

Priorities of the Town Council of the Town of Amherst

Approved 3/11/2015

Priority Area	Items to do before June 30, 2015	Priorities for the 2015/2016 Council Term
1. Improve communication/web site and Town promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrate the web site to the WordPress platform • Delegate revamping the home page to a committee • Sponsor a series of workshops with the theme of small business and downtown improvement • Replace the Main Street trash cans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a new home page on the web site (by 1/1/16) • Encourage the development of Town focused maps and brochures • Encourage community groups to sponsor downtown events
2. Personnel Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the pay and classification study • Follow through on the charter change project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoroughly review the personnel policy and effect needed updates • Update the personnel evaluation program • Develop a resiliency plan for cross-training personnel, succession and contingencies
3. Infrastructure Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to pursue the USDA-financed sewer line replacement project • Continue to pursue the VDH-financed Main Street water line replacement project • Pursue a VDH planning grant for the W. Court Street/Mount Olive Road water line project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a new utility billing arrangement with Sweet Briar College for both water and sewer • Finish the USDA sewer and VDH Main Street projects. • Prepare for a new needs assessment (plants, pumps, pipes, etc.) for the water and sewer system; update the hydraulic model for the water system; and commission preliminary engineering studies for the next phase of capital projects.
4. Update Utility Rate & Fee Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the utility rate and fee policy through the Finance Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the new policy • Investigate the feasibility of autodialing or emailing customers whose utilities are scheduled for disconnection
5. Outsource payroll		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outsource payroll or begin using new payroll software (by 1/1/16)
6. Online Utility Payments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin accepting online payments for utility bills
7. Police patrol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a directed patrol program to promote uniform coverage by town by police 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a program for day and night security checks of local businesses (by 1/1/16) • Develop a program where officers visit schools and interact with staff and students.
8. Crime prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute robbery prevention and information on what to do during and after a robbery to local businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host town hall meetings in order to promote positive police/public interaction • Implement a program to conduct site security assessments for local businesses and churches
9. Police administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare drafts of all high priority police policies • Plan for mobile computers to be used for all reports • Plan for the deployment of body cameras including associated data storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the police policy manual (by 1/1/16) • Eliminate excess weapon inventory and purchase needed weapon upgrades • Transfer all evidence storage to Amherst County Sheriff's Office