

Mayor Jacob P. Bailey called the regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on April 13, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 186 S. Main Street. Council members Kenneth Bumgarner, J. Paul Kilgore, Michael Mozingo and Richard Wydner were present. Councilor Haney Mottley was absent. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Town Attorney Tom Berry, Sergeant Kelvin Brown, Police Chief Kenneth Watts and Director of Utilities Tom Fore were also present.

The Rev. Allan Monfils from Blue Ridge Baptist Church gave an invocation.

Kevin Tolley came forward to request approval to connect his planned new dwelling off Kenmore Road at TM#94-A-14B to the Town's water system. It was reported that the Utilities Committee met with Mr. Tolley on March 29 to discuss limitations on the Town's water system in that area and that the petition for inclusion in the Town and out of town user agreement as required by §17-13 of the Town Code had been received. Mr. Wydner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and approved 4-0 to approve the connection as requested. Messrs. Bumgarner, Kilgore, Mozingo and Wydner voted "Aye"; Mr. Mottley was absent.

Michael DeMarco (1264 Roses Mill Road, Amherst) came forward to request support for his effort to encourage a public swimming venue in Amherst County and suggested that Mill Creek Lake might be a good location. The Council discussed the facts that (a) it would be difficult to find public funding for such a venture at this time, (b) Amherst County owns and operates Mill Creek Reservoir and (c) Mill Creek Reservoir releases water during drought emergencies as a backup to the Buffalo River - the source of the Town's drinking water. The Councilors questioned whether it was safe to allow swimming in a drinking water source.

Doris Bryant, accompanied by Bill Hathaway and Libby Howell, came forward to present a request from the Amherst County Chamber of Commerce for support of that group's planned Fourth of July fundraiser that would be held in downtown Amherst. Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and approved 4-0 to approve the Town's support of the event as requested and donate \$2,000 in addition to in-kind services of town staff to the Chamber in support of the effort. Messrs. Bumgarner, Kilgore, Mozingo and Wydner voted "Aye"; Mr. Mottley was absent. The Town Manager was asked to write a letter to the Virginia Department of Transportation requesting that they consider milling down the existing surface on East Court and Goodwin Streets and re-pave with asphalt to enhance the appearance and improve the plane of this area for events such as this.

Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Wydner and approved 4-0 to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2011 meeting. Messrs. Bumgarner, Kilgore, Mozingo and Wydner voted "Aye"; Mr. Mottley was absent.

The Finance Committee was asked to develop a proposal on billing water customers with "inactive" accounts, including amendments to the collection policy that would be appropriate to support this new practice.

The Town Manager gave a presentation on the FY12 budget proposal. After some discussion on giving a bonus to employees in lieu of a pay raise, Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mozingo and approved 4-0 to adjust the proposal to fund a 1% bonus for each full-time employee that would be issued concurrent with the first payroll distribution of

the 2012 Fiscal Year. Messrs. Bumgarner, Kilgore, Mozingo and Wydner voted “Aye”; Mr. Mottley was absent. By consensus, the Council agreed to hold a public hearing on the adjusted proposal at its May 11 meeting.

After a break from 9:25 P.M. until 9:34 P.M., Mr. Bumgarner reported that the Public Safety Committee had not met but that he had spoken with Chief Watts and Sgt. Brown who had advised him that the training and transition of authority for Sgt Brown to assume the position of Chief of Police was progressing well.

Mr. Mozingo reported the Community Relations Committee had met with Mr. Chris Chamberlin representing the Amherst County High School group Project Revolution. Mr. Chamberlin’s group proposes to paint “Dump no waste/Drains to stream” and a fish logo on the stormwater inlets in the Town as a way to promote environmental awareness. It was noted that the group needs to obtain any necessary approvals from that agency for the project since VDOT maintains the streets and associated stormwater system in the Town. Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Wydner to endorse the project. Messrs. Bumgarner, Kilgore, Mozingo and Wydner voted “Aye”; Mr. Mottley was absent. The motion passed 4-0

Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Wydner and approved 4-0 to request that the Mayor sign a proclamation recognizing the Week of the Young Child. Messrs. Bumgarner, Kilgore, Mozingo and Wydner voted “Aye”; Mr. Mottley was absent.

Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Wydner and approved 4-0 to request that the Mayor sign a proclamation recognizing the Child Abuse Prevention Month. Messrs. Bumgarner, Kilgore, Mozingo and Wydner voted “Aye”; Mr. Mottley was absent.

Mr. Mozingo presented a request from John Wright (467 N. Main Street) regarding health concerns at 128 Blue Ridge Lane. After some discussion, Mr. Berry volunteered to speak with the resident at 128 Blue Ridge Lane to express the neighborhood concerns and attempt to solicit cooperation to alleviate those concerns Mr. Berry was asked to report back to Council at the May Meeting.

By consensus Council asked the Town Manager to offer a “no comment” letter in response to a DEQ solicitation for comments on VDOT’s proposal to build a chemical storage shed on its Union Hill Road yard.

Mr. Bumgarner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Kilgore and approved 4-0 to approve the replacement of a major portion of the gravity sewer piping on N. Main Street, Monitor Road and Hangar Road via the in-house method and to authorize purchase of the materials needed for the project per bids obtained by the Town Crew. Messrs. Bumgarner, Kilgore, Mozingo and Wydner voted “Aye”; Mr. Mottley was absent.

A proposed process to improve Walnut Street via a special tax assessment district was discussed. Mr. Kilgore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mozingo and approved 4-0 that the Town contact the property owners along Walnut Street to advise them that the town will pay \$13,550 towards improvements to the street to bring the street up to VDOT standards if the property owners can develop a plan to pay the balance of the estimated cost of \$54,200 of

improvements by October 1, 2011 Messrs. Bumgarner, Kilgore, Mozingo and Wydner voted “Aye”; Mr. Mottley was absent.

The Council discussed a proposed drought management plan and revised drought ordinance and agreed to hear a presentation and hold a public hearing on the proposed Regional Water Supply Plan at the July meeting.

The Council was reminded that the terms of several committee members expire at the end of June and that the Town Code requires advertisement for all anticipated appointments. The indicated timetable is to request applications via advertisement for 30 days with the deadline prior to the end of May, and the Council will be able to make appointment decisions at the regular June Town Council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:27 P.M.

Jacob P. Bailey
Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council

A PROCLAMATION TO ESTABLISH THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD IN THE TOWN OF AMHERST.

WHEREAS, the Piedmont Association of Early childhood Education, with the support of other Central Virginia organizations and in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the Week of the Young Child; and

WHEREAS, these organizations are working to improve early learning opportunities, including early literacy programs, that can provide a foundation of learning for children and to building better futures for everyone in Amherst, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, teachers and others who make a difference in the lives of young children deserve thanks and recognition; and

WHEREAS, all young children and their families, both in Amherst and across the country, deserve access to high-quality early childhood education and care; and

WHEREAS, public policies that contribute to high quality early childhood education as the right choice for children deserve support;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jacob P. Bailey, Mayor of the Town of Amherst, Virginia do hereby proclaim April 10 – 16, 2011 as

THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

And encourage all citizens and organizations to work to make a strong investment in early childhood in the Town of Amherst, Virginia.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this _____ day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven.

Mayor Jacob P. Bailey

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A PROCLAMATION TO ESTABLISH CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN THE TOWN OF AMHERST.

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community problem that depends on involvement among people throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, child maltreatment occurs when people find themselves in stressful situations, without community resources, and don't know how to cope; and
Whereas, the majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and supportive community; and

WHEREAS, all citizens should become involved in supporting families in raising their children in a safe, nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among families, social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

THEREFORE, I DO HEREBY PROCLAIM April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and neglect and strengthening the communities in which we live.

Now therefore I, Jacob P. Bailey, Mayor of the Town of Amherst, Virginia do hereby recognize April 2011 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the Town of Amherst and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this _____ day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven.

Mayor Jacob P. Bailey

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