

AMHERST TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Summary

June 11, 2025



Work Session: The Council held a work session regarding a proposed noise ordinance. The current ordinance relies on a subjective standard and cannot be enforced. Staff reviewed a draft ordinance and the Council held a discussion of items that they wished to keep and to change. Broadly, the parameters of the new draft ordinance will be:

- 75 dBA during the day and 55 dBA limitation at night
- Daytime hours are 6:00 am-9:00 pm
- A duration standard of three minutes is applied in daytime hours, with no duration at night. Intermittent noises would not be addressed during daytime hours.
- Animal noises are not specifically addressed, but would fall under the standard limitations.
- Certain uses are exempt, including construction, lawn care, legal business activities and municipally sanctioned events.
- Applies to residentially zoned land and inside of residences, regardless of district.

Staff will make adjustments as outlined by the Council and bring back a revised draft for discussion at the regular meeting next month. The intent is to hold a public hearing in August.

Presentations:

- Council held a public hearing on a budget amendment for the current fiscal year that addressed changes in the budget due primarily to funds being expended in the current fiscal year, rather than the previous one. This was adopted on a 3-1 vote, with Ms. Wheaton dissenting.
- Amherst County Parks and Recreation Director, Randy Nixon, appeared to request permission for a banner permit to advertise the County's Day at the Lake event. Approved by Council 4-0.
- Robin Davies, representing the Lions Club, came forward during citizen comment to request permission for a street closure at Lancer Lane for the annual Lions Club Wellness Event in September. Approved by Council 4-0.

Discussion Items:

- The Council appointed an interim Council member due to the resignation of Andra Higginbotham. There was a motion, second, and tied vote for Ventris Gibson. The Mayor broke the tie in favor of Ms. Gibson. She will serve until the certification of the vote and swearing in of a new Councilor after the next election.
- The Council considered an issue with an existing vehicle used for the Town Hall employees and the Council members. There have been complaints from Councilors stemming from water issues with the car. Council voted to decommission the car and consider purchase of a new car at a future meeting. The vote passed 4-0.
- Council made two reappointments on the Economic Development Authority. Mr. Manly Rucker and Ms. Jaynene Casey were both reappointed for four-year terms.
- Ms. June Driskill was recommended by Council for a reappointment by the Circuit Court for her position on the Board of Zoning Appeals.