

Mayor D. Dwayne Tuggle called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order April 10, 2019, 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:

P	D. Dwayne Tuggle	P	Kenneth G. Bunch
P	Rachel A. Carton	P	Sarah G. Ogden
A	Kenneth S. Watts	P	Janice N. Wheaton

Also present were the following staff members:

Sara E. Carter	Town Manager	Gary Williams	Director of Plants
W. Thomas Berry	Town Attorney	Becky L. Cash	Lead Water Operator
Vicki K. Hunt	Clerk of Council	Charles Thompson	Utilities Maintenance Foreman
Tracie L. Wright	Office Manager		
Robert A. Shiflett, II	Chief of Police		

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was followed by an invocation by Pastor Brian Miles, Amherst Presbyterian Church.

Mayor D. Dwayne Tuggle opened the floor for citizen comment. No comments were made.

After Town Manager Carter gave a brief report on the development of the FY19/20 budget proposal, Mayor Tuggle opened a duly advertised public hearing on the Town's proposed FY19/20 budget at 7:09 P.M. There being no one present who wished to speak on the budget matter, the public hearing closed at 7:09 P.M.

After Town Manager Carter gave a brief report on the Town's 2019-2020 Capital Improvement Program that identifies acquisition, construction and improvement of town facilities, and acquisition of capital equipment, Mayor Tuggle opened a duly advertised public hearing on the Town's proposed FY19/20 budget at 7:13 P.M. There being no one present who wished to speak on the budget matter, the public hearing closed at 7:13 P.M.

Mrs. Carton made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Ogden and carried 4-0-1 to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2019, meeting. Mmes. Carton, Ogden, Wheaton and Mr. Bunch voted "Aye." Mr. Watts was absent.

Mrs. Carton, Chairman of the Finance Committee, gave a brief oral report on behalf of that Committee on its recommendations as indicated in the CIP to increase the amount for the ATV and inclusion of a radar gun on the message board to inform citizens of speed.

Mrs. Ogden, Chairman of the Community Relations Committee, gave a brief oral report on behalf of that Committee that included results of the leash law survey, formulating an ordinance to address nuisance issues created by loose dogs rather than danger issues, and potential creation of dog park at Scott's Hill park. Mrs. Ogden noted that Mrs. Wheaton voiced several concerns with the park property, including flooding, safety due to isolation, inadequate ingress and egress and parking.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Bunch seconded by Mrs. Carton to hold a public hearing at its next meeting on May 8, 2019, on Recodification of the Town Code. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mmes. Carton, Ogden, Wheaton and Mr. Bunch voting “Aye.” Mr. Watts was absent.

Office Manager Wright reported that the Town of Amherst Invitation for Bid (IFB) #2019-04 Design and Renovation Services for the Police Station with an issue date of 4/11/2019 will be advertised in the New Era Progress and the News and Advance, on the Town’s website, and on eVA. A Mandatory Preproposal Meeting will be held April 23, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. The due date for bids to be received is May 3, 2019 at 2 p.m. EST.

Councilor Wheaton indicated that because she feels there is a disconnect between VDOT and the Town she would like information on how the Town works with VDOT. She also stated that she respects VDOT’s workers. Mayor Tuggle directed Town Manager Carter to formulate a response and schedule a meeting with Councilor Wheaton on her inquiry.

Councilor Wheaton indicated that she is concerned about the location of the potential dog park because of flooding. Mayor Tuggle directed Town Manager Carter to set and advertise a meeting of the Community Relations Committee to view the area at Scotts Hill park for a potential dog park.

Mayor Tuggle reported that the Town will host a third annual recognition picnic on May 18, 2019, for all Town employees, volunteers and their families.

Mayor D. Dwayne Tuggle opened the floor for citizen comment. No comments were made.

Mayor Tuggle adjourned the meeting at 7:34 PM.

Mayor Tuggle reconvened the meeting at 7:40 PM. It was noted that a quorum was present as follows:

P	D. Dwayne Tuggle	P	Kenneth G. Bunch
P	Rachel A. Carton	P	Sarah G. Ogden
P	Kenneth S. Watts	P	Janice N. Wheaton

At 7:40 PM Mrs. Carton made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bunch and carried 5-0 with Mmes. Carton, Ogden, Wheaton and Messrs. Watts and Bunch voting in favor that Town Council convene in closed session, pursuant to §2.2-3711A.7 of the Code of Virginia as it relates to consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and pursuant to §2.2-3711A.7 of the Code of Virginia as it relates to discussion or disciplining of public officers or employees of any public body.

At 8:37 PM Mrs. Carton made a motion that Council adjourn the closed session and enter open session, certifying to the best of each member’s 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 5-0 via the roll call method with Mmes. Carton, Ogden, Wheaton and Messrs. Watts and Bunch voting “Aye.”

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned until May 8, 2019, at 7:00 pm on motion by Mr. Watts seconded by Mrs. Ogden at 8:41 PM. The motion carried 5-0 with Mmes. Carton, Ogden, Wheaton and Messrs. Watts and Bunch voting “Aye.”

D. Dwayne Tuggle
Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council

FOR APPROVAL