

Mayor D. Dwayne Tuggle called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on March 10, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. in the County Administration Room, County Administration Building at 153 Washington Street, Amherst, VA.

As a result of COVID-19 cautionary restrictions and limited space the below council members and staff met in person and electronically in the event persons wishing to avoid attending could still address Council from home.

It was noted that a quorum was present as follows:

P	D. Dwayne Tuggle	P	Kenneth G. Bunch
P	Rachel A. Carton	P	Sharon W. Turner
P	Kenneth S. Watts	P	Janice N. Wheaton

Also present were the following staff members:

Sara Carter	Town Manager		Bobby Shiflett	Chief of Police
W. Thomas Berry	Town Attorney		Vicki K. Hunt	Clerk of Council

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was followed by an invocation by Kenneth S. Watts.

There being no one listed to speak on the citizen comment sign-in sheet or otherwise, no comments were made.

Ms. Turner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bunch to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2021, meeting.

There being no discussion, the motion as to the February 10, 2021, minutes carried 5-0 as follows:

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Kenneth G. Bunch	Aye
Rachel A. Carton	Aye	Sharon W. Turner	Aye
Kenneth S. Watts	Aye	Janice N. Wheaton	Aye

Councilor Carton, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that the committee met on March 3 to discuss the revised FY21/22 budget, and reconvened on March 4, continuing its review and making edits to the General Fund budget. The budget sheets will be reviewed a final time by the committee prior to the April 14, 2021, Town Council Meeting.

Town Manager Carter reported that by state code the budget cannot be adopted at the same meeting that it is heard. The normal practice is for both the Capital Improvement Program that identifies acquisition, construction and improvement of town facilities, and acquisition of capital equipment and the proposed Town of Amherst 2021/2022 Budget be heard at council's April meeting, at which time the Capital Improvement Program may be adopted, and adoption of the budget in May.

After discussion, Ms. Carton made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts to hold a public hearing at its meeting on April 14, 2021, on the proposed Town of Amherst FY21-22 Budget and on the Town of Amherst FY21-22 Capital Improvement Program proposal, as recommended by staff.

There being no discussion, the motion 5-0 carried as follows:

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Kenneth G. Bunch	Aye
Rachel A. Carton	Aye	Sharon W. Turner	Aye
Kenneth S. Watts	Aye	Janice N. Wheaton	Aye

After a report by Town Manager Carter, Ms. Turner made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Carton authorizing appropriation of funds from reserves into a general fund line to pay for emergency replacement of the Town Hall roof, as recommended by staff.

There being no discussion, the motion 5-0 carried as follows:

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Kenneth G. Bunch	Aye
Rachel A. Carton	Aye	Sharon W. Turner	Aye
Kenneth S. Watts	Aye	Janice N. Wheaton	Aye

After a report by Town Manager Carter and discussion, Ms. Carter was instructed to proceed with repairs on the Town’s bucket truck to pass annual inspection for \$4,907.42, as recommended by staff.

After a report by Town Manager Carter, Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Wheaton to authorize that a donation of \$3,000.00 to Second Stage be included in the proposed FY 2021/2022 proposed budget, and to apply for state matching funds for Second Stage.

After discussion, the motion failed 2-3 via the roll call method as follows:

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Kenneth G. Bunch	Nay
Rachel A. Carton	Nay	Sharon W. Turner	Nay
Kenneth S. Watts	Aye	Janice N. Wheaton	Aye

An ad hoc committee comprised of two members was established to design the Town of Amherst meeting room located in Town Hall, appointing Ms. Carton Chairman and Ms. Turner Committee Member.

There being no one listed to speak on the citizen comment sign-in sheet or otherwise, no comments were made.

At 7:26 P.M. Ms. Carton made a motion as follows: I move that the Town Council go into closed session pursuant to §2.2-3711A.7 of the Code of Virginia as it relates to actual litigation involving the Town, and consultation with counsel for a specific legal matter.

The motion carried 5-0 via the roll call method as follows

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Kenneth G. Bunch	Aye
Rachel A. Carton	Aye	Sharon W. Turner	Aye
Kenneth S. Watts	Aye	Janice N. Wheaton	Aye

Mayor Tuggle recessed the meeting at 7:27 PM.

Mayor Tuggle reconvened the meeting in closed session at 7:32 PM. It was noted that a quorum was present as follows:

P	D. Dwayne Tuggle	P	Kenneth G. Bunch
P	Rachel A. Carton	P	Sharon W. Turner
P	Kenneth S. Watts	P	Janice N. Wheaton

At 8:25 P.M. Ms. Carton made the following motion: I move that the Town Council adjourn the closed session and enter open session and 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 carried 5-0 via the roll call method as follows:

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Kenneth G. Bunch	Aye
Rachel A. Carton	Aye	Sharon W. Turner	Aye
Kenneth S. Watts	Aye	Janice N. Wheaton	Aye

Upon entering open session, Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Carton to establish an ad hoc committee comprised of two members for Town and County projects, appointing Mr. Bunch Chairman, and Ms. Turner Committee Member.

There being no discussion, the motion carried 5-0 via the roll call method as follows:

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Kenneth G. Bunch	Aye
Rachel A. Carton	Aye	Sharon W. Turner	Aye
Kenneth S. Watts	Aye	Janice N. Wheaton	Aye

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M. until April 14, 2021, on motion of Ms. Carton seconded by Ms. Wheaton.

D. Dwayne Tuggle, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council