

MINUTES
WARSAW TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 10, 2022

The regular meeting of the Warsaw Town Council was held on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at 78 Belle Ville Lane, Warsaw, VA. Council Members Present: Vice-Mayor Paul G. Yackel, Ogle E. Forrest, Sr., Mary Beth Bryant, Faron Hamblin, and Ralph Self. Council member Rebecca Hubert attended over the phone. Mayor Randall Phelps was absent.

Town staff present: Town Manager Joseph N. Quesenberry, Community Development Specialist Melissa Coates, Treasurer/Clerk Julia Blackley-Rice, Police Chief Joan Kent, Plant Manager Garrett Withers, officer Calvin Singleton, and officer Trey Blake.

Also present: Others present were Gary Palmore, John Bateman, Tiffany Hackett, Sara and Kaleb Carroll, and Belinda Reynolds.

The meeting was live streamed on the Town of Warsaw's Facebook page.

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-mayor Yackel called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Forrest made a motion to approve the consent agenda as is. The motion was seconded by Councilman English and carried by the following votes:

Paul G. Yackel	Aye	Ogle F. Forrest Sr.	Aye
Mary Beth Bryant	Aye	Ralph Self	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye	Rebecca Hubert	Aye
Jonathan English	Aye		

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMENDATION

To honor Gary Palmore for his years of service to the Town, he was presented with a resolution. Vice-mayor Yackel read the resolution to the body and thanked Mr. Palmore for his service.

PUBLIC HEARING

Vice-mayor Yackel opened the public hearing by reading the notice that was published in the Northern Neck News. The hearing was then turned over to John Bateman to explain the purpose of the CDBG funding for a project involving housing needs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tiffany Hackett spoke regarding wanting to see more of a police presence in the town especially during the bus route stops. She is noticing that cars are not stopping when the bus stops to pick up children. Belinda Reynolds then spoke regarding a lawsuit that the town is involved in. She was concerned that the citizens had not been notified about it yet and did not agree with the way it was being handled.

With no further public comments, Vice Mayor Yackel closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

REPORTS

Mayor's Report: The budget request deadline has been extended to March 1, and the virtual presence deadline for Council members as of right now is February 20th, 2022, unless the governor makes another extension. We are working to find out the details and parameters of it.

Town Manager's Report:

- **Budget preparation:** We are currently working on the 2023 Fiscal year budget and should have it ready to present by the end of March.
- **Town vehicles:** It has taken a while to get vehicles in that we have put on order, but an older public works vehicle has been replaced.
- **Tourism billboard:** The towns of Warsaw, Colonial Beach, Tappahannock, and Montross are coming together to have a billboard put in Richmond to help promote tourism in our area. This will be up for 5 months.
- **Town murals:** We are looking into a grant fund to aid in putting a few more murals in the town. We have been working with a company that did murals for other localities in the Northern Neck.
- To address Ms. Reynolds comment, for legal matters there is a closed session scheduled to discuss the court case that she referred to. Everything has been discussed with the Town attorney and the town has filed a countersuit.

Police Report: Chief Kent gave the report. She introduced the 2 new hires, officer Trey Blake and officer Calvin Singleton. There were 100 calls for service, 42 traffic stops, and 19 summonses issued.

Planning Commission: There was no Planning Commission meeting.

Northern Neck Regional Jail: Included in packet. Vice-mayor Yackel provided an average cost breakdown per inmate report for all the jails in the state of Virginia. The jail has met and/or exceeded all the audits and inspections during the past year. The jail is being run very well.

Council Committee Reports: No committees met.

WWTP Report: Garrett Withers gave the Wastewater treatment plant report. He explained the numbers in the report to Council. All of the averages and discharges look good.

ARPA: Of the total allocated amount of \$1,541,750.00 we have spent \$287,082.58. We have to spend the remaining funds by 2024. A well was replaced and the public works vehicle will be taken out of the funds when that is received.

OLD BUSINESS

Project Reports:

- **Community Market:** A design build proposal was submitted this week. The Town Manager would like to get this to bid by April. The market will open this spring (April 22) on Fridays from 11 to 7.
- **IRF:** Work is being continued at the brewery and they hope for a late summer opening.
- **Comprehensive Plan proposal:** The Town Manager presented a proposal from the Berkley Group. This is a firm we have used in the past. The schedule would start April 2022 and run until August 2023. This company would come in and have meetings, public input sessions, create mapping, etc. to develop our comprehensive plan. Our total would be \$64,951.80.

Councilman Forrest made a motion to enter contract with the Berkley Group. Councilman English seconded the motion which was carried by the following votes:

Paul G. Yackel	Aye	Ogle F. Forrest Sr.	Aye
Mary Beth Bryant	Aye	Ralph Self	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye	Rebecca Hubert	Aye
Jonathan English	Aye		

- **Marijuana Regulation and operations:** The Town Manager has researched this, and Vice-mayor Yackel would like to discuss it. There are 5 different ordinances. We have until January 2024 to have something codified but would like to get the process started.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Emergency call boxes:** The Town Manager spoke regarding the addition of blue light emergency phone call boxes. With recent events in surrounding counties, we believe that having a few of these boxes would help make residents and visitors feel safe. They are stand alone and solar powered. We are trying to get together grant funding and we will work on pricing before the next meeting.

- Three rivers forestry: Mr. Magruder sent over a proposal from Three Rivers Forestry to reforest 160 acres of the Strawberry Hill tract.

Councilman Hamblin made a motion to move forward with the proposal from Three Rivers Forestry. Councilman Forrest seconded the motion which was carried by the following votes:

Paul G. Yackel	Aye	Ogle F. Forrest Sr.	Aye
Mary Beth Bryant	Aye	Ralph Self	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye	Rebecca Hubert	Aye
Jonathan English	Aye		

Councilman Self brought up the leaning acorn lights. Melissa Coates responded that she has been in contact with Dominion, and they are aware of the issue.

Councilman Hamblin commended the employees that had to work overnight to fix the water break.

Before entering closed session, Vice mayor Yackel thanked the public for coming out for the meeting and giving your input.

CLOSED SESSION: Personnel – Section 2.2-3711 A5 & A7 (Prospective Business, Legal Matters)

Vice-Mayor Yackel moved to enter closed session in accordance with Section 2.2-3711A (5) Prospective Business and Section 2.2-3711A (7) Legal Matters of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hamblin and carried with the following votes.

Paul G. Yackel	Aye	Ogle F. Forrest Sr.	Aye
Mary Beth Bryant	Aye	Ralph Self	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye	Rebecca Hubert	Aye
Jonathan English	Aye		

Councilman Forrest moved to come out of closed session and reenter regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hamblin and carried with the following votes.

Paul G. Yackel	Aye	Ogle F. Forrest Sr.	Aye
Mary Beth Bryant	Aye	Ralph Self	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye	Rebecca Hubert	Aye
Jonathan English	Aye		

Council then certified by roll call vote that they only discussed matters cited in the motion to enter closed session and legally permitted to be so discussed in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act subsections cited in the motion to enter closed session. The roll call votes are as follows.

Paul G. Yackel	Aye	Ogle F. Forrest Sr.	Aye
Mary Beth Bryant	Aye	Ralph Self	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye	Rebecca Hubert	Aye
Jonathan English	Aye		

ACTION OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Hamblin made a motion to enter into a 1-year operating agreement with Diomed presents beginning May 1, 2022. Councilman Forrest seconded the motion which was carried by the following votes:

Paul G. Yackel	Aye	Ogle F. Forrest Sr.	Aye
Mary Beth Bryant	Aye	Ralph Self	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye	Rebecca Hubert	Aye
Jonathan English	Aye		

CLOSING COMMENTS

Rebecca Hubert: Appreciates being able to call into the meeting.

Ogle Forrest: Agrees with fellow council members; thinks that 2022 is going to be a great year.

Mary Beth Bryant: Very interesting meeting.

Ralph Self: Would like to continue to do good things in the town and continue making improvements for its residents.

Faron Hamblin: Very good meeting, looking forward to the concert series.

Jonathan English: Commends public works crew again. Always hearing good things about Warsaw when out. Regarding the lawsuit information that was brought to Council during the public comment, he asked Councilmembers and residents to remember there are three sides to every story.

With there being no further comments, Vice mayor Yackel adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm.

Submitted by: Julia Blackley-Rice, Clerk