

Mayor D. Dwayne Tuggle called a session meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on March 6, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 174 S. Main Street. It was noted that the session was a continuation of the regular monthly meeting held on February 8, 2017. Council members André Higginbotham, Mark A. Stinnett and Rachel Carton were present. Council member Kenneth Watts was absent. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Town Attorney W. Thomas Berry, Deputy Town Manager Jim Chandler, and Deputy Town Clerk Vicki Hunt were present. It was noted that one seat on the Town Council is vacant.

Mayor Tuggle reported that one application for the vacant seat on Town Council was received from Kenneth Gordon Bunch, 118 Grandview Drive, Amherst, VA 24521. Nominations from the floor were opened at 7:31 P.M. There being none Mr. Higginbotham made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Stinnett and carried 3-0-1 to close the nominations at 7:32 P.M. Messrs. Higginbotham, Stinnett and Mrs. Carton voted “Aye.” Mr. Watts was absent.

Mr. Higginbotham made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Carton and carried 3-0-1 to appoint Kenneth Gordon Bunch to fill the vacant seat on Town Council who will take his seat at the next meeting on March 8, 2017. Messrs. Higginbotham, Stinnett and Mrs. Carton, voted “Aye.” Mr. Watts was absent.

There was a discussion on committee appointments. Mrs. Carton made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Stinnett and carried 3-0-1 to appoint a series of individuals to standing committees and boards for the terms listed below and authorizing the Town Manager to advertise for an opening on the Planning Commission created by the vacancy and appointment of Kenneth Bunch as the Town Council representative on the Commission. Messrs. Higginbotham, Stinnett and Mrs. Carton voted “Aye.” Mr. Watts was absent.

Committee/Board	Appointed	Term
Finance Committee	Kenneth S. Watts	03-06-2017 to 12-31-2018
Public Safety and Community Relations Committee	Mark A. Stinnett	03-06-2017 to 12-31-2018
Utilities Committee	Kenneth G. Bunch- (Replacing Mark A. Stinnett)	03-06-2017 to 12-31-2017
Planning Commission	Kenneth G. Bunch	03-06-2017 to 12-31-2017

Councilor Carton gave a report on behalf of the Finance Committee regarding its request for detailed information from the Second Stage organization regarding the use of a proposed Town donation of FY18 monies to that organization. After finding that the response memo received from Second Stage lacked appropriate detailed information, Council directed Town Manager to advise Second Stage that more specific information is required and to invite the group to give a 5-minute summary at the March 8 meeting.

Town Attorney W. Thomas Berry reported that an order filling the Town Council vacancy has been prepared and will be presented to the Judge of the Circuit Court of Amherst County, VA, after Mr. Bunch has taken his oath of office stating that an election will be held on November 7, 2017, to fill the term created by the vacancy ending December 31, 2018.

By consensus Mayor Tuggle will contact area legislators to begin the process for Town Council staggered elections.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

D. Dwayne Tuggle
Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council