

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr. called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on May 11, 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, Michael Mozingo and Kenneth Bumgarner were present; Councilman Kenneth Watts was absent. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Town Attorney Tom Berry, Police Chief Robert Kimbrel, Public Utilities Director Tom Fore and Office Manager Tracie Wright were present.

Rachel Carton, 241 Hanger Road, came forward to give an invocation.

A duly advertised public hearing on the Town's FY16/17 budget was opened at 7:05 PM. Cliff Hart, 219 Garland Avenue, asked about proposed water rates. There being no else present who wished to speak on the budget matter, the public hearing was closed at 7:09 P.M.

Mr. David Emmert, 366 N. Main Street, came forward to request that the Town Council add language pertaining to barking dogs to the noise ordinance. Discussion was deferred until research on the matter is available.

Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passed 4-0 to approve corrected minutes from the April 13, 2016 meeting. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo and Thompson voted "Aye"; Mr. Watts was absent.

Mrs. Thompson suggested that the Planning Commission's Urban Development Area study could include a "town development area" incorporating all of S. Main Street.

Police Chief Kimbrel was asked to provide information on the need for a sixth police officer and estimates for the up-front and ongoing costs for that position.

Tom Fore came forward on behalf of the Christmas Decorations Committee to explain a proposal to purchase 51 "snowflake" decorations and mounting brackets along with wires and light bulbs that would be used to refurbish existing decorations. Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and carried 4-0 to approve the \$16,685 purchase as requested. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo and Thompson voted "Aye"; Mr. Watts was absent.

There was a discussion on amendments to the budget proposal and potential related reports that the Councilors would find useful at the June meeting.

The Town Manager gave an oral report on various projects.

There being no further business, Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passed 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo and Thompson voted "Aye"; Mr. Watts was absent.

J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.
Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council