

Mayor D. Dwayne Tuggle called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on December 8, 2021, 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	Sharon W. Turner
P	Rachel A. Carton	P	Janice N. Wheaton
P	Kenneth S. Watts	P	Andra Higginbotham

Also present were the following staff members:

Sara E. Carter	Town Manager	Gary Williams	Director of Plants
Vicki K. Hunt	Clerk of Council	Becky L. Cash	Lead Water Operator
Tracie Morgan	Office Manager/Finance Director	Greg Harler	Major Police Department

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

Mayor Tuggle opened the floor for citizen comment.

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

Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Carton to approve the Special Meeting Minutes and the Regular Session Minutes held on November 10, 2021.

There being no discussion, the motion as to the November 10, 2021, minutes carried 5-0 via the roll call method as follows:

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

Councilor Carton, Chairman of the ad hoc Personnel Committee, reported that the committee, after meeting on November 30, 2021, for the purpose of interviewing interested parties for the position of Town Attorney, makes a recommendation to accept the proposal of Deal & Lachney, P.C., and to enter into a retainer agreement effective January 1, 2022. There being no discussion, upon recommendation of the ad hoc Personnel Committee, Council voted 5-0 to accept the proposal of Deal & Lachney, P.C., and to enter into a retainer agreement effective January 1, 2022, via the roll call method as follows:

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

There being no further business for the ad hoc Personnel Committee, the committee was dissolved by Mayor Tuggle.

After Town Attorney Berry introduced Eric Lansing, Esq., Deal & Lachney, P.C., as the next attorney for the Town, Mr. Lansing thanked Council for the privilege of being able to represent the Town in the future.

Town Manager Carter gave a report on a proposal by Poplar Grove for wastewater service provided by the Town to a portion of the development. Per the Town’s Utility Policy, any construction cost for the provided service would be borne by the developer with dedication of the facilities to the Town. Staff requests authorization to continue to go forward on discussions with Poplar Grove on a wastewater service agreement to be presented to Council for approval and adoption.

Brian Cossman, Hurt & Proffitt, Inc., Engineer for Poplar Grove, along with a representative of Poplar Grove, were present to answer questions.

Prior to discussions on the matter, Ms. Carton disclosed that her husband has a working relationship with Mr. Cossman through the engineering firm for Poplar Grove. Ms. Carton reported she did not feel she has a conflict of interest but offered to step out of any discussion on the matter if Council felt her participation was a conflict. By consensus of Council, Ms. Carton will participate in any future discussions and/or vote in connection with the matter.

The Utilities Committee was directed to review a proposed wastewater services agreement between the Town and Poplar Grove provided by staff and present a recommendation to Council.

Mr. Higginbotham was informed that at the November 10, 2021, meeting he was appointed to the Utilities Committee beginning December 8, 2021.

After a report by Town Manager Carter, Ms. Turner made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Carton to approve expenditure in the amount of \$7,250.00 to be proportionately divided between the Brockman Park and the sewer accounts, for additional services provided by Fisher Construction and Evacuation for forestry mulching, cleanup, and labor on the detention ponds and sewer right of way within the industrial park.

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

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

On behalf of Council and staff Mayor Tuggle thanked Town Attorney Berry for his services over the years.

Attorney Lansing was directed to review Town Code §§20-08 and 20-09 in reference to bicycles and skateboards on the sidewalks and present a recommendation to Council. Discussion on the matter was deferred.

Mayor Tuggle thanked Director of Plants Williams for his work on the Town Hall Christmas decorations.

Mayor Tuggle opened the floor for citizen comment.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 P.M., until January 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. on motion of Ms. Turner seconded by Ms. Wheaton.

D. Dwayne Tuggle, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council

FOR APPROVAL