

Vice Mayor Andra Higginbotham called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on November 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:

A	D. Dwayne Tuggle	P	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	Chief of Police
Kelley Kemp	Town Attorney-Remote	Gary Williams	Director of Plants
Tracie Morgan	Dep. Town Manager/Treas.	Becky Cash	Water/Wastewater Operator
Vicki K. Hunt	Clerk of Council	Alison Davis	Accreditation Manager

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was followed by an invocation by Sharon Turner.

Kelly Hitchcock from the Central Virginia Planning District Commission (CVPDC) was present and provided an overview of the US DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All program, a summary of the Safe System Approach, a review of local accident data, and an overview of the regional transportation study development process, which included the current Central Virginia Safety Action Plan Survey.

Vice Mayor Higginbotham opened the floor to citizen comments.

There being no one 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. Watts to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 9, 2024, as corrected.

There being no discussion, the motion carried 5-0 via the roll call method as follows:

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

Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Driskill to approve the October 2024 check registry as presented with the exception of Item #6388 Hill Hardware.

There being no discussion, the motion carried 5-0 via the roll call method as follows:

D. Dwayne Tuggle		Andra Higginbotham	Aye
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 Item #6388 Hill Hardware, in the amount of \$892.67, on the October 2024 check registry, as presented.

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

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

Accreditation Manager Davis gave a report on the Lead Service Line Inventory. After a year-long process and with the help of the Town's water customers, staff submitted the Lead Service Line Inventory to the State on October 24, 2024, with the inventory reporting on 1170 water connections with two homes having a lead water line on the private side, zero lead water lines on the public side, and forty-five properties remaining unknown. The Town secured funding to cover the cost of the inventory.

Town Attorney Kemp gave a report on whether the Town of Amherst has the authority under Virginia Code §46.2-1300 to reduce the speed limit on certain roads within the Town without approval from "VDOT". Staff recommended that the Town continue to work through VDOT to do a speed study on roads to determine if speed limits should be reduced.

After discussion, by consensus Town Attorney Kemp was requested to draft a request seeking a ruling from the State Attorney General.

Town Manager McGuffin gave a report on a potential lease to Amherst Mountain Biking Club for use of land within Brockman Industrial Park for a future trail system. Amherst Mountain Biking Club is seeking to construct beginner, intermediate and advanced biking trails within Brockman Industrial Park. Staff requested that council set a public hearing at its December 11, 2024, meeting on a proposed lease of land within Brockman Industrial Park (TM#s 96-5-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9A, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 96A13, 96A36 and 96A37) in the Town of Amherst for the purpose of construction of a proposed trail system that would include beginner, intermediate and advanced trails.

Mr. Watts made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Turner to hold a public hearing on December 11, 2024, on a proposed lease between the Town of Amherst and the Amherst Mountain Biking Club for the purpose of construction of a proposed trail system within Brockman Industrial Park (TM#s 96-5-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9A, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 96A13, 96A36 and 96A37) that would include beginner, intermediate and advanced trials, as recommended by staff.

After discussion, the motion carried 5-0 via the roll call method, as follows:

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

Vice Mayor Higginbotham opened the floor to citizen comments.

Dawn Thomas, Town resident, came forward to request that Council consider an amendment to the noise ordinance using decibel levels restrictions.

By consensus Town Manager McGuffin was requested to draft a proposed noise ordinance using a decibel level restrictions for consideration.

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

There being no further business, on motion of Mrs. Wheaton and seconded by Ms. Turner Higginbotham at 7:59 PM the meeting adjourned until December 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

The motion carried 5-0 as follows:

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

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Andra Higginbotham, Vice Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council