

NAVASSA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

April 15, 2010

7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilman Michael Ballard
Councilman Antonio Burgess

Councilman Milton Burns
Councilman Craig Suggs

Mayor Eulis Willis

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilman Jerry Merrick

STAFF PRESENT

Claudia Bray, Town Administrator
Travis Barnes, Planner

Charlena Alston, Town Clerk
Wendell Graham, Police Officer

CITIZENS & VISITORS

Dorsey Jones, Jr
Darlene Jones
Essie Bethel
Marie Davis
Pat Green

Bill McDow
Bun Bethel
Barbara Thomas
Clifton Ballard

Mayor Willis called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON A MOTION BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BURNS THE MINUTES FROM THE TWO PREVIOUS MEETINGS WERE ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED WITH THE NECESSARY CORRECTIONS. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

GOVERNANCE

Mayor gave the following brief:

- Star News was at the Town Hall to meet the public regarding their media coverage. Did not have a good attendance from the public even with notification begin sent through CTY.
- Close out letter from the Brownfield grant was received.
- The Cresote Site 292 acres were declared a superfund site additional sampling will be done in May.

- There was a meeting with Exxon/Mobil regarding the clean up of the old VC Site about 15 acres. Estimated cost is between \$8 million and \$10 million with start date for the work in June. A fence for security will be installed and Leland Library will have the ongoing project information regarding the cleanup. There also will be a community outreach person to help answer questions when the project begins.

VENDORS/VISITORS WITH TOWN BUSINESS

Dorsey Jones a representative for CAC presented the board a draft of the Cape Fear Community 2035 Transportation Plan. Thirteen municipalities and organizations along with WAVE and the North Carolina Dept. of Transportation have developed a draft addressing future needs.

Bill McDow with the MPO did a slide show and stated this is the plan for the next 25 years and the plan is multi mobile.

Councilman Ballard made reference to the railroad transportation that TAC has recommended they approved to get the 47 acres that was missing in the Wallace area.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

The Town Planner gave the following report:

- William and Juanita Ballard have submitted a completed application to rename Laing Trail to “Buddy and Nita’s Way”. Staff has notified the adjacent property owners and Brunswick County GIS of the request and has provided them with 30 days to submit comments. So far no comments have been received and Brunswick County has given their approval of the request. At last night’s Planning Board meeting the board voted to recommend conditional approval for Laing Trail to be renamed provided that no comments come in over the next 3 days, which is the end of the 30 day period. The board requests that Council hold a public hearing, in accordance with the street renaming policy, at the next scheduled council meeting to vote on the request. Public newspaper advertisements are not required.
- The Planning Board is in the process of reviewing a few text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance in order to strengthen its ability to address a variety of issues such as enhanced tree preservation and sweepstakes parlors/internet cafes.
- The Planning board requests that Council appoint a new member to fill the current board vacancy. Ms. Beverly Hutchinson of 1510 Everett Spring Drive in Lena Springs has expressed interest in the position and we have asked her to provide a description of her background for the Town Council to review.
- The next scheduled Planning Board meeting is Wednesday, May 12th at 7:30 pm.
- Barnes has forwarded the CAMA text amendments that council approved at last month’s meeting to Mike Christenbury with NC Division of Coastal Management who has placed the item on the agenda for the may Coastal Resource Commission’s meeting where they will review the amendments.
- The Environmental and Stormwater Advisory Committee has been working on a final draft of the Stormwater Ordinance and drafts have been sent to engineering firms and the

Department of Environment and Natural Resources to obtain comments before being taken to council for adoption.

- The committee recommended that council approve a budget in the amount not to exceed \$1150 to have the rain garden planting and litter sweep on Saturday April 24th from 9-12 in an effort to educate the community about the importance of environmental preservation and storm water management. I have a detailed line item budget for council if desired. This will include the landscaping materials to finish the rain garden and also the town hall park, and will also include refreshments and the storm water poster contest. This will satisfy our storm water events for the year and should make up for some of last year.
- Staff has been working on the Green Challenge.

Council ask that the name be verified to make sure the word and is spell out and not the symbol used in “Buddy and Nita’s Way”.

Council gave a directive that CTY notification be sent regarding the planning board vacancy once a week for two weeks.

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BURGESS TO APPROVE THE STORMWATER BUDGET. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

Substance Abuse Policy

- COUNCILMAN SUGGS MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO ADOPT THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY WITH THE AMENDMENT THAT THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING THE POLICY. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Phoenix Park

- A community meeting is planned to discuss the Phoenix Park.
- COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BURNS TO HIRE HOWARD CAPPS TO DO THE CONCEPTUAL PLAN. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.
- Council appointed Athelston Bethel to the Phoenix Park Advisory Board.

UNC Economic Development

- Councilman Ballard and Councilman Burns will be attending the training for Economic Development.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution authorizing Approval of “R” funds-R-2010-09

- COUNCILMAN SUGGS MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO AUTHORIZE APPROVAL SIGNATURES OF EULIS WILLIS, CLAUDIA BRAY, AND CHARLENA ALSTON TO SIGN REQUISITION FOR CDBG-R FUNDS FORM. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. (RESOLUTION R-2010-09 LOCATED IN THE RESOLUTION BOOK IS HEREBY INCORPORATED INTO THIS MEETING.)

Naming of Budget Team

- This fiscal year budget team will consist of Town Administrator, Clerk, Mayor, and the following council members; Burgess, Merrick, Suggs, and Burns. The first initial meeting will be May 4th at 6:00 pm.

Utility/Water Board update

- NC Rural Water Association met with the Utility Board and Staff regarding the sewer leaks and plans for repair. On the 26th of this month will hold a meeting with Brunswick County, Rural Water, Utility Board and Brunswick Regional H2GO.
- COUNCILMAN SUGGS MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO ADOPT THE WATER LATE FEE POLICY. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. (Attachment 1)

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORTS

Councilman Ballard reported that the trees on Cedar Hill Road near Clifton Ballard's house are going to be removed by DOT because they are the cause of the drainage problem in that area.

Councilman Burns ask if any maintenance work can be done on Beluah Lane.

Councilman Suggs stated he was impressed with the Chairman and the Planning Board how they conduct the planning board meetings. He also reminded the council that the planning board is requesting that an attorney be hired to help review upcoming planning policies.

Councilman Burgess reported that Park Ave and Plum Street had 3-way stop signs added before installing speed bumps. Request that police presence be increased to help deter speeders.

CITIZENS

John Crowder thanked Council for their efforts in passing a resolution to help get the lawsuit between H2GO and Brunswick County dropped.

Athelston Bethel asked how the containment sites soil will be disposed of. Also, thanked board for appointment to the Phoenix Park Advisory Board.

- Mayor stated that the containment soil would be transported out by trucks. Estimate of 50-100 trucks on our streets with this project.

Marie Davis asks if she could see a copy of the water late fee policy.

Clifton Ballard asked the following questions and requested that he be contacted by DOT before removal begins.

Is DOT required to contact him the property owner before removing trees?

Will they cut down the trees and leave the stumps or do a complete removal?

Will he be compensated for his trees that are removed?

Will they resell the trees or dispose of them?

- Councilman Ballard respond that DOT stated the trees are in the drainage right of way and no compensation will be given and trees will be grinded up.

Elton Daniels reminded staff and council the he is here to assist them with budget preparation. Request that staff have the Powel bill implemented by June 30, look at existing contracts to see if they can be renegotiated, and look at raising the utility rates.

A citizen asked will there be some type of beautification for the town sign.

- Councilman Burgess his currently working on this project and will contact citizen about helping.

James Knox introduces himself and asks for support for his campaign for District 17 House of Representative seat.

UPCOMING EVENTS

North Carolina Black Summit will be on the 29th.

The rain garden event will be on 24th.

North Carolina Black Mayors conference will be May 12th.

Bid Opening for Davis Creek Park on April 22nd.

Budget workshop and Planning Board new appointment on May 4th.

ADJOURN

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BURGESS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Approval Date: May 20, 2010