

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 9th, 2015 at 7:30pm in the conference room of the Town Hall.

Present:

Mayor Russell Eason
Commissioner Al Searles
Commissioner Scotty Smith
Commissioner Joal Smith
Commissioner Tommy Jones
Commissioner Dr. Owen Martin

Also Present:

Town Clerk, Lea Futrell
Code Enforcement Officer, Ed Collins
Public Works Director, Ivey Knowles
Wellness & Recreation Director, Josh Crowell
Town Attorney Jene Thompson

Number of citizens present was 9.

Mayor Russell Eason opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing:

Mayor Eason asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made the motion to open the Public Hearing.
Commissioner Joal Smith seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous to open the Public Hearing.

A representative with McDavid & Associates presented the CDBG Infrastructure program. Last year the town applied for the water and sewer infrastructure funds but was denied. This year the same funds are available. Grant applications are due by March 31, 2015. There is a maximum of \$3 million which can be applied for.

The public raised concerns over the need for grant monies and if received how that money would be appropriated. Questions were also raised about if the monies would be used for expansion or repair of existing problems. Problems referenced were discoloration of water on the west side of I-40 and sewer backup in homes when there is an excess of rain.

Commissioner Joal Smith made the motion to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Tommy Jones seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Eason asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the January 12th, 2015 meeting.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Joal Smith seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Public Comments:

Mayor Eason asked for a motion to open public comments.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made the motion to open for public comments. Commissioner Joal Smith seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous to open for public comment.

Rachel Holland with Community Funeral Home presented concerns about the proposed Cemetery Ordinance. Ms. Holland raised question about having to have a permit and the 48 hour notice for this permit. Ms. Holland advised that sometimes the funeral home would not be able to provide 48 hour notice. Ms. Holland also asked about vault requirements and markers/monuments. Ms. Holland raised question about who would be responsible for marking graves and if the wrong site was marked who would be responsible for disinterment.

Pat Royal expressed concerns about beautification on Railroad St. Ms. Royal mentioned that she had spoken with Dr. Rouse at James Sprunt about their art students doing a mural on the side of her building. Ms. Royal stated that with the students doing the mural there would be no cost for labor but she would be responsible for the cost of the materials. Ms. Royal asked if the town could consider assisting in the cost of this project. Ms. Royal also mentioned the streetscape on Railroad Street.

Mary Morrisey spoke regarding her concerns about the school facility plan. Ms. Morrisey stated that she was saddened by the fact that she had not seen representation from the Warsaw Town Board at the school board meetings. Ms. Morrisey personally invited the board to attend these school facility plan meetings as all schools in the district would be affected and it could have a negative impact on the town.

Thomasina Williams also expressed concerns about the school facility plan. Ms. Williams also spoke concerning the Sheriff's Ball. Ms. Williams explained that the Ball is held by the Duplin Foundation for Youth Advancement. Ms. Williams advised that these monies go toward projects such as backpack lunches which are being done in the Warsaw schools. Ms. Williams invited the board to participate in this event.

Johnson Sheffield expressed concerns about the Cemetery Ordinance. Mr. Sheffield also expressed concerns about the need to have non-citizens, who do business in town, to be on the Economic Development Advisory Committee. Mr. Sheffield mentioned the streetscape project and asked to be included when plans are made as he has vested interest in the vacant lot.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made the motion to close public comments. Commissioner Joal Smith seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous to close for public comment.

Discussion/Consideration of Proposed Cemetery Ordinance:

Town Manager, Shawn Condon, explained that the proposed Cemetery Ordinance was designed to provide rules and regulations for the proper operation and maintenance of Pinecrest Cemetery. He explained that Section 13(d) was removed as there is limited information provided to the town on ownership of plots.

Town Manager Condon also mentioned that the reason for the permit was mainly to gather information on the plots. This would assist the town in gathering the necessary information to update the records. It was also mentioned that there are currently no lots available for sale but procedure was put into place for the sale of lots in the event that there is expansion.

All commissioners expressed that more research was needed. Motion was made by Commissioner Tommy Jones to table this discussion until more information is gathered. Commissioner Joal Smith seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous to table this discussion.

Consideration of Proposed Economic Development Advisory Committee:

Manager Condon proposed that the board grant formation of an advisory committee comprised of a variety of skills to assist the town with business recruitment, retention, and expansion. He explained that this board would be comprised of someone with experience in the following areas: banking/finances, strategic planning, hospitality, real estate, and other business owners/operators.

Motion was made by Commissioner Joal Smith and seconded by Commissioner Scotty Smith to form the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

The vote was unanimous to form the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Consideration of Proposed Budget Calendar:

The budget calendar was presented for budget planning to ensure that certain budget aspects are completed by the deadlines set forth by state. March 20th was discussed as the date for the budget retreat.

Commissioner Al Searles made the motion to accept the budget calendar.
Commissioner Tommy Jones seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous to accept the budget calendar.

Consideration of Approval of Advertisement for Delinquent Taxes:

The list of individuals with outstanding taxes was presented. The board discussed that there were a few negative amounts on the list. Manager Condon explained that the list would be revised before final printing.

Commissioner Al Searles made a motion to accept the list after negative amounts and anything less than \$1 was removed. Commissioner Tommy Jones seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous to advertise list with corrections being made to remove negative amounts and remove anything less than \$1.

Mayor's Update:

Mayor Eason stated that he and the Town Manager have been speaking with business trying to bring them to Warsaw. Mayor Eason explained that with the population being down it is extremely difficult to bring business in.

Manager's Report:

Funding Requests to Duplin County

This past month I have met with County Manager Mike Aldridge to discuss possible county funding for two town-related items: the Duplin County Veterans Museum and a Senior Nutrition Site. The Veterans Museum currently receives \$3,000 annually from the Town. Due to the fact that this museum recognizes and honors ALL Duplin County veterans, I have asked Mr. Aldridge for consideration from the County for some level of annual funding from the county for the museum. Representatives from the Museum committee will be attending an upcoming County Board meeting to make a formal funding request.

Also, I discussed with Mr. Aldridge the possibility of having a Duplin County Senior Nutrition Site returned to Warsaw. Two years ago, the County pulled the Senior Nutrition site from the Warsaw Wellness Center, because program staff stated that the

layout of the wellness center did not work for the program, and they had a cut in funding for the site. I've discussed with Steve Moore, Director for the Duplin County Area Agency on Aging, about bringing a site back to Warsaw, and he has stated that it's dependent on finding a suitable location in Warsaw and available funding from both the State and the County. We have talked to area churches about the possibility of hosting a site, and I will keep the Board updated on any progress in that area. If a Senior Nutrition Site was brought back to Warsaw, it would not require any Town funding. Funding for the program comes from the State and Duplin County.

Fundraising for Memorial Park Renovation Project

The Recreation Committee has approved the formation of a fundraising subcommittee to assist in raising donations for the Memorial Park Renovation Project. At the Board meeting, a fundraising brochure will be presented summarizing the donation levels for the project. By having a group spearhead fundraising efforts, we will maximize our potential for securing funds from a variety of corporate, business, and private/personal donations for the project.

Contracts being put out for bid

In preparation for work on the upcoming FY 2015-2016 budget, several contracts will be put out for bid. This includes the following: waste management contract, health insurance/benefits consultant, grounds maintenance, and tank maintenance contract. Once proposals have been submitted, recommendations for contracts will be presented to the Board.

Update on traffic light at US 117 and Hill Street Intersection

At last month's Board meeting, Katie Hite from the NC Department of Transportation agreed to perform an additional traffic study for the traffic light at the Hill Street/US 117 intersection. In order to obtain a more accurate count, I recommended to her that it be performed when the weather got somewhat warmer. I've requested either Friday March 6th or Friday March 13th for DOT to perform the additional traffic study. Once I have a confirmed date from DOT for performing the study, I will notify the Board.

Interest in Warsaw Development Incentive Grant

Since the Board adopted the Warsaw Development Incentive Grant, we have had several inquiries, and recently the Town has received an application for the grant. The applicant intends to build a commercial building in Warsaw. Once final administrative review is completed, the application will need to go to the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

Board Comments:

Commissioner Tommy Jones spoke toward the benefits of economic development and bringing business in. Commissioner Jones also mentioned that there was glass in the open areas on Railroad Street that needs to be cleaned up. Commissioner Jones asked that the Public Works Supervisor be advised to make sure this was cleaned up.

Closed Session:

Mayor Russell Eason asked the board to go into closed session pursuant to MCGS 143-318.11(6).

Commissioner Al Searles made the motion. Commissioner Tommy Jones seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous to go into closed session.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made the motion to return to open session. Commissioner Searles seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous to return to open session.

There was no action taken.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Joal Smith made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Tommy Jones seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor

Attest

Town Clerk