

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 11, 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

Also Present:

Town Manager, Scotty Summerlin
Town Clerk, Lea Turner
Public Works Director, Craig Armstrong
Police Chief, Patrick Giddens
Town Attorney, Ken Thompson

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

Special Presentation:

Mr. Dwight Lancaster from NC Rural Water Association was present for a special presentation. Mr. Lancaster presented Wastewater Operator, Greg Hughes, the Al Deratt Award for Excellence in Wastewater. This award is for operators that show great dedication, go above the call of duty and are a great role model for other operators. Mr. Lancaster stated that Greg truly fits this description. He stated that it really makes him proud to pull into the Warsaw treatment plant and see how well this facility looks and is being run. Mr. Lancaster also praised Greg for his certifications above what is necessary for Warsaw's plant.

Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to accept the agenda. Commissioner Scotty Smith 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 seconded the motion. Scotty Summerlin made note that Chief Giddens has an approved purchaser for the Tasers proposed for surplus. Manager Summerlin also noted that NCGS allows a threshold of \$30,000, but he is only requesting a ceiling of \$2,500 per item or group of items with approval to surplus without Board consideration. The vote was unanimous to approve the following consent agenda items: (1) Approval of Minutes from September 13th Regular Commissioner Meeting, (2) Approval of Resolution to Surplus Miscellaneous Equipment & Authorize Sell, (3) Approval of Resolution to Set Threshold of \$2,500.00 for Town Manager to Surplus Personal Property, (4) Approval of Tax Releases, submitted by Duplin County Tax Administration.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Shackle Free Community Outreach Agency Presentation:

Ms. Chiquitta Lesene presented to the Board about her business, Shackle Free Community Outreach Agency, Inc. Ms. Lesene stated that they are now established here in Warsaw and have approximately 200 participants. She has researched the American Rescue Plan Act and knows that the Towns are allowed to use these funds to assist residents. She has been awarded the RISE Grant for \$350,000, however these funds do not provide support services such as transportation or rent/utility assistance. She compared the 2018 County poverty assessments and stated that these numbers are still declining. Asking for \$5,000 from all local Towns; she has spoken with Beulaville, Teachey, and Faison.

Commissioner Hawes asked questions relating to what the \$5,000 would go toward and what the gaps in coverage were. Hawes stated these are issues we should not turn a blind eye to these needs, but we need to determine what is allowable. He asked what was being asked of the individuals instead of just paying their rent. Ms. Lesene stated her clients are sent to classes and they are not just handed free monies.

Manager Summerlin advised that at this time we are holding off awaiting a final ruling of the proper spending of these funds.

Request to Petition NCDOT for “No Jake Braking Allowed” sign along Memorial Drive:

Mayor Connors turned the attention to the noise ordinance and that jake brakes are for hills not flat surfaces. He also discussed citizen complaints that he had received in reference to excessive jake braking of tractor-trailers along Memorial Drive. One resident near the Fire Department complains of excessively loud and numerous jake braking of heavy trucks at late hours of the evening. Residents are requesting that signs be placed in the area so that the Police Department can issue warnings and citations for excessive jake braking. Manager Summerlin commented that as far as the nuisance ordinance there is “meat” to enforce but he feels that signage should be in place.

Commissioner Hawes and Eason explained their experience with jake brake and state that late at night it should not be necessary. Chief Giddeons stated that it is a common complaint. He could not speak to the instances of excessiveness, but the enforcement side would be a little difficult as the officer would have to be in just the right spot to make this call.

Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to request Town Manager to contact NCDOT in reference to signs being placed along Memorial Drive. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was 2 for and 1 against to request Manager Summerlin to contact NCDOT about placing or allowing for signs of “No Jake Braking Allowed”. Motion carried.

Warsaw Police Department Discussion & Update:

Police Chief, Patrick Giddeons explained a situation about dispatch. He wants to discuss the idea of turning dispatch over to the County and making the current dispatcher an administrative assistant. Giddeons gave a detail explanation of the dispatch procedures in Warsaw. Currently, about 50% of calls are being handled by the County. When calls come in to 911, they then have to contact our Police Department dispatch before the officer is dispatched. Chief stated he had already spoken with the County and they stated there is no problem with them taking on this task and at no cost to the Town. This would bridge the County system with our computer system where all the calls would be in one location. There were no noted negative comments concerning continuing the analysis of possibly transitioning to full County dispatch for Warsaw.

Manager's Update:

Manager Summerlin gave an update on Contract 42 & 43. These contracts are moving along and it still looks like December before the work will be complete. Manholes and patchwork are still being worked on.

Contract 44, the clarifier work, is in the RFP process and awaiting the bid process.

We are still receiving calls on the Neighborhood Revitalization Project and as a reminder this is a 3-year project, so the first year or two are mostly paperwork and the construction will begin late year two into year three.

Carbon Cycle North Carolina (C2NC) did send payment to the Town for McDavid Associates to work on the engineering/design for the associated collection system work.

The Town has participated in a coalition program for the Brownfields Project in years past and have joined the County again for another project. The County will take the lead on this project. We have identified three (3) potential sites that would be eligible for this project. Last year the project was 0.6 points from being selected, so the hope is that it will be funded this year. The funds are primarily for environmental study and analysis and would not require a local match.

The Town usually partners with the Chamber to do a Trunk-or-treat each year, but this year will forgo this event. Though there are signs of improvement, COVID is still a major health concern.

November 2nd is the election and voting will take place at the Warsaw Recreation Center at 309 Memorial Drive. Polls open at 6:30am and close at 7:30pm.

November 6th will mark the 101st consecutive year of the Warsaw Veterans Day Celebration and Parade.

Code violations are mounting up and violators are refusing to contact the Town. In some cases of flagrant non-compliance, violations are more than \$1,000. These non-compliant cases are going to have to go to court. There was no Board opposition noted.

Mayor's Update:

Mayor Connors mentioned early voting beginning Thursday, October 14th through Saturday, October 30th.

He spoke about his visit at White Lake and that Lt. Governor Robinson hoped that ministers would step up to elected positions to speak up for what is right.

He also mentioned his visit to Fort Bragg for the Mayors event.

He questioned the 87 locates done by Public Works. Supervisor Craig Armstrong explained the different types of utility locates that they receive. He then questioned the 54 water meters manually read. Supervisor Armstrong stated this was way down from prior months. These manual reads could be from dead batteries on the water meter transmission units (MTU's).

Board Comments:


Commissioner Russell Eason questioned Manager Summerlin about Habitat for Humanity as they were supposed to be starting a new house soon. Manager Summerlin stated that he had not heard from anyone, and no zoning permits had been requested.

Commissioner Scotty Smith mentioned the Generals Cup Golf Tournament. He stated he would like the Town to join with a team next year. Smith told everyone to be looking for t-shirts to commemorate the Parade and to support the local VFW.

Adjournment:

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

Attest:



Town Clerk



Mayor