

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 14th, 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.

Public Hearing:

Mayor Russell Eason advised that the public hearing was to discuss changing bulk item pickup and scheduling pickup before placing items on the curb.

There was a motion by Commissioner Tommy Jones and seconded by Commissioner Scotty Smith to open the public hearing. With a unanimous vote the second public hearing for Bulk Item Pickup was opened by the Mayor.

Manager Shawn Condon advised the proposed change was to transition from putting items out at any time and it staying on the curb until Public Works has a chance to pick it up. Manager Condon advised with the change there would be a call in schedule so that items would not sit on the curb until someone has time to pick it up.

Ms. Thomasina Williams questioned the process of how change would be explained to the citizens. Ms. Williams asked if there would be notices sent to residents or information put in the paper. Ms. Williams also questioned how much the town would charge and how other towns handle bulk items.

Manager Condon advised he had contacted other towns and not all of them offer bulk item pickup. Manager Condon advised that Beulaville, Wallace and Clinton offer some pick up service but Kenansville, Magnolia and Mt. Olive offer no pick up.

Mr. John Williams advised that he had rode around town the last few weeks and noticed a lot of trash laying around town. Mr. Williams advised that this needed to be taken care of. Mr. Williams advised the citizens had enough to pay for and should not have to continue to pay extra fees.

Ms. Morrisey advised that Waste Industries is not the only company that can pick up garbage and that we should check with other companies. Ms. Morrisey asked what the Public Works employees were doing that they could not provide this service without extra cost to the citizens.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Eason asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the August 10th, 2015 meeting.

Commissioner Joal Smith made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Owen Martin 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.

Ms. Pat Kelly-Royal spoke in reference to chaos in the town. Ms. Royal stated that there is confusion when rules change in mid-stream. Ms. Royal advised that at the last meeting anyone was allowed to speak and she felt that things were out of order. Ms. Royal also felt that there were several people in town that had questions about their water bills but were not being treated well from employees within the office. Ms. Royal also wanted to know why the board refused to meet with the Concerned Citizens.

Mr. Brandon McGee spoke in reference to issues with the police department. Mr. McGee advised that McGee's Bodyshop was wrongfully terminated from a verbal contract for a rotation towing for the Town of Warsaw. McGee's received a one sentence statement that their service was no longer needed. Mr. McGee advised that only one wrecker service was being used and they were from out of town. Mr. McGee advised that police cars were being taken out of town for work to be done. Mr. McGee asked if Warsaw businesses were not good enough to work on Warsaw vehicles. Mr. McGee asked who was authorizing these purchases.

Ms. Jesse Ladson advised that it had come to her attention that Carmen Gonzalez had been into V-Nails to sway the owners from signing the petition of the Concerned

Citizens. Ms. Ladson advised that this was a breach of the amendment given people the freedom of speech. Ms. Ladson also voiced concerns of the town being divided.

Ms. Yolanda Faison read a letter. Ms. Faison advised that the town was trying to operate outside of its budget. Ms. Faison advised that there was not a need for a Town Manager, Mayor and Code Enforcement if the town is in such a hardship. How does the board plan to support the town?

Ms. Cathy Nguyen read a letter. Ms. Nguyen asked why the board was not building the town up to be as strong as it could be. Ms. Nguyen asked how they could charge for storm water when that is water from God.

Ms. Thomasina Williams spoke in reference to FY 2015-2016. Ms. Williams advised of the Warsaw Library schedule and stated that with these hours the parents are not having adequate time to take their children to Warsaw but having to transport them to the Kenansville Library. Ms. Williams stated that funds were budgeted for the Pinecrest Cemetery Maintenance as well as the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Williams stated that these funds should have gone to support the library so that the citizens would better benefit. Ms. Williams advised that she had reviewed the salaries and staff members of Public Works and with 10 employees she does not understand why 2-3 of these employees could not handle the cemetery without contracting these services. Ms. Williams also stated she would like to request a special meeting to address water and sewer fund and storm water fund issues. Ms. Williams also mentioned that special meetings are not being advertised to the public.

Mr. John Williams addressed Commissioner Jones about a project from 2012 at George and Bell Streets. Mr. Williams was asking about the sewer capacity in this area. Mr. Williams also asked about the sewer system loans. Mr. Williams stated that he did not understand why we keep raising the water and sewer prices when we are able to make our payments. Mr. Williams advised that he is researching the water rates and that he could almost guarantee that Warsaw rates are higher than 90% of the towns. Mr. Williams was offered the information provided by the town manager which has the rates of the other towns in the county. Mr. Williams advised that he would do his own research.

Ms. Marzella Morrissey spoke in reference to storm water concerns. Ms. Morrissey advised that there is erosion by Douglass Middle School. Ms. Morrissey advised that tile was put in on Hwy 24 but it is flooding the property behind the school. Ms. Morrissey advised that she had spoken with the county and Raleigh in reference to these concerns. Ms. Morrissey did not agree with the storm water fee as all options were not reviewed prior to setting up this fee structure. Since the money is being collected but not being used she felt the town should do away with this fee

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

Presentation from Minister Warren Kearney, People of God Outreach Ministries:

Mr. Warren Kearney reviewed what his outreach ministries were. Mr. Kearney offered an invitation to everyone to his prayer vigil on October 10. Mr. Kearney advised that the main purpose was to stop violence in the communities. Mr. Kearney advised that he had spoken with several residents in Warsaw and had a petition to the board which is a request to prevent gun violence, gang activities, and to lower crime and to definitely keep the children off the streets. Mr. Kearney also shared a video interview with a young lady that lives in the community and how she feels about the community. Mr. Kearney advised that he would like to see Warsaw do something for the children to keep them off the street.

Consideration of Changing Bulk Item Pickup:

This item was continued from last board meeting. Manager Condon reviewed the procedures that other towns in the county use in regards to bulk item pickup. Manager Condon asked for ideas from the board in reference to this change since they had heard from the public. Manager Condon advised holding off to make any changes until sufficient time is given to notify everyone.

Commissioners discussed that a regular schedule needed to be kept so there should be at least one pickup a month or twice a month allowing for one pickup day for one side of town and another day for the other side of town. Commissioners also discussed that the public should call in to schedule but no charge at this time.

Commissioner Joal Smith made a motion to have citizens to call in to schedule pickup once a month, dividing the town in half, and no charge for pickup. This change to take effect November 1. Commissioner Tommy Jones seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to change bulk item pickup.

Consideration of Resolution Honoring William Sherman Frederick, Sr. 100th Birthday:

Manager Condon advised he had spoken with Mr. Frederick's daughter in reference to his 100th birthday. Manager Condon read the resolution to the public which contained a biography of Mr. Frederick's life and service to the community. Commissioner Tommy Jones advised that after the passing of his first wife, Mr. Frederick remarried and his second wife should be included in the resolution.

Commissioner Joal Smith made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Dr. Owen Martin seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to adopt the resolution.

Mayor's Update:

Mayor Russell Eason shared with the public what he has done for the Town. Mayor Eason advised that he had started cleaning up for the walking trail at the new park. Mayor Eason also advised that he had helped clean up the tennis courts. Mayor Eason also advised that steel had been delivered and the building would be started soon. Mayor Eason also advised that his efforts were done out of his own will and that the Town was not paying him for these services. Mayor Eason also invited the citizens to go by and see just how much work was being done at the new park.

Manager's Report:

Manager Shawn Condon advised that he would like to congratulate Chief Eric Southerland and Captain Patrick Giddeons on receiving their merit certifications based on years of services and training.

Board Comments:

Commissioner Scotty Smith thanked the citizens for their comments as it is helpful to have public comments. Commissioner Smith advised that there had been several complaints about storm water and now that something has been done about it the people are not happy. Commissioner Smith advised they would do the best they could.

Commissioner Tommy Jones backed up Commissioner Smith in the storm water fees. Commissioner Jones also spoke in reference to the water rates being where they are to be able to receive grants. The Town has been able to receive grants to upgrade our equipment to provide the best service to the Town.

Commissioner Al Searles spoke on the rate comparisons. Commissioner Searles advised that the rates have to be there to be able to provide efficient service. Commissioner Searles advised that there is a project in mind to use the storm water money. Commissioner Searles also pointed out that the State has offered money to the Town if the Town will make certain repairs.

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.

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 Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to return to open session.

No action was taken in closed session.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Dr. Owen Martin 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