

Mayor D. Dwayne Tuggle called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on March 9, 2022, 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. McGuffin	Town Manager		Charles Thompson	Utilities Maintenance Foreman
Vicki K. Hunt	Clerk of Council		Robert Shiflett	Chief of Police
Eric Lansing	Town Attorney		Brandon Payne	Police Officer
Gary Williams	Director of Plants			

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was followed by an invocation by Andra Higginbotham.

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.

Ms. Turner made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Carton to approve the Minutes of the meetings held on February 9, 2022, and February 23, 2022.

There being no discussion, the motion as to the February 9, 2022, and February 23, 2022, minutes carried 4-0-1 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	Abstain	Andra Higginbotham	Aye

Councilor Carton, Chairman of the Finance Committee, gave an oral report on behalf of the Committee reporting that the committee recommends that the current employee insurance options remain in effect. By consensus Council agreed with the recommendation of the committee and instructed Town Manager McGuffin to report the decision to the insurance company.

Councilor Watts, Chairman of the Utilities Committee, gave an oral report on behalf of the Committee related to the Sweet Briar College water and wastewater agreement and on wastewater service for Poplar Grove, reporting that the committee recommends proceeding with the wastewater service agreement for Poplar Grove once the wording of the agreement has been finalized.

After a report by Town Manager McGuffin, Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Higginbotham to hold a public hearing at its meeting on April 13, 2022, on the proposed Town of Amherst FY22-23 Budget and on the Town of Amherst FY22-23 Capital Improvement Program proposal, as recommended by staff.

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

After a report by Town Manager McGuffin on the dewaterer for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Ms. Turner made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Carton to authorize staff to proceed with a request for quotation (bids) for Centrifuge sludge dewatering equipment, as recommended by staff.

There being no discussion, the motion carried 4-0-1 via the roll call method as follows:

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

After a report by Town Manager McGuffin, Ms. Carton made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Turner to accept the bid of Electrical Mechanical Services in the amount of \$159,000.00 for Waugh’s Ferry Road Pump Station Generator Improvements, as recommended by staff.

There being no discussion, the motion carried 4-0-1 via the roll call method as follows:

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

Town Attorney Lansing gave a report on a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 14, Article IV, of the Town Code, enacting § 14-25 therein, to prohibit the placement of waste receptacles in the public right of way, other than at designated collection times or the evening.

Discussion was held on whether the trash bin collection time for businesses should be extended and on a waiver of the return fee for first time offense. By consensus, Mr. Lansing was directed to revise the language in § 14-25 B. Collection times exempted and § 14-25 C. Removal of waste containers, in the proposed ordinance. Further discussion on the matter was deferred to the April 13, 2022, meeting.

Town Attorney Lansing gave a report on a proposed ordinance amending Town Code §§ 2-140 and 2-141, to change the name of the Town of Amherst’s industrial development authority to the “Economic Development Authority of the Town of Amherst, Virginia.”

Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Carton to hold a public hearing at its meeting on April 13, 2022, on the proposed ordinance amending Town Code §§ 2-140 and 2-141, to change the name of the Town of Amherst’s industrial development authority to the “Economic Development Authority of the Town of Amherst, Virginia.,” as recommended by staff.

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

After Town Manager McGuffin gave a report on establishing a service agreement for the Town to provide wastewater treatment for a portion of the Poplar Grove Development, Ms. Carton made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Turner, to authorize Town Manager McGuffin to execute the agreement once completed.

There being no discussion, the motion carried 4-0-1 via the roll call method as follows:

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

Town Manager McGuffin reported on the need for a maintenance work truck engine replacement. Discussion was held on engine and truck replacement alternatives. Staff was directed to explore options. Further discussion was deferred.

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 7:36 P.M., until April 13, at 7:00 p.m. on motion of Ms. Carton. seconded by Ms. Turner.

The motion carried 5-0 as follows:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
D. Dwayne Tuggle, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk of Council