

Mayor D. Dwayne Tuggle called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on March 13, 2024, 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	A	Andra Higginbotham
P	Janice N. Wheaton	P	Michael Driskill
P	Sharon W. Turner	P	Kenneth S. Watts

Also present were the following staff members:

Sara E. McGuffin	Town Manager	Ryan Watts	Police Captain
Kelley Kemp	Town Attorney	Gary Williams	Director of Plants
Vicki K. Hunt	Clerk of Council	Becky Cash	Plants Operator
Tracie Morgan	Office Manager	Charles Thompson	Utilities Maintenance Foreman

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was followed by an invocation by Dawn Thomas.

Gary Friend was present on behalf of Neighbors Helping Neighbors with an update on the work of the group and its impact on the Town.

Mayor Tuggle opened the floor to citizen comments.

Steve Martin, Town of Amherst business owner, came forward in opposition to the existing code section on surfacing pertaining to commercial driveways and parking areas and referred to several businesses in Town with gravel parking surfaces.

Jerry Martin, Town of Amherst business owner, came forward in opposition to the enforcement of the existing Town ordinance that does not allow for permeable surfacing of commercial driveways and parking areas.

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

Ms. Turner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Driskill to approve the minutes of the meetings held on February 14, 2024, February 21, 2024, and March 4, 2024, as presented.

There being no discussion, the motion carried 3-0-1 via the roll call method as follows:

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Andra Higginbotham	Absent
Janice N. Wheaton	Aye	Michael Driskill	Aye
Sharon Turner	Aye	Kenneth Watts	Abstain

Ms. Turner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts to separate Hill Hardware Item #5928 from the February check registry and all other future check registry items related to Hill

Hardware for purposes of discussion and motion, due to a real or perceived conflict of interest by Ms. Turner.

After discussion, the motion carried 4-0 via the roll call method, as follows:

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Andra Higginbotham	Absent
Janice N. Wheaton	Aye	Michael Driskill	Aye
Sharon Turner	Aye	Kenneth Watts	Aye

Ms. Wheaton made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts to approve the remainder of the February 2024 check registry, as presented.

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

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Andra Higginbotham	Absent
Janice N. Wheaton	Aye	Michael Driskill	Aye
Sharon Turner	Aye	Kenneth Watts	Aye

Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Wheaton to approve Item #5928 Hill Hardware on the February 2024 check registry, as presented.

There being no discussion, the motion carried 3-0-1 via the roll call method, as follows:

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Andra Higginbotham	Absent
Janice N. Wheaton	Aye	Michael Driskill	Aye
Sharon Turner	Abstain	Kenneth Watts	Aye

Town Manager McGuffin gave a report on the annual First Responders celebration in the form of a street party that would include street vendors and bands and remove the annual parade from the event. Staff requested approval of street closure of Main Street between Star Street and Second Street from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., on June 29, 2024.

Ms. Wheaton made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Turner to approve street closure of Main Street between Star Street and Second Street from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., on June 29, 2024, for the First Responder's Celebration, as recommended by staff.

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

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Andra Higginbotham	Absent
Janice N. Wheaton	Aye	Michael Driskill	Aye
Sharon Turner	Aye	Kenneth Watts	Aye

Mr. Driskill made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts to set public hearings on April, 10, 2024, on consideration of proposed amendments to the Town's zoning ordinance §§ 24-2 Definitions and rules of construction, adding Outdoor Display and Outdoor Storage definitions; 24-75 Developments subject to special site plan review, to include a minor site plan process; and

24-511 Surfacing, and adding new Article VIII §xx-xxx, Supplemental zoning regulations, defining short term rental and management plan and process, as recommended by staff.

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

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Andra Higginbotham	Absent
Janice N. Wheaton	Aye	Michael Driskill	Aye
Sharon Turner	Aye	Kenneth Watts	Aye

Town Manager McGuffin gave a report on the proposed Town of Amherst FY24-25 Budget and on the Town of Amherst FY24-25 Capital Improvement Program proposal. Staff requested that Council set public hearings on the proposals at its April 10, 2024, meeting.

Ms. Turner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Driskill to hold a public hearing at its meeting on April 10, 2024, on the proposed Town of Amherst FY24-25 Budget and on the Town of Amherst FY24-25 Capital Improvement Program proposal, as recommended by staff.

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

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Andra Higginbotham	Absent
Janice N. Wheaton	Aye	Michael Driskill	Aye
Sharon Turner	Aye	Kenneth Watts	Aye

Town Manager McGuffin gave a power point presentation on the meaning of legal, non-conforming and not legal zoning status in regard to surfacing requirements in the Town.

Town Manager McGuffin reported that there is a vacancy on the Economic Development Authority created by the expired term of Richard McKinley Wydner, Jr. Clerk of Council Hunt was directed to prepare a resolution honoring Mr. Wydner for his services to the Town for consideration by Council.

Mayor Tuggle opened the floor to citizen comments.

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, on motion of Ms. Wheaton that was seconded by Ms. Turner the meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M., until April 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

The motion carried 4-0 as follows:

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Andra Higginbotham	Absent
Janice N. Wheaton	Aye	Michael Driskill	Aye
Sharon Turner	Aye	Kenneth S. Watts	Aye

D. Dwayne Tuggle, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of Council

FOR APPROVAL