

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners met in special session on January 29, 2018 at 7:00pm at the Warsaw Wellness Center.

Board Members Present:

Mayor A.J. Connors
Commissioner Scotty Smith
Commissioner Owen Martin
Commissioner Peggy Doran
Commissioner David Rouse

Also Present:

Town Manager, Scotty Summerlin
Town Clerk, Lea Turner
Chamber President, Frank Rhodes
Chamber Director, Dennis Riley
Chamber Board Members:
Dean Johnson Jim Harris
Norwood West Ruthie Isaac

Mayor Connors called the special called meeting to order.

Mayor Connors explained that the purpose of the meeting was to continue the discussion of the Economic Development Advisory Committee. Mayor Connors stated that the purpose of this committee would be to create packages to intrigue individuals and businesses to come to Warsaw. Mayor Connors stated that he had spoke with James Wolfe, Duplin County Economic Development, and he provided an example of their Organizational Information Sheet. Mayor Connors also stated that he felt the Chamber of Commerce role was one more of community development not economic development.

Chamber Board member Jim Harris stated that they have economic development funds because it was given to them to manage. Mr. Harris stated these funds were established to help build and promote the downtown area.

Chamber Executive Director, Dennis Riley read the mission statement of the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Riley stated "To support, encourage, and promote local business, tourism, and recreational activities of the Warsaw area".

Commissioner Peggy Doran stated she was not in favor of the advisory committee as she felt there was already one in place; the Chamber. She feels the Chamber is not doing all that the Chamber should be doing. She also stated that with the members on the advisory committee being a part of the Chamber she did not understand how if they could not support businesses now how were they going to further bring business to Warsaw. She had reviewed the charters of several of the surrounding Chambers of Commerce which all include aspects of economic development. Commissioner Doran also stated she wanted to make it clear that just because she does not believe in the advisory committee does not mean she does not support economic development or growth for Warsaw. Commissioner Doran also stated that she was aware of the sewer

infrastructure problems so we need to be careful that we don't offer to companies that we can't support.

Mr. Harris stated that we needed to find someone to come in and do a study to see what we can invite to come into Warsaw. Ms. Dean Johnson, Chamber Board, also agreed.

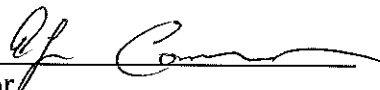
Chamber President, Frank Rhodes stated that he was confused by the conflicting statements of Commissioner Doran. Mr. Rhodes stated that we just need to go out and go to work whether it is for businesses or housing. Mr. Rhodes feels that it is a conflict of interest for the Chamber to ask other businesses to come in which possibly jeopardize the current businesses in town.

Commissioner David Rouse stated that he understood the idea of it being a conflict of interest. He stated that he felt the committee would need to be more diversified. Mr. Rouse also stated that with the infrastructure concerns that we might not be able to invite large industries in but that should not stop us from looking at low impact businesses. Mr. Rouse also mentioned that we didn't have to have 10 businesses come in all at once but we did need to get a steady 1-2 businesses a year.

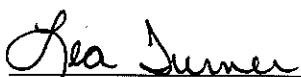
Chamber member, Norwood West stated that Warsaw has to keep moving forward. Mr. West stated that everyone needs to work together. Mr. West stated that he had worked with graduate students before to do feasibility studies and he could make contact to try to get some assistance. Mr. West stated that Duke Energy also has incentives that the Town may be able to take advantage of.

Commissioner Peggy Doran made a motion to ask Norwood West and Jim Harris to make some calls to find someone to do a feasibility study for the town. Commissioner Owen Martin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for Mr. West and Mr. Harris to make calls to find assistance for the Town.

Commissioner Peggy Doran made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Owen Martin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.


Mayor

Attest


Town Clerk