

Andr Higginbotham, Vice Mayor, called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on April 11, 2018, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 174 S. Main Street. It was noted that a quorum was present as follows:

A	D. Dwayne Tuggle	P	Kenneth G. Bunch
P	Andr Higginbotham	P	Mark A. Stinnett
P	Kenneth S. Watts	P	Rachel A. Carton

Town Manager Sara E. Carter, Town Attorney W. Thomas Berry, Office Manager Tracie Wright, Clerk of Council Vicki K. Hunt, Police Chief Robert A. Shiflett, II, Lead Water Treatment Plant Operator Becky Cash, Lead Sewer Treatment Plant Operator Gary Williams, Utilities Foreman Charles Thompson, and Intern Mattie Nicholson were present.

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was followed by an invocation by Rachel A. Carton.

Vice Mayor Higginbotham opened the floor for citizen comments.

Jeff Carr, 124 Dogwood Street, Amherst, VA, came forward to voice his concerns that water coming out of the shower faucet at his residence is burning his eyes. The matter was referred to Lead Treatment Plant Operator Cash for investigation. Mr. Carr also requested approval of no engine break signs for tractor trailers along a stretch of US 29 in front of his residence or subdivision. Town Manager Carter was directed to contact VDOT to explore the matter.

Darren Coffey, CEO, and Drew Williams, COO, Owners of The Berkley Group, gave a presentation on their findings from the Organizational Strategic Assessment reviewing Town operations, relationships, and procedure; mapping the organizational relationships and making structural recommendations; identifying the strengths and focus areas primarily aimed at improved service delivery; evaluating the performance of each department and how they work together; and making recommendations for improvement through specific actions to be more efficient and effective and promote superior service delivery.

Mrs. Carton made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Watts and carried 5-0 to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2018, meeting. Mrs. Carton and Messrs. Higginbotham, Watts, Bunch and Stinnett voted "Aye."

Mrs. Carton, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that after discussion the Finance Committee is recommending an increase of the meals and beverage tax from four to six percent with implementation on July 1, 2018.

After discussion, Mr. Watts made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Carton and carried 5-0 to authorize Town Manager to accept the proposal from WW Associates, Inc., to provide additional engineering services on the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project including Route 60 Pump Station design, additional construction administration, managing additional construction contract, and additional construction inspection, in the total amount of \$161,000, as recommended by staff. Messrs. Higginbotham, Watts, Bunch, Stinnett and Mrs. Carton voted "Aye."

Intern Mattie Nicholson reported on progress of the new Town website with August 1 as the projected "go-live" launch date.

After discussion, Mr. Watts made a motion to hold a public hearing at the May meeting on the proposed FY18/19 Town budget, and to make changes to Town Code Sec. 8.1-401 which, if approved would allow an increase of the amount of tax levied by the Town on each person on the amount charged for food and beverage sold for human consumption from four (4) to six (6) percent of the amount charged. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bunch and carried 5-0 with Mrs. Carton and Messrs. Higginbotham, Watts, Bunch and Stinnett voting "Aye."

Vice Mayor Higginbotham opened the floor for citizen comments. No comments were made.

Town Manager Carter gave oral reports on a reception that the Town will co-host at Second Stage for Sweet Briar President Woo on May 8, 2018; and, on dedicated work performed at the traffic circle by Utilities Foreman Charles Thompson and his crew to assist the Garden Club.

Clerk of Council Hunt reported that Mayor Tuggle will read a proclamation that declares April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Amherst at an event on this topic being planned for the MiniPark at noon on April 17, 2018.

At 8:23 PM, Mr. Watts made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Bunch and carried 5-0 with Mrs. Carton and Messrs. Higginbotham, Watts, Bunch and Stinnett voting in favor: I move that the Town Council convene in closed session for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body per the exemption at §2.2-3711A.3 of the Code of Virginia.

At 9:15 PM, Mr. Watts read the certification, that the Town Council 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. The motion passed 5-0 via the roll call method with Mrs. Carton and Mr. Higginbotham, Watts, Bunch and Stinnett voting "Aye."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned on a motion by Mrs. Carton seconded by Mr. Bunch at 9:17 P.M.

Andr Higginbotham
Vice Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council