

NAVASSA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

November 19, 2009

7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Eulis Willis, Mayor

Michael Ballard, Councilman

Milton Burns, Councilman

Jerry Merrick, Councilman

Craig Suggs, Councilman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Melvin Walker, Councilman

STAFF PRESENT

Claudia Bray, Town Administrator

Travis Barnes, Planner

Al Beatty, Zoning Administrator

Michelyn Alston, Admin Assistant

Alonza Davis

Elton Daniels

CITIZENS & VISITORS PRESENT

Gary Parish

Richard Watson

William White

Frank Willis

Nehemiah Holliday

Marie Davis

Josie Lewis

Clifton Ballard

Roland Philip

Donal Thomas

Andre Andrews

Hazel Weston

Earnis Briant

Herbert Willis

Barbara Thomas

Ruby Brown

Geraldine Hall

Dorsey Jones, Jr

Ella Beatty

Darlene Jones

Councilman Ballard led the prayer and Mayor Willis called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON A MOTION BY COUNCILMAN SUGGS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING WAS ACCEPT AND ADOPTED WITH THE NECESSARY CORRECTIONS. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

GOVERNANCE

Mayor stated will ask Claudia and/or Charlena to see if there is a define procedure for adding items to agenda after agenda meeting.

Mayor read from page 44 of the Municipal Government in North Carolina Book from the section on Open Meetings.

FOLLOWUP ACTION FROM MINUTES

Mayor gave a brief about the title 5 complaint that was filed with the Governors Office regarding the I-140 Bypass and still awaiting feedback from Governor.

The previous land auction bid was rejected by council. Town Administrator reported that the land will be re-bid on December 14th at 10:00 am with the minimum bid amount of \$32,000 for the parcel of land located off of M. Brown Lane.

The Phoenix Park Advisory Board wants more added to the map from the surveyor regarding the 4.65 acres. The following items are requested:

- To know the boundaries for the adjacent creek
- Would like for the old map to show the old baseball outline
- Want to get the wet lands delineated

The board will meet on November 21st at 9:00 am on site. Council and public are welcome to attend.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

Zoning Administrator gave the following report:

- The Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization has sent a written request for the town to appoint a new representative to the Citizen Advisory Committee which is responsible for making recommendations to the Transportation Advisory Committee regarding transportation projects within the MPO's jurisdiction. The meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm. With all of the recent issues concerning the I-140 bypass and the future growth of the town it is very important to have someone that will be able to attend the meetings and actively participate. Requesting council to appoint someone to Citizen Advisory Committee.
- The Planning Board has been making progress on a noise and nuisance ordinance that will gradually work towards improving the town by removing sources of blight and encouraging increased civic pride.
- At the November 10th meeting the Planning Board voted to recommend a policy for the Town Council to review that will address any request by citizens to change the street names of public and private streets within the town.
- The Planning Board has been working on reviewing the board's bylaws under the new Zoning Ordinance and will be making a recommendation up to the Town

Council for consideration once a final draft is agreed upon by the board. The following are the main points:

- Equal representation throughout the town, a member from each district.
- Two at large members to the planning board
- Stagger the members terms
- Advertise the vacant position
- The next Planning Board meeting will be Wednesday, December 9th at 7:30 pm and members from the public are encouraged to attend.
- The Planner reported that he attend the North Carolina American Planning Association's regional planning workshop on Wednesday. The free training included fiscal sustainability, economic development for small towns, local economic development and climate change, and green community planning. Additionally, staff is a representative of the NCAPA Young Planners Group who also conducted a presentation about the formation of the group in the Cape Fear Region.

The Council directed Councilman Ballard to name someone for the CAC Representative.

Councilman Ballard suggests posting the street renaming policy for public review and holds a public hearing in January meeting. This will be posted at town hall, website, and newspaper.

Council will discuss the planning board bylaws at the upcoming council retreat.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor gave the update about the community center status and that the job has been re-bid. McDavid Associates has turn in the bid to do the project cheaper.

Mayor and board discuss the Resolution for Funding Acceptance and RFP for Administrative Services date advertise December 4th. The following concerns and questions were asked during the discussion:

- Councilman Burns ask who would be doing the redesign and would the building still meet the specification for hurricanes.
- Councilman Suggs asked who decides what comes out of the building in order to the cost down.
- Councilman Burns made the suggestion that the Betterment Council be involved in the changing of the community center.

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTION FOR FUNDING ACCEPTANCE.

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN SUGGS TO TABLE THIS ISSUE UNTIL DECEMBER 3RD AT 5:00 PM. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

- Councilman Merrick express concerns that the 1.2 million loan for 40 years will limit the town's ability to borrow money. He request that the financial people get together to discuss the finances.
- Councilman Suggs stated the public should know the exact cost pre month per year.
- Councilman Burns ask for financial report.

The RFP for Administrative Services was tabled.

December 14th at 5:00 pm there will be a public hearing for the CDBG program amendment.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Merrick explains the reason for opening an e-bay account for the Police Department to use to outfit the new police car.

COUNCILMAN SUGGS MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BURNS TO ALLOW THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO OPEN AN E-BAY ACCOUNT. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

COUNCILMAN SUGGS MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BURNS THAT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR IS ALLOWED TO GET NEW COMPUTERS FOR TOWN HALL AND NEEDED SOFTWARE. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

The board agreed to swear in new member at December meeting.

The Mayor, Town Clerk, and Council will attend the upcoming New Governing Board Training January 13th & 14th.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORTS

Councilman Suggs reported that the test speed bumps on Church Street seem to be working and was removed temporarily awaiting end caps.

Councilman Burns request that the electrical box be repaired on the ballpark and wanted to know the criteria for the police patrolling an area when town events are held.

- Councilman Merrick stated at the time of the fall festival one officer was off and Brunswick County was covering.
- Mayor stated a work order will be put in for the repair of the electrical box.

CITIZENS

William White how can you have councilmen impeach?

Abdul Bethel state he had a document dated May 2008 suggesting to the leaders to defer from the community center for the time being because of the funding and operating expensive involved. If leaders proceed it will cause a reduction in services or a 15% property tax increase. What will it cost the average citizen?

Frank Willis stated he doesn't understand why they are stalling regarding the community center. Also, express concern regarding no response from the Police Department on an awaiting police report.

Barbara Thomas question was in the last meeting it was voted on to do the community center. What is the difference between last meeting and the meeting tonight?

Ella Beatty apologizes for interrupting the meeting before the citizen's opportunity to speak was given. She stated it appears that council has more information before them to consider before making a decision regarding the community center. Would like to know how this will affect her income as a tax payer and reminded council that the building is needed but infrastructure for the Phoenix area is still needed as well.

Herbert Willis as is there any money in the budget for the water/sewer for the area along Cedar Hill Road.

Richard Watson stated it appears that there's a problem with council having ditch bank meetings and express that the children need this community center.

Earnest Briant explain that the community center is needed and whatever information is needed it should be researched quickly because he doesn't want to see the grant money already received returned. Suggested that council have a meeting to work out the financial details and then hold a public hearing informing the public the cost per month on the community center.

Andre Andrews reinforce the previous statements that it is a need for the building and stated there are programs and funding available through the government to help pay for the building.

Darlene Jones ask once infrastructure for water/sewer on Cedar Hill Road is completed will there be any recoupment of cost to her sister who had to pay Brunswick County \$14,000 to hook onto there system.

Marie Davis expresses concerns about police department not being visible.

Dorsey Jones asked is there any follow up regarding the voting status of the mayor.

- Councilman Merrick states that in 1978 Bobby Brown had the right to vote because he was appointed from among the board. Mayor Willis does not have the right to vote only to break a tie.

Gary Parrish asked how many police officers are on the force and stated he doesn't see them patrolling on Park Ave but always see them at the restaurant where he works.

Ruby Brown informed council that it appears the town will not be getting a community center and the money will be going a waste.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Utility Operations Board Meeting is December 1st.

Phoenix Park Advisory Committee meeting will be held December 10th.

ADJOURN

COUNCILMAN SUGGS MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

|Approval Date: December 17, 2009