

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 10th, 2015 at 7:30pm in the conference room of the Town Hall.

Present:

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

Also Present:

Town Manager, Shawn Condon
Town Clerk, Lea Futrell
Code Enforcement Officer, Ed Collins
Public Works Director, Ivey Knowles
Wellness & Recreation Director, Josh Crowell
Police Captain, Patrick Giddeons
Town Attorney, Jene Thompson
Fire Chief, John Blackmore

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

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Eason asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the July 13th, 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 Joal Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to open for public comment.

Thomasina Williams shared her utility bills with the board. Ms. Williams advised that this month she was sent a copy of the Master Customer Balance Report which she found difficult to read and understand. Ms. Williams also advised that she received the post card bills. Ms. Williams advised that she would like to receive the report in the format she had been receiving so that she could understand how much she owed.

Ms. Williams also advised she had reviewed the personnel policy and she had found if the employee has problems the department head should discuss the matter with the employee and offer 5 days notice. The RIF policy was also reviewed. Ms. Williams stated that due to these policies which were not followed the Manager may have been given too many "hats".

Ms. Jesse Ladson spoke in reference to activities for Memorial Day. Ms Ladson was advised that Memorial Day is not about fireworks or bouncy houses but a day of remembrance of the veterans.

Ms. Ladson also asked if anyone had been supervising the children at the playground area at the Wellness Center. Ms. Ladson stated that with no adult supervision the children are climbing over fences which repairs could cost the town more money. Ms. Ladson advised if the children were not going to be supervised then maybe the park needs to be shut down.

Mr. Marvin Coe spoke about his water bill. Mr. Coe advised that he has an in-ground pool in his yard. Mr. Coe advised that when he calls about filling up his pool he has been getting an adjustment but his water is being adjusted not the sewer. Mr. Coe also spoke about previous problems he had with the sewer in his home. Mr. Coe was advised that his adjustments would be reviewed.

Mr. Coe also asked about the Town paying for cemetery maintenance when people from this town are not even buried in the cemetery.

Ms. Veronica Nicole Hicks read a letter in reference to budget problems and raises for the employees. This letter also referenced cemetery maintenance and town employees driving their work vehicles home. This letter also asked for the resignation of Town Manager, Shawn Condon.

Ms. Yolanda Faison stated that she had concerns about growth in the community. Ms. Faison advised that she had spoken with the manager about this growth and that he had advised that he was concerned about this growth as well. Ms. Faison advised that she had not seen this growth. Ms. Faison advised that when she was younger there were things for children to do but now there is nothing for the children to do. Ms. Faison also spoke towards the Veterans Day parade and how each year it gets shorter and shorter. Ms. Faison also spoke about the animosity in the town.

Ms. Pat Kelly-Royal stated that in the past the podium was to the side so that people could speak without their back to the audience. Ms. Kelly-Royal advised that change was not always the best. Ms. Kelly-Royal advised that an emergency meeting had been denied so she was now presenting to the board. Ms. Kelly-Royal advised that they were just trying to see if they could get another position for Ms. Best. Ms. Kelly-Royal advised that this was the reasoning for the picket. Ms. Kelly-Royal advised that individuals were saying that they were being spoken to rudely while paying bills. Ms. Kelly-Royal stated

that this just says that the manager does not have control over his employees. Ms. Kelly-Royal also stated that she had received calls from newspapers, radio stations and news channels.

Ms. Kelly-Royal was asked by Commissioner Joal Smith what it was they wanted. Ms. Kelly-Royal advised they wanted the Town to find a position for Ms. Best. Commissioner Joal Smith advised that was not going to happen. Commissioner Joal Smith advised that Manager Condon did not make this decision on his own but was advised by the board what to do. Commissioner Joal Smith also advised that everyone needed to make sure that all information was the truth referring to levels of education and fraudulent applications. Commissioner Joal Smith advised that with budget constraints the Town could not continue to borrow money from fund balance and it would have take about a 22 cent increase in taxes. Commissioner Joal Smith also advised that the employees let go were given two (2) months' severance pay and insurance.

Mr. John Blackmore, Fire Chief, advised he was here to announce the Open House and Ribbon Cutting for the new fire station. Mr. Blackmore advised this would be Sunday, August 16th from 2 pm and 5 pm.

Mr. John Williams presented pictures to the board of work being done on College and Bell Streets. Mr. Williams advised that this area needs to be addressed before someone gets hurt. Mr. Williams advised this area has been open for about 30 days. Commissioner Joal Smith advised that the Manger would contact DOT and advise them to have it repaired.

Mr. Williams also spoke in reference to working together as a multiracial town. Mr. Williams spoke to Commissioners Jones and Martin in reference to them not standing up for Ms. Best as that is what made the Town look good. Mr. Williams advised that she would help the customers and advise them when their bills were high.

Mr. Williams stated that a past Manager had worked with him to try to put 100 homes in Warsaw. Mr. Williams advised that Mr. Collins, Code Enforcement, had advised Mr. Williams that he did not have time to work with him on this plan.

Ms. Yolanda Chester read a letter to the board. Ms. Chester advised that many of the town employees live outside the town and are driving town vehicles outside of this town. Ms. Chester stated that this makes it look like people inside this town are not capable of performing any of these jobs.

Ms. Marzella Morrissey stated that the Town was an equal opportunity employer but she had not seen any of those signs. Ms. Morrissey advised that the town should not have layoffs due to budget cuts and then the next week give employees a 2% raise. Ms. Morrissey also stated that the town also advertised for an open position.

Ms. Morrissey advised that the town citizens were not being notified of openings to the boards. Ms. Morrissey advised that she felt like the Town only employs friends and family

because when there is an opening the employees notify their friends and family and the community is not notified.

Ms. Morrisey asked about a change in the late fees. Ms. Morrisey asked if there was any kind of meeting to make this change. Ms. Morrisey advised that she had seen that the late fee was to be changing to \$25. Ms. Morrisey stated that she wanted to bring a petition to do away with late fees due to the economics in this society.

Ms. Morrisey advised she was at the meeting when the Town voted to have an administrator. Ms. Morrisey stated that she felt the town was too small for a Town Manager and especially a code enforcement officer. Ms. Morrisey advised she had spoken with the code enforcement officer and then later an individual was denied being able to replace his home. Ms. Morrisey advised that when Mr. Kenan got to Kenansville he was told that he could not put a new home in that location. Ms. Morrisey advised that if we can't manage our moneys then we need a waiver that does away with the Town Manger and Code Enforcement Officer.

Ms. Linda Morrisey spoke in reference to high water bills. Ms. Morrisey advised that since the new water meters had been put in her water bill had been going up and she was paying over \$100 a month in just water.

Ms. Morrisey advised that she also had a problem with the conditions of the roads. Ms. Morrisey advised that the roads are so bad. Ms. Morrisey advised she was speaking in reference to King Lane. Ms. Morrisey said all they do is drag the roads and as soon as it rains the holes get bigger and bigger.

Ms. Lucinda Mann spoke in reference to her high water bill. Ms. Mann also advised she lives on King Lane as well. Ms. Mann advised that her landlord had sent a plumber by but they did not find a leak. Ms. Mann was advised that someone would check into her high usage.

Mr. Shawn Best advised that he had just moved back to the area and he and his friend had organized a Fun Day @ Warsaw Elementary. Mr. Best advised that he was not here to ask anything of the Town but to advertise his event. Mr. Best advised that the event would be free and would include food, bouncy houses and other games for the children. Mr. Best advised that the event would be August 29th from 12 pm until. Mr. Best encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy a fun day in Warsaw.

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

Consideration of Changing Bulk Item Pickup:

This item was continued from last board meeting. Manager Condon reviewed the procedures that other towns in the county use in regards to bulk item pickup. Manager

Condon asked for ideas from the board in reference to this change. There was discussion about what is considered bulk items. There was also discussion about rental closeouts being the responsibility of the owner, not the town.

Commissioner Joal Smith made a motion to have a public hearing in reference to changing bulk item pickup. Commissioner Tommy Jones seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to have a public hearing in reference to changing bulk item pickup.

Item tabled again to allow for public hearing.

Consideration of Approval of Lease Agreement between Town and Duplin County for EMS:

Manager Condon advised that it was time to renew the contract with Duplin County regarding the EMS station housed at the Town Hall building. The renewal lease is for a three year term for the same annual sum of \$4,620. The agreement commences July 1, 2015 and expires on June 30, 2018.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made a motion to renew the contract. Commissioner Joal Smith seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to renew the contract with Duplin County for EMS.

Consideration of Approval of Malt Beverage Ballot Initiative:

Manager Condon advised that a ballot initiative be added to allow establishments to serve on premises malt beverages without having to obtain the separate mixed beverage permit.

Commissioner Joal Smith made a motion to approve the ballot initiative. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to add the ballot initiative to allow the sale of malt beverages on premises in establishments without the requirement that they obtain a mixed beverage permit.

Consideration of Approval of Tax Releases:

Manager Condon advised that the Town had received eleven (11) tax releases for various reasons from Duplin County. The total of all tax releases is \$2,749.20.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made a motion to approve the tax releases. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to approve all eleven (11) tax releases.

Mayor's Update:

There was no mayor update.

Manager's Report:

There was no manager's report.

Board Comments:

There were no board comments.

Closed Session:

Mayor Russell Eason asked the board to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Town Attorney in order to preserve the Attorney-Client privilege and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11

Commissioner Joal Smith made the motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to go into closed session.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made the motion to return to open session. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to return to open session.

No action was taken in closed session.

Adjournment:

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

Mayor

Attest

Town Clerk