

May 26, 2021

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners held a budget workshop on May 26th, 2021 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall Board Room.

Present:

Mayor A.J. Connors
Commissioner Scotty Smith
Commissioner Jack Hawes
Commissioner Valerie Pope
Commissioner Owen Martin

Also Present:

Town Manager, Scotty Summerlin
Town Clerk, Lea Turner
Police Chief, Patrick Giddeons

Mayor Connors opened the meeting and turned it over to Manager Scotty Summerlin.

Manager Summerlin turned the meeting over to the Police Chief for a short presentation. Chief Giddeons showed a new recruitment video and shared a presentation showing new equipment purchased through grants. Giddeons also gave a detailed presentation on the police department's recent change out of all shotguns to less lethal bullets. The Chief discussed the benefit of having a less lethal option to deal with specific situations and discussed the necessity of having varied tools for the possibility of different scenarios the police officers may have to deal with. The Chief noted that the officers still carry sidearms and have rifles. He also demonstrated a few of the characteristics of the newest tazers the officers are carrying. Chief Giddeons thanked the Board for their support of the Police Dept.

Finance Officer, Lea Turner, reviewed the information provided by the US Dept of Treasury in reference to the American Rescue Plan. The Town will be receiving funds and in the near future the Board will be approving a special project budget ordinance to expense the anticipated funds.

Manager Summerlin quickly summarized the draft budget ordinance, as this was the third review of the proposed budget. Water and Sewer fees are proposed to increase three percent (3%). Water and Sewer taps will be increased by \$50.00. The result is an increase to \$750 for water and sewer taps in town and \$1,400 for water and sewer taps outside of the town limits. The amount applies to each tap (i.e., \$750 for water, \$750 for sewer). There is no proposed tax increase. Garbage rates remain unchanged. Stormwater fees remain unchanged.

Code enforcement was an area of concern. Commissioner Hawes stated people should be allowed more than 10 days to comply with most violations. Hawes and Commissioner Nelson-Pope voiced concerns of fielding numerous complaints during funerals at Hawes funeral home. Discussion on the matter centered around revamping

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how code enforcement is handled. It was noted that complaints centered around violators being talked to in a disrespectful manner. The manager and chief discussed concerns of violators being more upset with being told what to do than being treated disrespectfully. It was noted that some folks may have a tendency to exaggerate, in these situations. It was also discussed to consider changing how move code enforcement is handled in Warsaw. There were also suggestions to consider moving away from using uniformed police officers to carry out code enforcement. The town manager will discuss with staff and consider possible alternative actions.


The budget public hearing will be held June 14th, 2021 at 6pm at the Town Hall.

The third budget work session was adjourned.



A.J. Connors, Mayor

Attest:



Lea Turner, Town Clerk