

Mayor Jacob P. Bailey called the regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on May 11, 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 and Police Chief Kenneth Watts were present.

Father William Crites from Church of the Epiphany gave an invocation.

Lourine Massie, a resident of 143 Maple Lane, came forward with a petition asking the Town Council to enforce §7-2 of the Town Code at 119 Maple Lane. She expressed concern regarding the health and safety of the resident of that dwelling and the other residents on the street. In attendance in support of the petition were the following residents: Mr. L.C. Patton, Mr. Allen Campbell and Mrs. Frances Stevens. Ms. Massie also expressed concern over a large oak tree belonging to another neighbor that she perceives to be a threat to her property and/or safety. After some discussion, Council directed Mr. Hobbs and Chief Watts to visit the resident at 119 Maple Lane on May 12, 2011 and to request improved maintenance of his yard and report to Council at the June meeting. No action was taken on the oak tree item.

At 7:41 PM a duly advertised public hearing on the proposed FY12 budget was opened. There being no one present who wished to speak, the hearing was closed at 7:42 PM. After the hearing Mr. Wydner expressed concern regarding what he considers to be excessive personnel costs within the utilities department budget.

At 8:07 PM a duly advertised public hearing on an ordinance that would repeal the Town's recognition of local volunteer fire and rescue agencies was opened. It was understood that this proposal is intended to clarify the Town's liability in connection with the Line of Duty Act and not intended to affect funding or any other aspect of the Town's relationship with these groups. There being no one present who wished to speak, the hearing was closed at 8:07 PM. By consensus Council decided to table the matter until the June meeting and to consider this issue along with other issues concerning the Line of Duty Act at that time.

Upon recommendation by Mr. Mozingo, Chairman of the Community Relations Committee, Mayor Bailey issued a proclamation recognizing Mrs. Josephine A. Jones on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Mr. Hobbs reported that Frank Turner, representing Briar Patch Restaurant at 883 S. Main Street, had protested the Town's utility billing policy and practice of requiring monies to actually be received by the due date instead of recognizing postmarks as the "bill paid date". The Councilors discussed the issue but did not act on the matter.

Mr. Hobbs gave a brief report on Ms. Davis's condition and commended Ms. Deanna Foltz on her management of the front office and willingness to take on extra duties in Ms. Davis's absence. Council concurred with Mr. Hobbs' comments and felt that it would be appropriate to recognize her efforts at a later time.

Mr. Wydner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and approved 4-0 to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2011 meeting. Messrs. Bumgarner, Kilgore, Mozingo and Wydner voted "Aye"; Mr. Mottley was absent.

Mr. Hobbs gave a report on insurance coverage that would cover any potential liability as it may relate to the Virginia Line of Duty Act. Council discussed the possibility of purchasing coverage offered through the Virginia Retirement System for a year to evaluate the various options available since once the VRS insurance is declined, a locality may never opt back in.

Mr. Hobbs reported that Appalachian Power Company plans to begin installing lights along the South Main Street sidewalk extension within the week and have the lights operational next week.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 P.M.

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Jacob P. Bailey  
Mayor

Attest:

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Clerk of Council

**A PROCLAMATION TO RECOGNIZE MRS. JOSEPHINE A. JONES ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY.**

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Josephine A. Jones was born on May 27, 1911 in Amherst, Virginia to John P. Wilson and Mary West Wilson; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Josephine A. Jones, in her earlier years, enjoyed gardening, preparing meals and serving as a dedicated caretaker; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Josephine A. Jones has the distinction of being a Virginia Centenarian, and her positive attitude, loving and kind spirit has enriched the lives of all who know her; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Jones has been a devoted daughter, wife, mother and homemaker; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Jones has lived a rather modest and unassuming life that fostered values of trusting God, fervent prayer, faithful stewardship and sowing good seed. She believes in taking care of herself and her family and believes that anything is possible; and

**WHEREAS**, she is the mother of Cyrus W. Jones and Mary J. McCoy and a proud grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother and aunt; and

**WHEREAS**, at an early age, she joined the Union Hill Baptist Church, where she has been a faithful member. She is recognized as the “Mother of the Church”, the oldest living member with the longest continuous membership in her church. She faithfully served as church treasurer for eighteen years; and

**WHEREAS**, this remarkable lady has encouraged and uplifted others throughout her life, served as a role model and is a precious relative and friend to those who are close to her; and

**WHEREAS**, her life has been a testimony for her love of God, her family, her church, her neighborhood and friends; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Josephine A. Jones celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on May 27, 2011.

**NOW THEREFORE, I**, Jacob P. Bailey, Mayor of the Town of Amherst, Virginia do hereby proclaim May 27, 2011 as

**“MRS. JOSEPHINE A. JONES DAY”**

in Amherst, Virginia and urge all citizens to join in paying tribute to Mrs. Jones on this, her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF, I** have hereunto set my hand on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven.

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Mayor Jacob P. Bailey

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