutes from the June 8 and 28, 2016 meetings. Messrs. Higginbotham and Watts and Mrs. Thompson voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Mozingo were absent.

Mayor Kilgore asked the staff to develop a business contact list to be used in the event there is a water leak or emergency water cut off.

After a recommendation by the Town Manager and some discussion, Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and passed 3-0 to approve a contract with Municipal Code Corporation for Town Code recodification services. Messrs. Higginbotham and Watts and Mrs. Thompson voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Mozingo were absent.

The Town Manager reported that the Virginia Department of Health has offered a grant that would subsidize the waterline replacement project on W. Court Street. After some discussion, Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and passed 3-0 to authorize an extension of the Mattern & Craig contract for services associated with the W. Court Street project. Messrs. Higginbotham and Watts and Mrs. Thompson voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Mozingo were absent.

The Town Manager presented a list of individuals who have offered to serve on a steering committee for the upcoming downtown pedestrian safety and walkability study project and a list of potentially interested persons. Town Manager agreed to send an invitation to all known interested parties and potentially interested parties to the first meeting that would be held in August.

A brief discussion was held on the IDA/county EDA merger proposed in the Amherst County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy planning study document. It was understood that the matter would be discussed further during future meetings.

Chief Kimbrel gave report on the use of “body cams”. He indicated that policies are being developed and that no negative comments have been received and officers are actively using them.

There being no further business, at 8:18 PM Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passed 3-0 to adjourn the meeting. Messrs. Higginbotham and Watts and Mrs. Thompson voted “Aye”; Messrs. Bumgarner and Mozingo were absent.

J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.
Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council