

Mayor D. Dwayne Tuggle called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on April 12, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 174 S. Main Street. Council members André Higginbotham, Kenneth S. Watts, Mark A. Stinnett, Kenneth G. Bunch, and Rachel A. Carton were present. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Town Attorney W. Thomas Berry, Police Chief Robert Kimbrel, Office Manager Tracie Wright, and Deputy Town Clerk Vicki Hunt were present.

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

Mayor Tuggle opened the floor for citizen comments.

Tim Ware, owner and operator of Ware House Antiques, came forward to request continued monetary support of future Amherst County Chamber of Commerce Cruise-In events from the Town and asked about steps that can be taken to assure the Town's continued support. Mr. Ware was advised that his group should include confirmation that area businesses are benefiting from the Amherst Cruise-In events in their next support request to Council.

After the Town Manager gave a background report, a duly advertised public hearing on a proposed 2017 Comprehensive Plan was opened at 7:13 P.M. There being no one present who wished to speak on the matter, the public hearing closed at 7:14 P.M. The Town Manager reported that one comment has been received pursuant to the public hearing notice (April 4, 2017, email from a property owner pertaining to language as it relates to the 60 West Area-Lloyd Property Development Area, a copy of which was provided to the Councilors). After discussion, Mr. Bunch made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts to adopt the 2017 Comprehensive Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission. The motion passed 5-0. Messrs. Higginbotham, Watts, Stinnett, Bunch and Mrs. Carton voted "Aye."

Derrick Brown, 112 Shadwell Lane, Madison Heights, VA, came forward with a request that Town Council support the 7th Annual IRON 5k Run/Walk event that would occur on June 24, 2017, from 8 AM to 10 AM., in place of the one previously scheduled for April 4, 2017, as approved by the Council on February 8, 2017. Mr. Higginbotham made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Stinnett and carried 5-0 to endorse the event with the understanding that IRON would fully fund sufficient traffic control for the activity as required by the Police Chief, be responsible for obtaining permission from VDOT to close some or all of S. Main Street for the event, and notify all affected residents, businesses and public safety agencies that would be affected by the closure. Messrs. Higginbotham, Watts, Stinnett, Bunch and Mrs. Carton voted "Aye."

Mrs. Carton made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Stinnett and carried 5-0 to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2017, meeting. Messrs. Higginbotham, Watts, Stinnett, Bunch and Mrs. Carton voted "Aye."

The Town Manager gave an oral report on various projects and on Town staff's work plan for recodification of the town code and a timetable that the staff plans to follow.

Discussion on various Committee appointments/reappointments was deferred to the May meeting.

After some discussion, Mr. Higginbotham made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Stinnett to extend the utility availability fee waiver program authorized by resolution on January 13, 2016. The motion failed 2-3. Messrs. Higginbotham and Stinnett voted "Aye". Messrs. Watts, Bunch and Mrs. Carton voted "No."

After discussion, Mr. Watts made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Higginbotham and carried 5-0 to approve allocation of \$38,400 in spending from the General Fund Capital Improvement Account backhoe replacement line for costs associated with upgrade of the HVAC system in the Town Hall computer server room, IP website security system and software, light towers, and new work order management software. Messrs. Higginbotham, Watts, Stinnett, Bunch and Mrs. Carton voted "Aye."

By consensus, Town Council authorized Town Manager to negotiate a contract with Davidson Doyle & Hilton for audit of the Town's FY17 financial records.

The Town Manager gave a presentation on the proposed FY17/18 budget that will be the subject of the required public hearing at the May meeting.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Watts which was seconded by Mr. Bunch and carried 5-0 to approve the execution of a Statement of Understanding between the Town of Amherst and Sweet Briar Institute pertaining to the Town-College sewer use Agreement dated April 17, 1972. Messrs. Higginbotham, Watts, Stinnett, Bunch and Mrs. Carton voted "Aye."

Discussion on renewal of a Town Attorney contract was deferred to the May meeting.

Mayor Tuggle will read a proclamation that declares April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Amherst at an event on this topic being planned for the MiniPark at noon on April 20, 2017.

After discussion, the Council asked that Chief Kimbrel obtain cost estimates associated with installation of two security cameras for Town Hall in addition to four cameras previously contracted to be installed.

Mayor Tuggle opened the floor to citizen comments.

There being no further business, Mr. Watts made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Higginbotham and carried 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 PM. Messrs. Higginbotham, Watts, Stinnett, Bunch and Mrs. Carton voted "Aye."

---

D. Dwayne Tuggle  
Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council