

July 13th, 2015

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 13th, 2015 at 7:30pm in the conference room of the Town Hall.

Present:

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

Also Present:

Town Manager, Shawn Condon
Town Clerk, Lea Futrell
Code Enforcement Officer, Ed Collins
Public Works Director, Ivey Knowles
Wellness & Recreation Director, Josh Crowell
Police Chief, Eric Southerland
Town Attorney Jene Thompson

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

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Eason asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the May 11th, 2015 meeting.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Scotty 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 Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to open for public comment.

Mr. Haywood Blackburn spoke in reference to the Town advertising to hire a supervisor to maintain the Pinecrest Cemetery. Town Manager Condon advised that the town was not going to hire a supervisor but use existing staff to oversee the maintenance. Condon also advised that Public Works Supervisor, Ivey Knowles, was currently overseeing the

cemetery maintenance. Mr. Blackburn advised that the town needed to look into filling in the graves. Manager Condon advised they would look into the problem.

Ms. Morrissey spoke on behalf of the town's employment practice. Ms. Morrissey stated that the employee was given a letter stating it was based on funding and seniority. Ms. Morrissey advised that another employee was hired in January and the town should have known in January that there were budget problems. Ms. Morrissey stated that employment needs to be revisited and that the Town is an EEOC employer but they hire who they want and when they want.

Ms. Morrissey also spoke on the storm drains and sidewalks. Ms. Morrissey stated that the Town was paving the sidewalks on Hwy 24. Mayor Eason advised that the State was doing this paving. Ms. Morrissey advised that the Town increased the water bill to include storm water for the people who live on the streets that are owned by the state.

Ms. Latoria Best spoke concerning her layoff. Ms. Best advised that she had spoken to some of the commissioners and it was told to her that it was the deputy clerk position that was supposed to be done away with. Ms. Best stated that her letter stated it was based on budget and seniority. Ms. Best stated she has been here for four (4) years and Lea Futrell was hired six (6) months ago. Ms. Best advised that she was college educated. Ms. Best said her assistant, Carmen Gonzalez, is still here and is making \$80-90 more money a week than she was. Ms. Best stated that in the town's history she was the first black to be employed in the office but she is the first one to be let go. Ms. Best became upset and was escorted out while exclaiming "you don't know what I have been through".

Ms. Thomasina Williams spoke about some confusion she had with the meeting dates and minutes. Ms. Williams stated she was going over the general statutes but was unable to find anything about administration. Ms. Williams stated she wanted to find something about personnel issues but was unable to locate anything. Town Manager Condon advised he would take a look at it with her at a later time. Ms. Williams stated she was looking information on RIF policies and how they are handled.

Ms. Patricia Kelly Royal had concerns about water bills and how they were going up on businesses. Ms. Royal stated that it was always more money, more money, more money. Ms. Royal stated that she had noticed the Town had bought new trucks and stated if there was a budget crunch the Town could have bought used trucks. Ms. Royal stated that now there are trucks with only one person in them. Ms. Royal stated that she knew several of the employees lived outside of the city limits and asked if the Town was paying for them to go back and forth home. Ms. Royal stated that the "Town has two sets of rules, one about friends and the other about family but it needed to be about business". Ms. Royal also stated the Town is not enforcing its codes especially in reference to bathrooms in business as people are coming to her business to use the bathroom.

Ms. Royal also addressed the board in reference to Latoria stating that she was neither a friend nor family. Ms. Royal said she did not understand what was going on in the office but the board did. Ms. Royal stated that she had the job descriptions. Ms. Royal continued that it was just unjust that someone be let go without any notice or consideration of her bills. Mayor Eason stated that she had gone over her time and advised that she could speak with Manager Condon at a later time in reference to her concerns. Ms. Royal stated that she wanted her thoughts on the record so she wanted to know who to speak to. Ms. Royal stepped down stating that she knew where to go.

Mr. John Williams presented a petition to the board to rehire Ms. Best. Mr. Williams stated that when he came into the office Ms. Best was jolly and would let him know if there were any problems with his 17-18 places that he pays the water bill for. Mr. Williams stated that she was helping others in this way too. Mr. Williams stated that Ms. Best had called him and advised she had been laid off. Mr. Williams stated that he did not understand. Mr. Williams stated that Ms. Best has a master's degree and now he sees that maybe it was a threat with her having that much education. Mr. Williams stated that the Manager has over stepped his bounds and the board needs to get a grip on it. Mr. Williams asked how they can discriminate against someone that has four years of experience here versus a few months.

Ms. Ladson spoke in reference to the playground at the wellness center. Ms. Ladson stated that the playground was not supervised and if they did not want a lawsuit there needed to be some kind of supervision especially at night.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made the motion to close public comments. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to close public comment.

Presentation from Ms. Earlean McKiver-Rivers regarding Diversity Nurtures Achievement Community Youth Center

Ms. Earlean McKiver-Rivers with the Diversity Nurtures Achievement Community Youth Center (DNACYC) shared a presentation of what is happening with her facility. Ms. Rivers stated that it was their goal for the kids to reclaim their DNA or find out what their DNA is because some of these children are not on the right track. Ms. Rivers reviewed the benefits for both the children and their parents. Ms. Rivers stated that each child has potential and they have enrichment programs to bring out this potential. In the slideshow that was shared, the children were playing board games, eating healthy meals and snacks, and had police officers and other members of the community to visit. Ms. Rivers stated that the program is currently Monday – Friday from 11am – 1pm but during the school year it will be from 3pm – 7pm. The location of the youth center is 104 Revelle Rd, Warsaw.

Update from Mr. Jerry James regarding NC Marine Fisheries Resolution:

Mr. James updated the board on the resolution that was passed at the last board meeting. Mr. James advised that 4 other towns in this county and about 10-12 counties that participated in the resolution. Mr. James advised that there was a vote to go with the supplemental process to find ideas to help fisheries. Mr. James advised that they were ideas from doing nothing at all, to doing away with large net fishing. Mr. James stated that they had also upped the size of the fish to 15 inches. Mr. James stated that there was a Public Hearing coming up in New Bern in which he attended and there was good turn out with everyone reviewing the ideas for change. The final vote will be at the August meeting in Raleigh.

Consideration of Changing Bulk Item Pickup:

Manager Condon advised that at the May meeting the board decided to table the discussion in reference to bulk item pickup. Manager Condon advised that he was suggesting either a change from weekly service to a reduced schedule or a prescheduled basis. Manager Condon advised that Waste Industries would reduce the cost if they changed out the dumpsters at the facility.

Discussion was made of making these containers available to the public but plans had not been finalized of how to make them available. Discussion was also made that with the smaller containers we would not be able to maintain the weekly pickup. Discussion was also made of finding a particular day for this pickup.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made a motion to table the discussion until further information can be gathered. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to table this discussion until the next meeting.

Consideration of Designating Town Clerk as Deputy Tax Collector:

Manager Condon advised the board that Town Clerk, Lea Futrell needed to be designated as Deputy Tax Collector to assist with taking tax payments in the office. Manager Condon advised that the oath already taken by Ms. Futrell was sufficient to meet the requirements of Deputy Tax Collector.

Commissioner Joal Smith made a motion to designate Ms. Futrell as Deputy Tax Collector. Commissioner Al Searles seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to designate Ms. Futrell a Deputy Tax Collector.

Consideration of Approval of Accepting CDBG Infrastructure (CDBG-I) Grant:

Manager Condon advised that the engineers with McDavid & Associates were present in reference to the \$300,000 CDBG Grant. Manager Condon advised that to go forward the board would have to adopt the presented resolution accepting the CDBG Infrastructure grant, a resolution awarding McDavid & Associates Administration/Program Management services for the CDBG-I Project, and a resolution awarding McDavid & Associates Engineering/Construction/Design services for the CDBG-I Project. Also a CDBG-1 Grant Program Budget was presented. Manager Condon asked if all resolutions could be adopted as one or if they needed to be separate. McDavid & Associates advised they could be done as one motion.

Commissioner Joal Smith made a motion to adopt the all three resolutions and the project budget. Commissioner Tommy Jones seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adopt all resolutions and project budget.

Mayor's Update:

There was no mayor update.

Manager's Report:

There was no manager's report.

Board Comments:

There were no board comments.

Closed Session:

Mayor Russell Eason asked the board to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Town Attorney in order to preserve the Attorney-Client privilege and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(4) to discuss matters relating to economic development and the location or expansion of industries in the area served by the public body.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made the motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Joal Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to go into closed session.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made the motion to return to open session. Commissioner Joal Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to return to open session.

No action was taken in closed session.

July 13th, 2015

Adjournment:

Commissioner Tommy Jones made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Joal Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor

Attest

Town Clerk