

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 13th, 2016 at 7:30pm in the conference room of the Town Hall.

Present:

Mayor Russell Eason
Commissioner Scotty Smith
Commissioner Al Searles
Commissioner Joal Smith
Commissioner Dr. Martin Owen
Commissioner Peggy Doran

Also Present:

Town Manager, Shawn Condon
Town Clerk, Lea Turner
Police Chief, Eric Southerland
Wellness Supervisor, Lydia King
Recreation Supervisor, Betty Smith

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

Public Hearing for NCDOT Rail Division Request to Close Plank St Rail Crossing:

Mayor Eason opened the public hearing.

Ms. Webb spoke against the closure of Plank St. According to Ms. Webb it would be an inconvenience to shoppers.

Ms. Royal stated that it was not good to close Plank St as it would hinder the structure of the parade. Ms. Royal proposed the idea of cutting down the Crepe Myrtle trees closest to Plank Street to eliminate obstruction.

Mayor Eason closed the public hearing.

Public Hearing Regarding Proposed FY 2016-2017 Budget:

Mayor Eason opened the public hearing.

Manager Shawn Condon reviewed the highlights from the budget message that had been presented to the board. Manager Condon advised that there would be a tax base increase to a total of \$19,043,287 and that there was no proposed tax increase. Manager Condon also advised that there was no proposed increase in water, stormwater, or garbage rates but he did propose a 5% increase to sewer rates. Manager Condon advised that the level of benefits to the employees would remain the

same and that this would mean a health insurance increase of approximately 1.5%. Manager Condon advised that he was proposing salary adjustments based on the salary study and that he was also proposing a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and a 3% Merit increase based on performance. Manager Condon advised that this budget includes a reimbursement from the Water & Sewer Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$25,904 and this would mean no General Fund balance appropriation.

Manager Condon advised that the Police Dept has requested to finance the purchase of 2 (two) marked patrol cars. Manager Condon advised that this would have a repayment cycle of 3 years with payments not beginning until FY 2017-2018. Manager Condon advised that the police dept has also requested a speed patrol trailer which would also be able to record data including traffic counts, rates of speed, and other key information. Manager Condon advised that he had also included an allocation of \$3,000 for costs related to Community Oriented Policing Programs.

Manager Condon advised that there was a 2% increase in the Fire Dept budget bringing the budgeted total to \$116,683.

There were no public comments regarding the proposed FY 2016-2017 budget.

Mayor Eason closed the public hearing.

Regular Meeting:

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Eason asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the May 26th, 2016 budget workshop.

Commissioner Joal Smith made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Owen Martin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Public Comments:

Mayor Eason asked for a motion to open public comments.

Commissioner Joal Smith made the motion to open public comments. Commissioner Owen Martin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to open public comments.

Ms. Royal spoke about the senior meals being approved to come back to Warsaw. Ms. Royal advised that she had seen articles in the newspaper where other senior centers were providing activities for the seniors and she would like to see the same thing for seniors in Warsaw.

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

K-9 Demonstration:

Police Chief Eric Southerland introduced Officer Isaiah Kennedy and new K-9 officer Odin. Chief Southerland advised that through grant money and donations the police department had been allowed to purchase another K-9 and send both him and his handler to training. Chief Southerland had Officer Kennedy to demonstrate the abilities of K-9 Odin.

Consideration of NCDOT Rail Division Request to Close Plank Street Rail Crossing:

Manager Shawn Condon advised that Nancy Horne with NCDOT Rail Division was present to entertain any questions from the board. Ms. Horne advised the NCDOT had done traffic counts at both Plank Street and Dudley Street both of which had been recommended for closure. Ms. Horne advised that Plank street had approximately 161 vehicles daily where Dudley Street serviced a subdivision with approximately 500 vehicles daily. Ms. Horne advised that if Plank Street was closed NCDOT would assist with the cost of adding crossing signals and gates at Dudley Street.

Commissioner Joal Smith made a motion to work out the details of the contract with NCDOT and close Plank Street. Commissioner Al Searles seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 1 against. Commissioner Scotty Smith voted against closing Plank Street. Motion carried to close Plank Street.

Consideration of Proposed FY 2016-2017 Budget:

Manager Shawn Condon advised that the budget had been presented earlier in the public hearing but he had a budget amendment to add. Manager Condon advised that the Police Department had been issued a Governor's Crime Commission Grant of \$70,000 earlier this year but the money would not be reimbursed until next fiscal year. Manager Condon advised that he would like to add an amendment to accept the grant money into FY 2016-2017 budget and expend it out with a purchase of another 2 police vehicles.

Commissioner Al Searles stated he didn't understand how one could spend the money twice and advised that the amendment should wait to see how the budget looks when the money is disbursed.

Commissioner Joal Smith made a motion to accept the amendment and adopt the proposed budget. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was 4 in favor and 1 against. Commissioner Al Searles voted against. Motion carried to amend the budget and adopt the proposed FY 2016-2017 budget.

Consideration of Resolution Regarding Tax Discount:

Manager Shawn Condon advised that with Duplin County billing for taxes it had been asked that the Town consider changing their tax discount to match that of the County. Manager Condon advised that currently the Town offered a 1% discount but the County offered 2%. Manager Condon advised that 1% would be \$16,423.

Commissioner Joal Smith made the motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Peggy Doran seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adopt the resolution to change the tax discount from 1% to 2%.

Consideration of Proposed Workers Compensation Policy:

Manager Shawn Condon advised that this was a tabled item from last month. Manager Condon advised that he had revised the section about what would happen if there was not a comparable position for individuals who could not return to their current position. Manager Condon advised of the changes made to the policy.

Commissioner Al Searles made the motion to accept the proposed policy. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the proposed workers compensation policy.

Mayor's Update:

Mayor Eason advised that the new gym was coming along nicely and it was hoped to be completed by July 1.

Manager's Report:

Manager Shawn Condon had no report.

Board Comments:

There were no board comments.

Closed Session:

Mayor Eason requested closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(6) to discuss economic development.

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

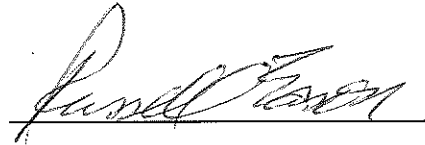
Commissioner Joal Smith made the motion to go back into regular session. Commissioner Owen Martin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to go into back into regular session.

June 13th, 2016

Commissioner Joal Smith made a motion to approve an \$8,000 Revolving Loan to the Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Owen Martin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve an \$8,000 Revolving Loan to the Chamber of Commerce.

Adjournment:

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Eason", is written over a horizontal line.

Mayor

Attest

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joal Sumner", is written over a horizontal line.

Town Clerk