

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 14, 2022 at 6:00pm at the Warsaw Town Hall.

**Board Members Present:**

Mayor A.J. Connors  
Commissioner Scotty Smith  
Commissioner Russell Eason  
Commissioner Jack Hawes  
Commissioner Ebony Wills-Wells

**Also Present:**

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

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

Commissioner Jack Hawes made a motion to accept the agenda. Commissioner Russell Eason 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 Commissioner Hawes made a motion to pull Item (3) Medical Insurance Coverage for Retirees (New Hires) Rescinded out of Consent Agenda. Commissioner Ebony Wills-Wells seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to remove item (3) from consent agenda and add as Item 7 on the regular agenda.

Commissioner Jack Hawes made the motion to approve the consent agenda items. Commissioner Russell Eason seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the following consent agenda items: (1) Approval of Minutes from February 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Commissioner Meeting and (2) Approval of Minutes from February 24<sup>th</sup> Budget Meeting #1

**Public Comments:**

Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to open public comments. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to open public comments.

Mr. Wesley Boykin spoke in reference to drainage around his home. He thanked public works for their work. He also questioned an ordinance prohibiting cement to protect erosion. He also would like to see attention placed on community policing.

Manager Summerlin recognized the Police Chief to announce his Police Academy. Chief Giddeons advised he would begin classes in late April. There would be 5 classes and from these classes he hoped to create an advisory committee to help review some of the police complaints.

Mrs. George spoke again asking for follow-up from her complaint last month on Officer Carmon. She advised the police needed to engage in a more friendly manner.

Mrs. Smith spoke in reference to her son who was arrested in reference to an ordinance violation. Mr. Smith was on the agenda to speak so he was not heard during public comment.

Ms. Angela Mainor spoke against Officer Carmon in a situation she had been advised of where a homeowner was asked to tear down their home. Ms. Mainor asked where the citizens' liberty and justice was.

Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to close public comments. Commissioner Jack Hawes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to close public comments.

### **Presentation of Audit Report – Year Ending June 20, 2021:**

Austin Eubanks with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams gave a report on the audit findings for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. He stated that overall, there were no significant audit adjustments or deficiencies. There were also no findings or issues reported. General Fund Balance is at 73.52% or \$2,677,903 of which \$382,513 is restricted funds. Economic Revolving Loan Fund has an ending balance of \$490,693. Water and Sewer had a negative \$193,978 due to depreciation but the ending balance is \$16,125,319.

### **Audit Services Engagement Letter, Contract, Fees for Audit Services:**

Town Manager, Scotty Summerlin, advised that there was a price increase this year and asked if Austin could elaborate on this. Austin advised that due to all the special projects the Town was working on at this time they had to do more work and thus had to increase the price. Overall, there is about a \$4,000 price increase.

Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to approve the proposed contract and engagement letter. Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the audit contract and allow the manager to sign the engagement letter.

### **McDavid Associates Presentation & Documents for Approval:**

Trey Gurley with McDavid Associates gave a brief update on Contract 42 and 43. He mentioned these projects should be closing out in July. Currently change orders have been submitted to account for the increased time on the projects and some last-minute items that had to be completed. These changes also required a change to the owner-engineer agreement. Mr. Gurley asked that the Board vote to approve these changes.

Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to approve the change orders and the owner-engineer agreement. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the change orders and the owner-engineer agreement.

Mr. Gurley also stated that there was \$1.6Billion given to NC from the American Rescue Plan. The grant period for these funds are May and September. He stated they would be making application for the Town in May to rehab and upfit the sewer plant to a 1

Million gallon a day facility. In September they are seeking funds for an asset and inventory system (GIS system). This will help map the Town's water and sewer lines such that locating services will be easier.

### **Code Enforcement Concerns:**

Mr. William Smith, III came to speak with the Board about ordinance violation concerns he had. Mr. Smith advised he had received violations from Officer Carmon in reference to the condition of his home and trash around his property. Mr. Smith advised that he was summoned to court for these violations. He stated that due to COVID restrictions court had been delayed multiple times but that he had not returned to court for his violations. Mr. Smith stated that an officer came to his home in Knightdale and told him he was under arrest for his ordinance violations and asked him to turn himself in. Mr. Smith stated that he did turn himself in and had to spend a night in jail and come up with bail money for his violation. Mr. Smith stated that he does not currently live in this home but he does keep a check on the home and he does not feel that his home is in such shape to warrant constant citations. Mr. Smith asked that the Board consider revising the policy and also that this officer be dealt with because putting innocent people in jail for something of this nature was not acceptable.

Commissioner Jack Hawes stated that he thought it had been asked not to put people in court over violations. He stated that the ordinance citation was very confusing and that after reading the ordinances from the ordinance online he was still unsure that Mr. Smith was correctly cited.

Manager Summerlin stated that he agrees that changes do need to be made but there were inconsistencies in the information given. Manager Summerlin advised he was not arrested for failure to pay the citations or address the concerns; he was arrested for failure to appear in court. Manager Summerlin also advised that this problem had been ongoing for 2 years with no calls from Mr. Smith about the situation or any attempt to rectify the problems. Manager Summerlin advised that discussion would be had during budget about updating ordinances.

### **Medical Insurance Coverage for Retirees (new Hires) Rescinded:**

Last month there was discussion and a motion to rescind medical insurance for retirees with 25 years of service and being age 62. With the motion to rescind at last month's meeting there is currently no plan in place for new hires to receive medical insurance benefit when they retire. The item was tabled for further research and suggestions from the Town Manager. Town Manager Summerlin stated that at this time the Town is looking at \$54,000 for perpetuity and he feels at this rate the Town cannot afford to go forward with this plan so it was his recommendation to not formally adopt a new policy for the Town to pay insurance after years worked for perpetuity.

After much discussion, Commissioner Ebony Wills-Wells made a motion to table the discussion until budget discussion. Commissioner Jack Hawes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to table this item until budget discussion.

**Manager's Update:**

Manager Summerlin advised that DreamWorks was up to 640 new members and continuing to sign more each week. He also advised of the budget workshop on March 29 at 6:00 pm.

**Mayor's Update:**

Mayor Connors mentioned being at a County Commissioners meeting and them speaking of adding rumble strips in areas around the County and asked if that was a possibility at the 4-way stop signs? Manager Summerlin advised the Stop Ahead signs had just been placed and we would wait and see how they worked before discussing other options.

Mayor Connors also advised that the Elections agreement had been signed.

**Board Comments:**


Commissioner Scotty Smith thanked everyone for coming and let everyone know that he would strive to do the best for all.

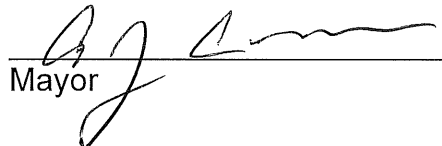
Commissioner Jack Hawes stated that everyone may not agree but we would try to negotiate and come together for the best of the Town.

**Adjournment:**

Commissioner Russell Eason made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ebony Wills-Wells seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:

  
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Town Clerk

  
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Mayor