

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr. called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on March 9, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 174 S. Main Street. Council members Andr  Higginbotham, Rachel Thompson and Kenneth Watts were present; Kenneth Bumgarner and Michael Mozingo were absent. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Town Attorney Tom Berry, Police Chief Robert Kimbrel, Public Utilities Director Tom Fore and Deputy Town Clerk Debra Eby were present.

Mr. Ed Carton came forward to offer a prayer as a citizen comment.

Suny Monk, from Second Stage, came forward to give a report on her group's 2015 activities, an arts challenge grant project idea and funding a new Cinema in Amherst program. Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passes 3-0-2 to authorize the Town Manager to sign the documents required to support Second Stage's application for a Virginia Commission for the Arts Local Government Challenge Grant with the Town's contribution not to exceed \$2,500 in FY17. Messrs. Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Mozingo were absent.

Vernon Wood, on behalf of the Christmas Decorations Committee, came forward to give a report on installing Christmas decorations from Wells Fargo bank to the Ambriar Shopping Center on S. Main Street. It was understood that a proposal with a refined cost estimate would be presented at a future meeting.

Bob Hoffman, from the Amherst Rotary Club, came forward with a proposal to improve and maintain the S. Main Street welcome sign. Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Higginbotham and passes 3-0-2 to accept the Amherst Rotary Club's offer to "adopt" the S. Main Street welcome sign and authorize a contribution of \$250 to defray the cost of plantings associated with the project. Messrs. Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Mozingo were absent.

John Mason, from VFW Post 9877, came forward with a proposal to install a memorial at the MiniPark that would honor the eleven Amherst County servicemen who died during the Vietnam War. Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and passed 3-0-2 to authorize Mr. Mason's organization to install the memorial as proposed. Messrs. Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Mozingo were absent.

Pat Dreher, from the Amherst County Chamber of Commerce, came forward to request support for his organization's Amherst Cruise-In events scheduled for April 23rd (rain date April 30) and September 24th (rain date October 1). Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passed 3-0-2, with Messrs. Higginbotham, Watts and Thompson voting "Aye" and Mr. Mozingo and Mr. Bumgarner absent, to approve the requests event subject to the following understandings:

- The Town of Amherst generally endorses the event as being a positive activity that provides community recreation and promotes business traffic in downtown Amherst,
- Use of Town parking lots at the end of E. Court Street and at 174 S. Main Street and Town bathrooms at 174 S. Main Street is approved,
- The Town will sponsor an application for VDOT to close E. Court and Goodwin Streets and from 3 PM to 8 PM those evenings,
- The Town will loan event sponsors available traffic barricades, cones and trash cans for use during the events,

- The Town will provide the usual and customary non-financial promotional assistance (fliers, Facebook, word of mouth, e-blast, etc.),
- The event area will be monitored by the Town of Amherst Police Department, and
- The Town would contribute \$1000 to defray the cost of the bands for the two events.

Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passed 3-0-2 to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2016 meeting. Messrs. Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voted “Aye”; Messrs. Bumgarner and Mozingo were absent.

Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passed 3-0-2, with Messrs. Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voting “Aye” and Messrs. Bumgarner and Mozingo absent, to approve the following items under a consent agenda:

- i. Authorize the Town Manager to award a lawn care contract to Grasshopper Lawn Care
- ii. Reject all proposals received for the hay at Brockman Park
- iii. Authorize the Town Manager to award a firearms broker contract to Chowan’s Auction Inc. for assistance with the machine gun disposal
- iv. Authorize the Town Manager to award a contract for the FY16 audit work
- v. Approve a resolution authorizing applications for health department grant/loan funding
- vi. Approve a resolution requesting VDOT to consider bicycle accommodations along Main Street
- vii. Approve an annexation petition/out of town water connection proposal from Will Tyler for property off Kenmore Road
- viii. Approve the purchase of the replacement dump bed for the flatbed truck
- ix. Authorize the purchase of a sponsorship for the Amherst County Chamber of Commerce Business Appreciation Awards dinner

Mr. Higginbotham gave a report on behalf of the Community Relations Committee on a series of requests for donations. The Town Manager was asked to incorporate the committee’s work into the FY17 budget proposal.

Chief Kimbrel gave a report on the status of the downtown pedestrian safety issues. Future reports will be given as VDOT works to improve the situation.

Chief Kimbrel gave a report on the “Code Red Notification System” that would alert residents of emergency/non-emergency situations. Chief Kimbrel indicated that he would implement this system using existing funding this year but would need \$2,500/yr. each year in future budgets to cover the cost.

Chief Kimbrel was asked to work with the Sheriff to see whether a video magistrate was feasible to have and was this service available in the Town.

The Town Manager gave oral reports on the status of the development of the FY17 budget proposal, the Office Manager hiring process, various projects and the need to appoint or reappoint members to various committees in the coming months.

Mayor Kilgore led a discussion on meeting with the Board of Supervisors. The Town Manager was asked to work with the County Administrator to organize such a session that would be held in the next few months.

Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passed 3-0-2 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. Messrs. Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye"; Messrs. Bumgarner and Mozingo were absent.

Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passed 3-0-2 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. (This second motion needs to be acted upon via the roll call method.) Messrs. Higginbotham, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye" by the roll call method; Messrs. Bumgarner and Mozingo were absent.

There being no further business, Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passed 3-0-2 to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 P.M. Messrs., Higginbotham, Thompson, and Watts voted "Aye"; Mr. Mozingo and Mr. Bumgarner were absent.

J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.
Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING BY THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – OFFICE OF DRINKING WATER.

WHEREAS, the Town of Amherst intends to apply for funding for various drinking water projects; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Health-Office of Drinking Water is able to provide funds for the planning and construction of drinking water projects; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Amherst has determined that this type of funding would be appropriate for the work that is being considered;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Council of the Town of Amherst hereby authorizes the Town Manager to seek funds from Virginia Department of Health-Office of Drinking Water that would help fund:

W. Court Street Water Line Replacement Project Design and Construction, and

Planning that will result in a **Hydraulic and Water Quality Modelling and Preliminary Engineering Report**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Manager is directed to pursue such funding and is hereby authorized to sign any and all documents to accept such funding contingent upon review and concurrence by the Town Attorney.

Adopted in the Town of Amherst, Virginia this 9th day of March, 2016.

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.

Attest:

Clerk of Council

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING VDOT TO INSTALL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCOMODATIONS ALONG NORTH MAIN STREET AND SOUTH MAIN STREET DURING THAT AGENCY’S UPCOMING ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the Town of Amherst is committed to enhancing the quality of life of all its residents by creating safe, walkable and bikeable access to community destinations; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has adopted the Policy for Integrating Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations which provides the framework for which VDOT “will accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians, including pedestrians with disabilities, along with motorized transportation modes in the planning, funding, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of Virginia’s transportation network to achieve a safe, effective, and balanced multimodal transportation system”; and

WHEREAS, bicycles are viable and permissible transportation vehicles which should be anticipated along roadways; and

WHEREAS, biking and walking are active transportation modes that are clean, economical, and energy-efficient options to access resources in the Town of Amherst; and

WHEREAS, the United States Surgeon General in September, 2015 issued the Step It Up! Call to Action in recognition that “physical activity is one of the most important things Americans can do to improve health” and includes a call for communities to design for safe active transportation modes as a means to assist in encouraging healthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, U. S. Transportation Secretary Foxx launched the Safer People, Safer Streets initiative to highlight the importance and commitment to the development of safe transportation access by all transportation modes.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Amherst hereby requests the Virginia Department of Transportation to include pedestrian and bicycle accommodations along the entire Main Street corridor as a component of the Main Street resurfacing project.

Be it Further Resolved that this resolution shall be transmitted to the Amherst County Board of Supervisors, the Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Region 2000 Local Government Council,

Adopted in the Town of Amherst, Virginia this 9th day of March, 2016.

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.

Attest:

Clerk of Council