

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 10, 2022 at 6:00pm at the Warsaw Town Hall.

Board Members Present:

Mayor A.J. Connors
Commissioner Jack Hawes
Commissioner Russell Eason
Commissioner Owen Martin
Commissioner Ebony Wills-Wells

Also Present:

Town Manager, Scotty Summerlin
Town Clerk, Lea Turner
Public Works Director, Craig Armstrong
Police Chief, Patrick Giddeons
Dream Works Warsaw, Brian DiCicco
Town Attorney, Ken Thompson

Mayor Connors opened the meeting with prayer which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to accept the agenda. Commissioner Jack Hawes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the agenda.

Consent Agenda:

Mayor Connors asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Commissioner Jack Hawes made the motion to approve the consent agenda items. Commissioner Russell Eason seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the following consent agenda items: (1) Approval of Minutes from December 13th Regular Commissioner Meeting.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Warsaw Mowing & Grounds Maintenance Contract & RFP – February 2022:

Manager Summerlin explained that we are coming up on the end of the mowing contract. The contract has been bid once and renewed twice. The current contractor is willing to renew the contract with an additional cost. There have been some concerns with the current level of service over the last several months. A few changes have been made to a new RFP which will be published in the coming weeks. Manager and Public Works (PW) Director estimates that it would cost over \$200,000 to bring the mowing back in-house. PW Director Craig Armstrong stated that some things have been slid to the side, but we need to look at the option of a new contractor. Armstrong also believes we need to think closely about the contract and award it for more than just one year as it takes time to adjust to the workload. It is usually in year 2-3 when you are able to see what kind of work the contractor will do.

Mayor Connors asked about the tractor used to take care of Recreation grounds. Armstrong stated this tractor is not the kind of tractor to mow grass, its for field

maintenance. Manager Summerlin stated that the ballfields are a key piece to the contract. Recreation Director, Betty Smith is a one full-time employee department so the help to do the maintenance is limited. Manager Summerlin advised they had added some to W. College St. and removed Jordan St from the contract. All the bush hogging will still be done in-house. The current contract is 75,600.

Commissioner Jack Hawes made a motion to bid the mowing contract. Commissioner Ebony Wills-Wells seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to bid the contract and publish RFP.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Participation:

Sonia Guardado and Kristy Wagner with Duplin County Department of Social Services were present to explain their Assistance Program. There are multiple levels to this program; households who are already disconnected, those in jeopardy of disconnection, and those where current assistance is needed. They advised pledges would be made and payment would then arrive within a few days. Manager Summerlin advised there were concerns with pledges as cutoffs could occur prior to funds being received. They advised that clients would be notified that reconnects would only be made once the Town received funds. It was also mentioned of educating clients to not wait to the last minute to avoid this situation. The contract does have a 30-day opt out option.

Commissioner Jack Hawes made a motion to approve the contract and authorize the Manager to sign. Commissioner Russell Eason seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the contract and authorize the manager to sign.

Slow/No Stop Complaints at Intersection of Pinecrest Dr. & E. Best St.:

Mayor Connors discussed the 4-way stops placed on Pinecrest and Bay St. intersection. He noted that everyday someone is running through those signs. Police have been out, but they can't be there all the time. Connors requested the placement of speed bumps or something to force drivers to stop? Commissioner Eason stated Prospect Street also is a problem. Public Works Director also stated that Yancey and Chelly are also a problem. Armstrong stated we could like to try "Stop sign ahead" signs. Commissioner Hawes stated that he would hate to spend the money on speed bumps for people to drive around them possibly causing a head-on accident. Yancey and Pinecrest were stated to be the streets to test the warning signs.

Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to put up warning signs on Pinecrest and Yancey. Commissioner Jack Hawes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to add stop sign ahead signs on Pinecrest and Yancey Streets.

Manager's Update:

Manager Summerlin advised that CN43-Sewer is nearing completion. There are a few concerns to be addressed such as a pothole at the corner of Bell and W College and some manhole concerns. The final pay request has been submitted. There will possibly be a closeout at next board meeting.

However, CN42-WWTP is plagued with delays. They have moved into electrical and having trouble with electrical contractors. They are currently tracing existing wires. The contractor is more ready than us to close out project. Delays are expected to continue.

The clarifier project will have a pre-construction meeting this week. We could see some trouble with two contractors on the site at one time.

C2NC is still moving forward. Permits are in the fast-track process to the State. An estimated \$600,000 project is going to bid. C2NC currently have \$400,000 from the Commerce application which has been on hold and \$200,000 from the County. They want sewer at the latest by June, but it's a hurry up and wait process. Bids will come out next week on the force main work. There is also a six (6) inch force main under CSX. CSX is charging fees to go under the railroad.

DreamWorks has now reached 500 members. Management Agreement to come next month.

Recreation Update: Basketball had a good weekend. Adult volleyball did not make. Adult basketball will start in March and will pick up the slack from volleyball.

Paving estimates on Recreation asphalt range from \$65,000 to \$110,000 for concrete. There will also need to be catch basins. There is a chance COVID funds could be used to complete these projects, but it is still unclear. Schedule meeting to start talking budget as the FINAL rule has been released.

The first budget meeting will need to be scheduled. Tentative budget meeting dates are February 24th or March 3rd. Commissioner Jack Hawes made a motion to schedule the budget meeting for February 24th. Commissioner Russell Eason seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to schedule the first budget meeting for February 24th at 6:00pm.

Mayor's Update:

Mayor Connors advised that N Cross St needs signs for No Trucks. A truck driver said he could not see the signs before turning. Signs need to be moved so drivers can see the signs before making the turn. Google/MapQuest seems to be sending trucks down Cross St. Public Works Director, Craig Armstrong stated that it would be difficult to place a sign on College St where it could be seen.

Mayor Connors advised he had received a suggestion to put job applications in the Town Hall lobby for citizens to take. It would be good to contact companies to send applications so customers have access to job applications. He stated it would be good for the Town to make a move to help customers find jobs.

Mayor Connors stated that he had noticed a change in the manual meter reads from the monthly report. Armstrong stated that you should see fewer meter reads as new MTUs have come in.

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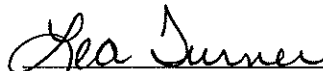
Board Comments:

Commissioner Wills-Wells encouraged mask wearing and hand washing.

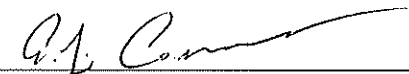
Adjournment:

Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jack Hawes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Town Clerk



Mayor