

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 14, 2021 at 6:00pm at the Warsaw Town Hall.

Board Members Present:

Mayor A.J. Connors
Commissioner Scotty Smith
Commissioner Jack Hawes
Commissioner Russell Eason
Commissioner Owen Martin

Also Present:

Town Manager, Scotty Summerlin
Town Clerk, Lea Turner
Public Works Director, Craig Armstrong
Police Chief, Patrick Giddeons
Police Captain, Jeremy Mozingo

Mayor Connors opened the meeting with prayer led by County Commissioner Wayne Branch, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing – Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget & American Rescue Plan Act (Special Project):

Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to open the public hearing. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to open the public hearing.

Mr. Boykin of E. Hill St. spoke on his concerns about lack of drainage. Mr. Boykin stated more money needed to be spent on drainage as there was an environmental health concern as well as street erosion problems. He noted standing water at his residence at the corner of W. Hill St. and N. Cross St.

Ms. Angela Mainor had concerns of rising water bills and the strain it would have on the older population on fixed incomes. She also expressed concerns on lack of drainage on Pershing St.

Town Manager, Scotty Summerlin stated that there was a budget of \$63,000 for drainage work and that the Town would do as much as possible with these funds, but there would always be more needs than funds available. Manager Summerlin advised that the Town had taken a year off from raising the rates on water bills due to COVID last year, but with the additional debt the Town had assumed with the new sewer work, rates would have to increase. Manager Summerlin explained that on an average bill the customer would see an increase of about a \$1 per month.

Ms. Mainor also asked about the American Rescue Plan monies. She questioned whether the money would go to the employees or be spent on the Town. Again Ms. Mainor asked that these funds be used to address drainage issues.

Manager Summerlin advised that the plan was for the entire amount to be spent on the Town. Manager Summerlin advised that there was still guidance being provided as to the specifics of what the funds could be spent on, but there was an overall plan for those funds. Manager Summerlin stated that funds would be used toward drainage, streets, and other needed repairs.

With no other questions or comments, Commissioner Owen Martin made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Russell Eason seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to close the public hearing.

Consent Agenda:

Mayor Connors asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Commissioner Scotty Smith 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 May 10th Regular Commissioner Meeting, (2) Approval of Minutes from May 26th Budget Work Session, (3) Approval of Budget Amendment #21-Recreation Adult User Fees & Adult Programs, (4) Approval of Budget Amendment #22-Pandemic Recovery Funds, (5) Approval of Budget Amendment #23-Purchase of New Backhoe, (6) Approval of Resolution {#2021-6-14(1)} to Surplus Case Backhoe and Sell by Electronic Auction.

Public Comments:

Mayor Connors asked for a motion to open public comments. Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to open public comments. Commissioner Owen Martin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to open public comments.

Mr. Boykin again spoke about his concerns about lack of drainage and asked that the Town do an evaluation of the needs and come up with a strategic plan to address the needs.

Commissioner Jack Hawes also spoke about drainage issues. Commissioner Hawes advised he was very frustrated with the apparent neglect of drainage from other boards. He also agreed that a strategic plan was needed.

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

Resolution to Accept COVID-19 Funding:

Manager Summerlin requested approval of Resolution # 2021-6-14 to accept the \$900,000 for the American Rescue Plan. Manager Summerlin advised the funds were anticipated to come in two (2) payments and the funds could be spent through December 2024.

Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Owen Martin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adopt Resolution # 2021-6-14 Resolution Accepting Federal Funds Under The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Adoption of COVID-19 Special Project Budget Ordinance:

Manager Summerlin explained the special project budget ordinance for \$900,000. He explained there would be two (2) payments of \$450,000 each and the Town would have until December 2024 to spend the funds. Summerlin further explained that the budget ordinance was a general budget that would allow the Town some flexibility in expending the funds, as more guidance was provided by the federal government:

- Facilities/Infrastructure Improvements -- \$250,000
- Supplies -- \$20,000
- Equipment -- \$50,000
- Streets/Paving -- \$35,000
- Stormwater/Drainage -- \$250,000
- Contractual -- \$120,000
- Contingency -- \$175,000

Commissioner Jack Hawes made a motion to approve the budget ordinance. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the special project budget ordinance.

Approval of Budget Amendment #24; Milling & Resurfacing Project & Contract Award:

Manager Summerlin advised that Town staff had identified and prioritized streets in need of repairs and resurfacing. An informal request for proposals (RFP) was published. There were two (2) bids received which were very competitive. Summerlin advised that due to the specialized nature of the work involving milling of old asphalt, he wasn't surprised by the small bidder response. Manager Summerlin asked the board to award the contract to the low bidder, Legion Asphalt, Inc. and authorize the manager to execute the contract. The Board was also asked to approve Budget Amendment #24 moving unspent monies to cover the paving project.

Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to award the contract. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to award the contract to Legion Asphalt, Inc. and authorize the manager to execute the contract.

Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #24. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve Budget Amendment #24.

Request for Placement of "No Heavy Trucks" Street Sign along N. Cross St:

Manager Summerlin advised that residents along N. Cross St. have complaints about heavy trucks using N. Cross St. as a cut-through between W. College St. (NC

24 Hwy) and W. Hill St. Manager Summerlin also advised that paving would be done in this area with the sewer collection system improvements project and that heavy trucks would damage the town street. The subsurface gravel base and asphalt is not designed to carry such heavy trucks.

Commissioner Owen Martin made a motion to place the signs in the area. Commissioner Russell Eason seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to place "No Heavy Trucks" signs along N. Cross St.

Boy Scouts' Search for Meeting Space:

Commissioner Scotty Smith proposed an idea to allow the Warsaw Boy Scouts local Pack to use the old Wellness Center Garage for their meetings. Commissioner Smith advised he was aware that the building needed some work, but this could be a project for the Pack and give them something to be proud of if they did the clean up of the building. Craig Armstrong advised there were several areas that were unsafe and the entrance to the building was one of those areas. Mayor Connors made a recommendation of the old Harvey Fertilizer building or the Sanderson's building down from Town Hall.

The topic was tabled for more investigation of options.

Board Action on the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Town of Warsaw Operating Budget Proposal:

Manager Summerlin advised after having published notice and having held the required public hearing, the Commissioner could now act on the FY 2021-2022 Budget Proposal. If there were no suggested changes to the budget, Manager Summerlin asked for a motion to adopt the budget and fee schedule as presented.

Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to adopt the budget, as presented. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adopt the FY 2021-2022 operating budget and fee schedule.

Manager's Update:

Manager Summerlin advised that C2NC still had some loose ends to tie up with the Town, but they are moving along with land preparation and the area is looking good. There is still talk of the Streetscape Improvements along N. Front St. Contract 42/43 is moving along as planned and more manholes have been added to the project. It appears that Starbucks and Jersey Mikes is in a race to see who can open first, Summerlin commented. Anticipate openings will be sometime in the Fall season. Elections will be held at the Rec. Center on Memorial Drive again this year.

Mayor's Update:

Mayor Connors advised that it was Flag Day and it was good to see that the flags remain in their upright position. Mayor Connors also made a recommendation that the Board begin receiving monthly reports from the departments that are not currently submitting monthly reports to keep the Board informed of what is going on.

Board Comments:

Commissioner Russell Eason asked about code enforcement efforts as he had noted many overgrown lots. Eason commented that code enforcement needed to stay active to stay ahead of violations.


Adjournment:

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



Mayor

Attest:



Town Clerk