

The Smithfield Town Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 1st, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Members present were Mr. T. Carter Williams, Mayor; Mr. Andrew Gregory, Vice Mayor; Mr. Michael Smith, Mrs. Denise Tynes, Dr. Milton Cook, and Mr. Randy Pack. Ms. Connie Chapman was absent. Staff members present were Mr. Peter M. Stephenson, Town Manager; Ms. Ellen Minga, Town Treasurer; Mr. Steven Bowman, Chief of Police; Mr. William H. Riddick, III, Town Attorney; Mrs. Lesley King, Town Clerk; Mr. Bill Davidson, Planning Commission Chairman; and Ms. Judy Winslow, Director of Tourism. There were sixteen (16) citizens present. The media was represented by Ms. Alyse Stanley of The Smithfield Times.

Mayor Williams – Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Smithfield Town Council meeting of September 1st, 2015. Thank you all for coming tonight. We will open the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Williams – We will start with the Informational Section with our Manager's Report from Mr. Peter Stephenson.

Town Manager – Thank you, Your Honor. Welcome everyone. The August Activity Report was included with the posting. We apologize due to vacation schedules we did not get everything posted until yesterday. Everything was posted on the town's website. The only change in the meeting schedule for the month of September is that we will not be having a Pinewood Heights Management team meeting next week on September 8th. Instead we will be having a Pinewood Heights Phase III Contract Negotiation meeting with state representatives. We received a one million dollar grant that was announced recently by the Governor's office. We are taking the opportunity to go ahead because those meetings are very difficult to schedule. So we are going to go ahead and do the Contract Negotiation meeting with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Town offices are closed September 7th in observance of Labor Day. We have a scheduled Planning Commission meeting on September 8th. The Board of Historic and Architectural Review will meet on September 15th. There will not be a Board of Zoning Appeals meeting this month. Our Council Committee meetings will be September 28th and 29th at 4:00 p.m. We have a need for a brief closed session this evening.

Mayor Williams – Does anyone have any questions for Mr. Stephenson? Hearing none, we will move to Public Comments. The public is invited to speak to Council on any matter except a scheduled public hearing. We do not have one tonight. Please use the appropriate signup sheet for public comments including your preferred method of contact. Comments are limited to five minutes per person. Any required response from the town will be provided in writing. Our first speaker is Mr. Eric Fly.

Mr. Fly – Mayor and members of the Town Council, I appreciate the opportunity to speak. I would like to speak about item C-4 on your consent agenda concerning the renewal of the vehicle maintenance contract. On May 23rd, 2012 the Town of Smithfield advertised for bids for the repairs on town vehicles. On June the 19th a letter from the Town Manager recognized that there were three companies in the Town of Smithfield that were certified by the state to be under state contract. Two of those companies for whatever reason in 2012 did not see the advertisement in the paper. Therefore, they did not bid. The town awarded the contract to a sole source repair facility in the Town of Smithfield. It was a one year contract with the option to renew the contract for three additional years. In 2013 a letter from the Town Manager to the Council asked for permission to renew the contract for the second period. In the contract the period of service is to be for one year with the option to renew for up to four more years. In that recommendation from the Town Manager he also asked for permission to produce another request for proposals. I am assuming he was granted permission. It stated that we would further recommend that staff be authorized to prepare a new RFP early next summer for the same in order to allow many of our other vehicle maintenance vendors in the community an opportunity once again to submit proposals for the Council's consideration. This was August 23rd of 2013. We would assume that the RFP would have gone out in the summer of 2014. It did not go out. It simply rotated again and the contract was renewed once again. I represent several companies in the Town of Smithfield. I work with them to increase their business and professionalism in certain areas. We would ask that you consider item C-4 to be put back out for bid or at least amending the contract in such a way that it would allow the three certified automobile repair companies in the town to take part in the bid process or the contract. In a small town sometimes companies feel like they have been stepped on when they are not allowed to bid or one sole source contract goes to one vendor. The three contractors

that the Town Manager mentions in his letter are Cofer's Auto, Brown's Automotive, and Dave's Service Center. You have the option, I believe to be able to send this back out to bid or modify it in some way. I would ask that you somehow work out tonight how these three companies might share in the business done with the Town of Smithfield. I have spoken with Brown's and Cofer's both again today. They both have a desire to do work for the Town of Smithfield since they have been here for thirty to forty years. They would ask that tonight the Town Council consider looking at this renewal of the bid process allowing them the opportunity to participate this year not next year. Thank you very much.

Mayor Williams – Thank you, Mr. Fly. Our next speaker is Dennis Arinello.

Mr. Arinello – I am a retired colonel for the United States Marine Corp. I reside at 113 Goose Hill Way. I would like to talk about the Pierceville development. I have in my possession two petitions that I would like to present to the Council. We believe they should have been passed to the Council last week as part of the Pierceville package but for whatever reason they were not. I would like to encourage the Council to reach out to the people that have signed the petitions. It is well over three hundred names. They are all around the Pierceville tract between Goose Hill, Grace Street, and merchants on Main Street. They are young and old, middle aged, longtime residents, and new arrivals. Your Honor, we are befuddled. The Hearndon Development, for at least the ten months I have been watching this case, has had an opportunity to make its case for the development. It has been more than six months since the initial concept plan that was accepted formally by the town was submitted to the Planning Commission. There has been a concerted effort by a number of the town residents who have made convincing arguments I believe in terms of the recommendation for the type of rezoning and why it should not happen. I would like to applaud Mr. Pack and Vice Mayor Gregory both for voicing their empathy for the residents' concerns. The commission made a recommendation to withdraw the conceptual plan from the Planning Commission on the grounds that it was incomplete. Another ninety days passed before the development's liaison again submitted another plan on June 9th. The Hearndon Development has had so many opportunities to make further refinements to a conceptual plan proposal before the August 11th meeting. The commission decided to vote no to change the Future Land Use map. More importantly, they voted no for the Hearndon Development conceptual

plan. These votes deserve to be respected and not pushed aside, discounted, or circumvented. We ask you to take a look at what we are asking. We realize the property will eventually be developed but one hundred and fifty-one tract homes that are under the ruse of starter homes in excess of \$250,000.00 is not the right development for that property. That is why we are not keen to agree to this proposal. We are all very eager to help you maintain a high quality of life in historic Smithfield. That is why I moved here over a year ago from Virginia Beach. I hope the Town Council will take that in vain. I challenge the Council to recruit us to help you determine the best way to develop the property so that we can maintain the high quality of life in Smithfield. We are the constituents. We pay taxes so we should have some say as to what happens in the town. One hundred and fifty-one tract homes is not the best way to go. Thank you very much.

Mayor Williams – Our next speaker is Sharla Braunhardt.

Ms. Braunhardt – I live at 101 Goose Hill Way. I stand with the petitioners against this proposed development on the historical Pierceville land. I have read and studied the developer's proposals several times. I have listened to two presentations that the developer's representatives have made. I can go on about specific objections I have to what I believe to be faulty data used to promote this development. The bottom line is that this proposal does not make sense for the historic area, Smithfield as a whole, or Isle of Wight County. This is prime historic land. I think that fact alone dictates that we should be very careful and deliberate in our decision making. I stated at the Planning Commission meeting last month that a developer makes his money based on the number of units sold. High density is in the developer's interest not ours. He will pocket his money then move on. The taxpayers are left having to fill in the holes in the infrastructure. The developer is offering the town under \$2,500.00 per unit in proffers. For the proposed one hundred and fifty-one units that is only \$378,000.00. It does not even begin to cover the resulting infrastructure needs such as rescue squads, fire, police, traffic concerns, and stormwater issues. Where is the County's proffer? The County's estimate as to what will be required to cover infrastructure costs would be in the neighborhood of \$7,600.00 per unit. The Council may not be concerned with the county's portion of any proffer but I guarantee the taxpayer is. We are the ones who will be further burdened by increased taxes to try to play catch up on infrastructure

requirements. How does this make sense? The developer wants to add a possible three hundred cars to the downtown historic area. According to his traffic analysis he proposes to merely restripe a lane. Even a cursory study of the analysis reveals that the traffic counts are estimates rather than actual traffic counts. At least two years of traffic numbers are totally left out. This invalidates the entire study. Where is the common sense? I will let someone else who is more versed in the historical aspect of the land address those concerns. I respectfully request that the Town Council listen to the ever growing number of taxpayers and business owners who are dead set against this development. As you consider this proposal over the next few months please do not ignore our voices. Thank you.

Mayor Williams – Our next speaker is R.B. Braunhardt.

Mr. Braunhardt – I will wait for another day.

Mayor Williams – Next we have Mark Gay.

Mr. Gay – I am going to defer Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Williams – No one else is signed up. Is there anyone else who did not sign up that would like to address the Council? Hearing none, we will close public comments. Thank you all. We will now move to Council Comments.

Councilwoman Tynes – I would like to introduce to you to the new Isle of Wight Superintendent, Dr. Jim Thornton. He is from Boston, Massachusetts. The last eleven years he resided in Mecklenburg County, Virginia as a superintendent. Dr. Thornton has a Doctorate of Education in leadership and policy from Virginia Tech. He has a Masters of Education degree in supervision and administration from Virginia State University. He has a Bachelor's of Science in mathematics from Longwood University. He is married to his wife Mary. Their son Sean is a student at Tidewater Community College in Virginia Beach. Their daughter Kelsey is a freshman at Virginia Tech as well as a junior. She was able to finish her high school in Mecklenburg with an Associate's Degree. Dr. Thornton lives on Drummonds Lane in Smithfield. He is a marathon runner. I mentioned to him about our Bacon Fest coming up. He will not be able to do it but he would ask his son to do it. He had already signed up for a marathon in Chicago. He runs in Windsor Castle Park every day.

Mayor Williams – Welcome to Smithfield, Dr. Thornton.

Dr. Thornton – I just wanted to say that I am a resident as Mrs. Tynes stated. My wife and I have enjoyed Windsor Castle Park very much. We have enjoyed walking in the historic district and the different restaurants. We have really enjoyed Smithfield and Isle of Wight County so far.

Mayor Williams – Welcome. Are there any other Council comments?

Councilman Dr. Cook – We have been telling the County since last spring and at the last Intergovernmental meeting that if they are planning on building a water line to our northeast side of the county to get to Gatling Pointe that they have to also plan on servicing it with sewer. On Thursday they voted to fund or to start planning the project of the water line to Gatling Pointe without any mention of sewer. We have jokingly said that if the contract runs out with sewer and they build the water line then we will turn the sewer off and let them deal with it. We all know we cannot do that. However, we need to encourage them that if they are going to push the water line they have to build the sewer. I do not know what our next step is but we need to do something to let them know we are serious. They need to investigate the sewer and the cost involved in addition to the water. What they are doing now is kind of putting out a lower cost because it is just water but they need to publicize if they do the sewer too. The cost will sky rocket.

Town Attorney – Mr. Mayor, for the record the issue is not so much that we are demanding that they do one with the other. We have no agreements with them. The Town Manager has put them on notice that their agreements have expired. They have refused to respond to that issue. We cannot continue to provide utilities without an agreement. The issue is not so much one without the other as it is that we have to come to a mutual agreement with respect to the utilities. It is a matter we need to discuss further. I need to discuss it with you as legal counsel in that regard.

Mayor Williams – The Town Manager has sent a couple of letters and followed up with letters. I have talked to three members of the Board of Supervisors to let them know that they do not have a contract with us.

Vice Mayor Gregory – I attended the Board of Supervisors meeting last Thursday and provided three minutes of comments during the public comments section. I am glad we offer five minutes. I provided my written comments via email to all members of the Board of Supervisors and to the County Administrator, Ms. Seward. I received a

response from one member of the Board who has offered to meet initially one on one to hear our concerns. My biggest concern from sitting through the meeting they proceeded with the vote and multiple Board of Supervisor's saw this as a "win, win." They used that terminology for both the town and the county. They know that it is a \$250,000.00 or more hit to the town's pocket book and the revenue of the citizens of the town. So that was a bit frustrating. We will have to continue to get the message across. At no point during the meeting was sewer mentioned or the fact that we only charge .12 per thousand gallons on the sewer that we provide. They definitely mentioned the increase in the water rate but no mention of the deal that they receive from the sewer perspective. We are all frustrated but will continue to do everything we can to get the message across.

Councilman Smith - I talked to Public Works staff today about this same subject. There are always hidden costs in releasing something to another entity like the County. It is easy to say that we are going to cut something off but we do not have a shutoff valve. A shutoff valve to the County to stop the sewage flowing would cost about \$10,000.00. It needs to be included in their responsibility and not the towns. I do not think we need to absorb a shutoff valve if they want to take over the sewer lines. I want to make sure that we are not spending money in hidden costs just because we cut something off.

Mayor Williams – Hearing no other Council comments, we will move to the Consent Agenda Items. We have seven items on the consent agenda. These are items that we have discussed in committee. Each Chair of these committees gives us a brief outline of what we discussed. Would any Council member like to pull any of these items for further discussion?

Councilman Pack – I would like to pull item C-4 for consideration this evening.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I would like to pull item C-6.

Mayor Williams – We will pull item C-4 and C-6. We will move to the Police Committee Chair, Mrs. Denise Tynes.

Councilwoman Tynes – Police Committee Summary. We have a motion to approve the purchase of Tasers for the Smithfield Police Department in the amount of \$22,073.38 from the operating reserves. They prefer to use the Tasers because it is

less lethal than using something lethal in a violent situation. We would like to update Tasers to make sure they are functioning.

Mayor Williams – We will move to Water and Sewer Committee Chairman, Mr. Andrew Gregory.

Vice Mayor Gregory – Water and Sewer Committee Summary. We have a motion to approve the proposal from Lewis Construction to spend roughly \$25,000.00 to extend new sewer lateral lines to the houses along South Mason and Cedar Street. This completes the underground portion of the scope of work for that section. I believe during the committee meeting we were assured that it means we might actually be able to do the overlay on those streets once that is complete. I know everybody has been eager to ask about Main Street but we are not there yet.

Mayor Williams – We now move to Finance Committee Chairman, Mr. Randy Pack.

Councilman Pack – Finance Committee Summary. We have two invoices that are in excess of \$10,000.00 which require Council's authorization. The first invoice is Alpha Corporation for preliminary work for the Police Evidence Storage Building for \$14,737.71. The second invoice is to REW Corporation for \$15,928.00. It is for two pump stations which require some electrical work. I would like to mention almost every single month we have a bill for \$15,000.00 for pump stations maintenance. So we know that pump stations are expensive to maintain. As we look out at the possibility of annexation it is something that we need to consider. If any new pump station that is built in the town is going to add about \$15,000.00 to \$18,000.00 per year in maintenance. Pump stations take a lot to maintain. I have been told that you can get a beach towel to a pump station from your home somehow and they cause quite a bit of damage. We are recommending these invoices for approval for payment. We are pulling item C-4 for discussion. The next item is a motion to approve the software service agreement contract with MUNIS. It is a very thorough contract that we reviewed at committee to bring our Treasurer's office online with MUNIS. It will bring them back into the 21st century. We have budgeted for it for several years but we have not felt we could handle it until this year. I know the Treasurer's office will be very happy to see us move forward with this. We recommend software service agreement contract with MUNIS for approval this evening.

Mayor Williams – We now move to Public Works Committee Chairman, Mr. Michael Smith.

Councilman Smith – Public Works Summary. Item C-6 has been pulled from the agenda. Item C-7 is a motion to renew the HVAC maintenance and repair contract with Atlantic Constructors with a 3% increase in their rates. We have been very satisfied with their performance. They are certified and have all the credentials they need to work on the HVAC. They are very professional. We recommend that this contract be approved.

Mayor Williams – We have completed items C-1, C-2, C-3, C-5, and C-7 on the consent agenda. Do I have a motion to approve the consent agenda items with the exception of items C-4 and C-6?

Vice Mayor Gregory – I would like to make a motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of items C-4 and C-6.

C1. Motion to Approve the Purchase of Tasers for the Smithfield Police Department in the Amount of \$22,073.38 from Operating Reserves.

C2. Motion to Approve Proposal from Lewis Construction of Virginia LLC for South Mason Street and Cedar Street Water and Sewer Lateral Work in the Amount of \$25,926.55.

C3. Invoices Over \$10,000 Requiring Council Authorization:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| a. Alpha Corporation | \$14,737.71 |
| b. REW Corporation | \$15,928.00 |

C4. Pulled from Consent Agenda.

C5. Motion to Approve Software Service Agreement Contract with MUNIS.

C6. Pulled from Consent Agenda.

C7. Motion to Renew HVAC Maintenance and Repair Contract with Atlantic Constructors with a 3% Increase in their Rates.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, roll call vote.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Item C-4 is a Motion to Renew the Vehicle Maintenance Contract with Dave's Service Center for One Additional Year. We will have consideration by Mr. Randy Pack.

Councilman Pack – I pulled this item in light of the public comments we had today. The Town Manager mentioned that this may need to be discussed. It is a motion to renew a vehicle maintenance contract with Dave's Service Center for one additional year. In speaking with town staff they are happy with the services they are receiving from Dave's Service Center. He tends to go above and beyond for his customers. The gentleman who spoke earlier mentioned sharing services between the three. It is my understanding it is not a very practical way of keeping good records on our vehicles and getting the same level of service for those vehicles. Do you have any comments Mr. Stephenson?

Town Manager – I do not have any comments.

Councilman Pack – Are there any other Council comments?

Councilman Smith – We discussed this earlier in our committee meeting. There has been ample time. Mr. Eric Fly do you represent Dave's Service Center?

Mr. Fly – No.

Councilman Smith – Your representation is for Brown's Automotive only.

Mr. Fly – Cofer's Auto also gave us permission to speak for them.

Councilman Smith – I have spoken to Cofer's Automotive in the past about these things. They seemed to be disinterested in it in the past but maybe they changed their minds. We have been very satisfied with Dave's Service Center. We have put stipulations on him for strict record keeping for the town to maintain these vehicles. He has done that. Everybody has been pleased. He does things above and beyond not just free towing for the town. He vacuums the cars and does things that are not required. At this time I would like to see us continue contract for one more year and then we can reconsider the other companies in town. I want to be involved with them but I think it is a little late to try to bring this back to committee at this time.

Mr. Fly – Speaking with Cofer's today, they had a little confusion on their part between the town contract and the county contract. The county contract requires them to project out twelve to twenty-four months for transmissions and engines. They are very hard to predict price wise. Cofer's reluctance was because they were under the

assumption that it was a town and county contract. Once it was explained to them that it was a town contract for maintenance and oil changes and does not require a projection of transmissions and engines they wanted to participate. Mr. Smith, there is no dispute that Dave's Service Center is an outstanding company. They have done an outstanding job for the town. I think everyone that has done business with them has been pleased. Brown's Automotive would like an opportunity to at least bid. At the beginning of this project in May, 2012 there was an advertisement. It was in the paper for one day and then ten days later the packages were due. From a government perspective it was a very short window of time. There was one advertisement. Most people missed it in the paper. There was a very short time to respond to the bid process. It is a little unusual for governments to be that short. Subsequently these businesses that did not see it in the paper have asked to have an opportunity to respond or to bid. I understand the concern with the record keeping. It is a cumbersome process to keep records organized. There was hope with the August 23rd, 2013 letter where you authorized the Town Manager to put it back out to bid. So that bid process would have taken place in the summer of 2014 but for some reason that did not take place. You gave approval for the bid process to take place. Not to stand up here and belabor the point but we would ask the Town Council to keep that commitment that you made in the summer of 2013. We would ask you to keep that commitment to send this back out to bid so that other businesses in the Town of Smithfield have an opportunity to do business with the town. I do not think you will find anyone who will dispute that Cofer's Auto and Brown's Automotive are also fine companies and would do a fine job. I would ask that you honor the commitment that you made in 2013 to send this out to bid.

Town Attorney – Mr. Fly, you met with the Town Manager today.

Mr. Fly – Yes.

Town Attorney – Are you satisfied that the town has complied with everything?

Mr. Fly – Yes.

Town Attorney – There is no question that the procurement was complied with and that the contract is currently valid and legal.

Mr. Fly – Yes.

Town Attorney – So that is not an issue. You are just asking for an opportunity to rebid it.

Mr. Fly – It is not an issue. They just want an opportunity to bid on it.

Town Attorney – There is no allegation of wrongdoing.

Mr. Fly – There is no allegation of wrongdoing.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I was going to ask you if the initial 2012 bid had been completely legal as far as advertising so that answers my question.

Town Manager – It was actually more than 10 days to respond.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Everybody has said it but I want to hear the Town Manager say it. Are you completely satisfied with the service we are getting from Dave's Service Center?

Town Manager – Yes.

Councilman Pack – How many years are left and how often are they rebid? Will it be a forced rebid in 2017?

Town Manager – It will be next summer. You cannot extend beyond August 31st of 2016. We will have to rebid it. I will not wait until the last minute. We will have it rebid early next summer so that we are prepared to take it to committee in advance. Everyone will know and have plenty of time. This is the last extension for one year.

Councilman Pack – I would like to make a motion that we renew the vehicle maintenance contract with Dave's Service Center for one additional year making sure that we send out the requests for proposals and advertised with plenty of time for the August 31st, 2016 deadline.

Councilman Smith – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion? Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – We will move to item C-6. We will have consideration by Mr. Mike Smith.

Councilman Smith – We have a Motion to Expend the Budgeted Funds for the Design of the West Main Street and Great Springs Road Sidewalk Project Administered by Isle of Wight County.

Councilman Dr. Cook – We discussed this with the County staff on Tuesday during our Public Works Committee. I cannot vote to spend money on a project that is moving forward outside of its initial purpose. The project was initially designed as a safe route to schools program for sidewalks to Westside Elementary School. They received federal grants to do that. They are asking us to spend \$100,000.00 to assist with that. The school system has back out because it is against policy to let kids walk to Westside Elementary School. I agree that fourth graders should not walk to school from downtown. So the county decided to continue with the project and rename it. I think they are just trying to spend federal money. It is not their money is the way they look at it. I think it is a waste of money. There is already a sidewalk servicing that area from downtown towards Westside on one side of the street. They are just duplicating it to add a sidewalk on the other side of the street. The area that does not have a sidewalk is in front of Little's Supermarket. I can understand people wanting to dress that up and make it a bit more finished. When someone eventually buys Little's Supermarket they will put a sidewalk and make entrances according to whatever they buy Little's for. I think for us to put a sidewalk there now with entrances and exits is kind of jumping the gun and a waste of money. There are parts of town that do not have a sidewalk that desperately need it such as South Church Street. You cannot get from Royal Farms to downtown on a sidewalk you have to walk down the street. I think that money would be better spent somewhere else such as South Church Street where it is needed not a duplication of something that is already there. I know this is a great deal for the town. We only spend \$100,000.00 on an \$800,000.00 project. However, it is still our taxpayers' money being spent through the federal government, state government, county, and the town. I cannot support the project the way they have it presented.

Councilman Tynes – I agree with Dr. Cook. I would also like to say that we were thinking about the dangers on Route 258. There is a lot of travel with large trucks. There is major traffic all day on Route 258. It is dangerous for adults to be there at certain times of the day. We definitely do not want children out there so that is why the school is not participating. The sidewalks exist on West Main Street all the way to Westside Elementary School and a little past the restaurants. On Church Street from Royal Farms to the bridge there are no sidewalks. We get a lot of pedestrians walking there especially during the summer months when children are out of school. I have seen a lot

of them with their skate boards going down the highway. It is dangerous. We try to protect all of the citizens in town. If we are going to spend \$100,000.00 I think we need to reroute over on Church Street where we do not have sidewalks for our citizens to be safe. Even if we just put it on one side like on West Main Street.

Councilman Smith – Are we committed to this project with Isle of Wight County at this time?

Town Manager – We do have \$100,000.00 in the Capital Improvement Program for the Great Springs Road sidewalk. It is in the adopted budget focused on Great Springs Road for part of the overall project. We do not have any particular memorandum of agreement. We have not entered into any agreements with VDOT yet on this project.

Councilwoman Tynes – The Great Springs Road Project would be our own project not part of that project.

Town Manager – It is part of that project also. If we do not proceed with this overall then we would have to pull that out to find out what that cost would be. I would certainly recommend that we not abandon that which is in your CIP and budget. The link between the 7-Eleven and the Lakeside neighborhood needs to happen.

Councilman Tynes – It is important because Council addressed that before the County came on board. We addressed it last year when we were thinking about the ballpark coming off of Great Springs Road but that changed. We still want to put that path in there. If we could not afford to put a concrete type walkway on Great Springs Road from the 7-Eleven to Quail Street then we can put some type of rock foot path like we have at Windsor Castle Park. The whole thing is just to keep the citizens safe and utilize that road.

Town Manager – Absolutely.

Mayor Williams – The sidewalk on West Main Street is funded by the government. If the money is not used on that it dissipates. There is a sidewalk on one side of the road which seems to be working well but it will enhance and beautify the other side of the road from what we have now. It will make it look a whole lot better. We need to help that end of Smithfield and Main Street. I am afraid that if we do not approve this then there goes the Great Spring Road sidewalk. I do not know how much that is going to cost. It will piggy back right back on top of us again. We have been talking about this for

about ten years. I have three reasons. The first is it is already funded. The second is that if it is not used it is going to go somewhere else. The money is going to be spent. It is the taxpayer's money which is going to be spent on something why not help to beautify that end of the town and help the Great Springs Road sidewalk.

Councilman Smith – I sort of agree with all of you. The government wants safe routes to schools but you cannot let them walk to school. It seems sort of redundant. I talked to our Planning and Zoning Administrator about some of these sidewalks. His hope is that these sidewalks will create proper entrances to businesses. I see both sides about not spending the taxpayer's money. I also understand that it is already out there. I know if you turn down a project the government sort of says if you do not want their funds then we will not consider you for the next project. It is a difficult decision to make. I think it would beautify that end of town. I know we have projects going on with South Church Street that we are trying to work on. I am all for continuing to make that end of town look good. We might not have a Cary and Main Street development so at least we could have a nice sidewalk in lieu of that.

Councilman Pack – One other benefit to this project is that it puts a four-way crossing at the intersection of Route 10, Main Street, and West Main Street with controlled push button crosswalks. It makes controlled crossings there for our residents. Part of it also addresses the VDOT parking lot on the corner of West Main Street and Route 10 that is currently graveled. It would certainly beautify that small portion of property as well. With the four-way crossing at Route 10 it is a pretty big deal for the people trying to cross back and forth.

Mayor Williams – Did the developer's representative answer that question?

Councilman Pack – Yes.

Mayor Williams – She said that it would be one on that side of the road too.

Councilman Pack – Yes. For a \$100,000.00 investment from the town it is a deal. Dr. Cook, I respect your opinion. We all wonder when the federal government blowing our money is going to stop and if we should take advantage of it in our area. I do not know. I am kind of thinking we should get what we can while we can. It makes sense for us.

Councilwoman Tynes – Are they going to use the \$100,000.00 where we have directed it to go?

Councilman Smith – We do not know.

Councilwoman Tynes – If we cannot put it on Church Street where there is a need then use it for what they designated it for.

Vice Mayor Gregory – I do not know if we wanted to do Great Springs Road on our own that \$100,000.00 would do it. I agree with some of the things that Dr. Cook was saying. If we do not do it this way it will probably cost the town taxpayers more money in order to do the same things that we would like to accomplish. The County is going to move forward with the other portions with federal funds. If everybody said no then it would work but we know that is not going to be the case. The tax dollars that we send to the federal government are going to be spent. We have to acknowledge that reality. The universe that we live in is not going to change. It would be nice for it to benefit the people locally that are paying their fair share. It is also about connectivity. There is too much of a divide between West Main Street and Main Street. The more things we can do to connect those communities and make that intersection safe the more likely people will go both ways to cross the street. There may be ballfields down the street one day. I think there are more positives than the couple of negatives that were mentioned so for that reason I am going to support it.

Councilman Smith – I travel that intersection a lot. It is a tremendous amount of foot traffic there. There are a lot of people in wheelchairs that cross that intersection. It is dangerous. I think the more activity with more stoplights and slowing traffic down would benefit this area. I agree with Vice Mayor Gregory about connecting that end of town. It is a must. Are there any more comments? Hearing none, I would like to make a motion to expend the budgeted funds for the design of the West Main Street and the Great Springs Road Sidewalk Project administered by the Isle of Wight County.

Vice Mayor Gregory – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion? Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Councilman Smith voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted nay, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There was one vote against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – The motion passes five to one. We move to the Action Section. Our next item is a Motion to Approve the Town Council Meeting Minutes of August 4th, 2015.

Town Attorney – Mr. Mayor and members of Council, I would recommend the minutes be approved as presented.

Councilman Smith – So moved.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. All in favor say aye, opposed say nay.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Councilman Smith voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – We move to New Business. You received in your packet the Community of Friendship Project consent proposal. Mr. Dennis Treacy from Smithfield Foods wanted to talk about the mayor of Luohe, China. He invited me and Ms. Anne Seward, County Administrator to talk about the Community of Friendship Project proposal. The mayor of Luohe wants to come visit us in Isle of Wight and Smithfield. He is the mayor of a town with close to three million people. The HW Corporation owns Smithfield Foods which is in that town. The mayor from China wanted to come right away. With that being a communist country, he has to be invited to wherever he goes in the world. They have to approve him being there. Smithfield Foods said that they would write the invitation and have it to us by this meeting. As we found out, somebody said that instead of just the mayor we should invite a contingent of people from Luohe, China to come. If you read the Daily Press on August 31st Mr. Ryan Murphy wrote about Isle of Wight County's meeting last Thursday. Ms. Anne Seward said they are looking forward to them coming to Isle of Wight County. Isle of Wight County wanted to send the invitation to the mayor. It is not the way it happened. Smithfield is involved in this also. Smithfield Foods is the one who wants to write the letter. The county and the town will critique the letter to make sure it is written properly. Smithfield Foods will extend the invitation for the town and the county. I will open this for discussion. I am looking for the Council to be in agreement that we should move forward with this. I thought of a lot of

good things we could talk about the youth, education, and the two different countries. We could also talk about arts, culture, business, trade, municipal exchange, and community development. One of the good things I see about it is like Isle of Wight, England when they came to visit. We sent a contingent from Smithfield to visit Isle of Wight, England. Are there any questions or comments?

Vice Mayor Gregory – Mr. Mayor, I would like to make a motion that we approve the invitation to the mayor and their contingency from Luohe, China.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Councilman Smith voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Is there anymore new business to come before Council? Hearing none, we will move to Old Business. Is there any old business to discuss? Hearing none, we will move now to our Closed Session.

Town Attorney – Mr. Mayor, you need a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the acquisition or disposition of real property for public purposes and a discussion of legal matters requiring legal advice by legal counsel pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.4 and Section 2.2-3711.A.7 Code of Virginia.

Vice Mayor Gregory – So moved.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Town Council went into closed session at 8:27 p.m.

Town Council came out of closed session at 9:05 p.m.

Town Attorney – Mr. Mayor, we need a motion that during the closed session there was only a discussion of the acquisition or disposition of real property for public purposes and a discussion of legal matters requiring legal advice by legal counsel pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.4 and Section 2.2-3711.A.7 Code of Virginia.

Vice Mayor Gregory – So moved

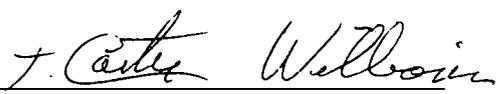
Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. All in favor say aye, opposed say nay.

On call for the vote, six members were present. Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Councilman Smith voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Is there anything else to come before Council tonight? Hearing none, we stand adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.



Mr. T. Carter Williams
Mayor



Peter Stephenson, AICP, ICMA-CM
Town Manager