

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr. called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on October 12, 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, Kenneth Bumgarner, Mike Mozingo, and Rachel Thompson were present. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Town Attorney Tom Berry, Police Chief Robert Kimbrel, Office Manager Tracie Wright, and Deputy Town Clerk Vicki Hunt, were present.

Ed Carton, 241 Hanger Road, came forward to offer a prayer as a citizen comment.

Amy Gallagher from Davis Doyle & Hilton came forward to present her audit of the Town's FY16 financial records. It was agreed that acceptance of the audit report would follow a close review by the Town Councilors and reports from staff and the Finance and IT Committee.

Brad Craig from Mattern & Craig came forward to give reports on the status of and pavement restoration associated with the Main Street Waterline Replacement Project; the status of the W. Court Street Waterline Replacement Project; and the Centra-Ambriar Water/Sewer Relocation Project. Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and passed 5-0 that Town Manager be authorized to negotiate and execute an adjusted contract with F. L. Showalter, Inc. for pavement restoration utilizing slurry seal application on the Main Street Waterline Replacement Project. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo, Watts and Mrs. Thompson voted "Aye."

Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and passed 5-0 that the Town Manager be authorized to negotiate and execute a contract with Mattern & Craig for "Phase I" design work associated with the Centra-Ambriar Water/Sewer Relocation Project. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo, Watts and Mrs. Thompson voted "Aye."

Police Chief Robert Kimbrel came forward to report that the Town's recent grant application that would have helped fund an additional "sixth" police officer was not successful. Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo to authorize the hiring of an additional full time entry level police officer for the Amherst Police Department with the understanding that this authorization did not include the purchase of an additional vehicle. After discussion the motion passed 3-2 with Messrs. Higginbotham, Mozingo, and Watts voting "Aye." Mr. Bumgarner and Mrs. Thompson voting "No."

Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and passed 5-0 to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2016 meeting. Messrs. Watts, Bumgarner, Mozingo, Higginbotham and Mrs. Thompson voted "Aye."

Discussion on filling the seat on the Industrial Development Authority formerly held by Jim Meade and the IDA/EDA merger was deferred.

Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passed 5-0 that the Town of Amherst donate approximately 43 old and unusable fire hydrants to the Amherst Fire Department. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo, Watts and Mrs. Thompson voted "Aye."

Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and passed 5-0 that Town Manager be authorized to negotiate and execute a contract with Bowman Consulting to study best practices to improve the quality of the Town's drinking water. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo, Watts and Mrs. Thompson voted "Aye."

Discussion on amendments to the Town's utility billing policy, collection practices and changes to the "payment arrangements" contract was referred to the Finance and IT Committee.

Town Manager Hobbs gave a report on measures that have been taken to rebuild personnel capacity in order to cover the duties of the former Director of Public Utilities and reviewed plans to recruit for a Deputy Town Manager for Public Works.

The Town Manager gave an oral report on various projects. A new initiative involves organizing a series of presentations and special worksessions to help with transition between current and incoming Town Councilors.

There being no further business, Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and passed 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 P.M. Messrs. Watts, Bumgarner, Mozingo, Higginbotham and Mrs. Thompson voted "Aye."

J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.
Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council