

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 9th, 2015 at 7:30pm in the conference room of the Town Hall.

Present:

Mayor Russell Eason
Commissioner Al Searles
Commissioner Scotty Smith
Commissioner Joal Smith
Commissioner Tommy Jones
Commissioner Dr. Owen Martin

Also Present:

Town Clerk, Lea Futrell
Code Enforcement Officer, Ed Collins
Fire Chief, John Blackmore
Police Chief, Eric Southerland
Town Attorney Jene Thompson

Number of citizens present was 2.

Mayor Russell Eason opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing:

There was a motion by Commissioner Jones and second by Commissioner Joal Smith to open the public hearing. With a unanimous vote the second public hearing for the FY2015 CDBG Infrastructure Program was opened by the Mayor.

Trey Gurley with McDavid Associates, Inc. stated that the public hearing this evening was the second public hearing and was to receive citizen input on a defined project scope for water line and sanitary sewer replacement based on a distributed map exhibit.

Trey Gurley presented the following data:

The Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI) will have \$26,000,000 available for fiscal year 2015. DWI will make available \$13,000,000 in a March 31, 2015 application round and \$13,000,000 in a September 30, 2015 application round.

CDBG-Infrastructure (CDBG-I) funds can be used for water and sewer infrastructure improvements

The proposed grant request will be approximately \$3,000,000 and will benefit over 61% LMI people.

The proposed project will replace waterlines within the Town that are contributing to excess water losses, providing an area-wide benefit to all residents. The proposed project will help reduce water loss by replacing existing water lines.

During the public comment phase, citizens may comment on the proposed water project described above.

The proposed application will not make changes to other programs in the Town and therefore will receive comment only on the proposed project.

Citizens may submit written complaints and/or grievances within 7 days of this hearing to:

Crystal Lea Futrell, Town Clerk
P.O. Box 464– Warsaw, NC 28398
(910) 293-7814

Commissioner Martin asked if this project would affect driveways. Mr. Gurley advised that if a driveway was affected they would make every effort to only affect that area for an hour at a time.

Commissioner Joal Smith asked about the 12 inch lines that the State paid to have run out to I-40 being connected to a 6 inch cast iron line. Mr. Gurley advised that the plan would include picking up where the 12 inch line started and replace those cast iron lines with a 12 inch PVC line all the way back to Cross St.

Commissioner Joal Smith also asked about how it would affect the resurfacing job that the State is about to begin on College St. Mr. Gurley advised that they are going to make every effort to put lines outside of the pavement beyond the curbs.

Motion made by Commissioner Joal Smith and seconded by Commissioner Jones to adopt a resolution to continue with the CDBG Infrastructure grant application. The vote was unanimous.

There being no comments, there was a motion by Commissioner Joal Smith and second by Commissioner Jones to close public hearing. With a unanimous vote the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Eason asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the February 9th, 2015 meeting.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Public Comments:

Mayor Eason asked for a motion to open public comments.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made the motion to open for public comments. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to open for public comment.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made the motion to close public comments. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to close for public comment.

Consideration of Approval of Updated Town Records Retention & Disposition Schedule:

Under NCGS 121-5 and NCGS 132-3 local governments may only destroy public records with the consent and approval of the NC Dept. of Cultural Resources. The board is asked to accept the amendment to add Item 136, Law Enforcement Audio and Video Recordings and an amendment to Item 19, employee Eligibility Records.

Motion was made by Commissioner Joal Smith and seconded by Commissioner Martin to accept these amendments.

Vote was unanimous to accept the amendments to the Records Retention Schedule.

Consideration of Resolution for Surplus Property Disposition:

Under NCGS 160-A-266, the Town is authorized to dispose of property with a value of less than \$30,000. A list of equipment was provided that is to be disposed of. A resolution was given authorizing the staff to move forward with disposing these items.

Commissioner Joal Smith made the motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous to adopt the resolution declaring certain property surplus and authorizing its disposition.

Consideration of Approval of Tax Releases:

The Town has received seventeen (17) tax release requests for various reasons from the County. The board was asked to review and approve the tax release requests.

Commissioner Searles made the motion to approve the tax releases from the County. Commissioner Joal Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the tax releases from the County.

Mayor's Update:

Mayor made no comments.

Manager's Report:

Fundraising for Memorial Park Renovation Project

The fundraising subcommittee, which is a subcommittee of the Recreation Committee, has met to review approaches to large businesses to partner in the Memorial Park Renovation Project. A list of businesses has been generated, and within the next week the fundraising subcommittee will be assigning people to approach these particular businesses. Duke Energy has stated that there may be a possibility where they could assist financially in some way with the renovation project; however, we are waiting to hear back for a confirmation.

Update on traffic light at US 117 and Hill Street Intersection

I still have not received a confirmed date from the Department of Transportation as to when they plan to perform the second traffic count at this intersection. I had requested either March 6th or March 13th to perform the study. Once I learn of a confirmed date, I will notify all members of the Board.

Update on DOT Enhancement Project Downtown Railroad Street

As you recall, the Town had applied for enhancement funds from the Department of Transportation for streetscape work on Railroad Street, from College Street to Hill Street. The amount of the DOT Enhancement grant was \$50,000. The purpose of this project is to perform work on this stretch of Railroad Street to match the streetscape on Front Street. While DOT has said that the Town would be responsible for drainage repairs in this section, we still had to wait for DOT to provide confirmation as to what DOT would pay for regarding other streetscape enhancement items. This past month, we have received final confirmation regarding the items DOT would pay for. Also, after discussions with DOT they have allocated an additional \$20,000 towards the project for a total possible DOT grant of up to \$70,000. The Town's engineer, McDavid & Associates, is administering the project and has provided a tentative budget and timeline for the project which is attached.

Solar Farm Projects

This past month, work has progressed on the large 65MW solar farm project on the outskirts of Town. They have come close to finalizing logistics such as parking

arrangements for workers for the site, and lodging for employees. Regarding lodging, Strata Solar's plans are to book a group of hotel rooms as well as rent some housing in Town for employees during the duration of the project.

Regarding the Town's solar farm project on the old WWTP sprayfield, we are waiting for Duke Energy to perform their required study of the site to provide approval for the farm to be connected to Duke's substation. Due to the amount of solar projects already in review, it has taken a while for them to get to our project. We have received word that Duke Energy should be able to start their study of the project site within a month, and the study process usually takes approximately 30 days. Once this process is completed, Strata expects to begin construction of the Town's solar farm project during the Summer or early Fall. Strata has agreed to go ahead and make the first \$50,000 lease payment to the Town for the property (Copy of check attached).

Warsaw Economic Development Advisory Committee

This past month, I have worked on a draft for by-laws regarding the recently created Economic Development Advisory Committee. I will have this for presentation at the April Board meeting, for review and consideration by the Board. I am also compiling a list of potential candidates for the committee which would provide representation in the key targeted areas mentioned last month (i.e., banking sector, real estate sector, downtown business, etc.)

Cemetery Ordinance

I have made some revisions to the proposed cemetery ordinance, and I will be presenting the revised ordinance to the Board at the April meeting.

Budget and Planning Retreat

The Board's Budget and Planning Retreat is scheduled for Friday, March 20th at 9:30am. This will be an all day meeting with lunch being provided. The purpose of the retreat is to discuss departmental priorities for the upcoming Budget year, review of key information, and a strategic planning session with the Board of Commissioners to determine priorities for the upcoming 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Department Budget Breakdown reports

Individual budget breakdown reports for each department (Wellness Center, Police Department, Administration, Public Works, etc.) will be distributed at the Board meeting Monday evening.

Board Comments:

No board comments were made.

Closed Session:

Mayor Russell Eason asked the board to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(6).

Commissioner Jones made the motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Searles seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to go into closed session.

Commissioner Martin made the motion to return to open session. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to return to open session.

Commissioner Joal Smith made a motion to give a 10% raise to the Town Manager for fiscal year 2015/2016. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to give the Town Manager a 10% raise in fiscal year 2015/2016.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Jones made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Joal Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor

Attest

Town Clerk