

NAVASSA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

April 21, 2022

7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Eulis Willis, Mayor
William Ballard, Councilman
Ernest Mooring Jr, Councilman

Jerry Merrick, Councilman
Ida Dixon, Councilwoman

MEMBERS ABSENT

James Hardy, Councilman

STAFF PRESENT

Darryl Decotis, Police Chief
Claudia Bray, Town Administrator

Amirabbas Vaziri, Police Officer
Michelyn Alston, Clerk

CITIZENS & VISITORS PRESENT

LaTonya Lowe
James Woodberry
Frank Willis
Craig Suggs

Tracey Troy, audio recorder
D. Williams
Seth Ellis
Steve & Jean Ellis

Councilman Ballard led the Invocation
Before Mayor Willis called April 21, 2022, meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

The Administrator asked for adjustment of the agenda to add Planner Position.

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO ADJUST THE AGENDA TO ADD PLANNER POSITION. 2-AYES Merrick/Ballard, 3-NAYS Dixon/Mooring with Mayor breaking tie. ALL VOTED BY SHOW OF HANDS.

Councilwoman Dixon asked that Administrative Assistant Position removed from agenda and tabled until May 2nd.

COUNCILWOMAN DIXON MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MOORING TO TABLE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION TO MAY 2ND. 3-AYES Dixon/Mooring with Mayor breaking tie, 2-NAYS. ALL VOTED BY SHOW OF HANDS.

Councilman Ballard asked that the Police Department Renovations plumbing quotes removed and tabled until May 2nd.

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN DIXON TO TABLE POLICE DEPARTMENT RENOVATIONS PLUMBING QUOTE UNTIL MAY 2ND. 2-AYES Ballard/Dixon, 3-NAYS Merrick/Mooring with Mayor breaking tie. ALL VOTED BY SHOW OF HANDS.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MOORING TO APPROVAL THE ADJUSTED AGENDA. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MOORING TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING WITH THE NECESSARY CORRECTIONS. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

VENDORS/VISITORS WITH TOWN BUSINESS

Christian Preziosi showed a presentation about the Moze Heritage Project for the Project Boundary Options. Here are few of the highlights:

- Project proposal submitted to Natural Resource Trustee council in 2016.
- Objective to provide for natural resource benefits to help offset or replace injured resources of the Kerr McGee Site.
- Additional benefits to provide for recreational benefits and highlight the cultural heritage of the area.
- Concept plan based upon donation of land from the Multi-State Trust.

OLD BUSINESS

Police Department Renovations

Windows and Doors trimming quote presented in the amount of \$3,000 for labor only. Councilman Mooring stated he received another quote for the plumbing but was not aware that an additional quote for the windows & doors were needed.

COUNCILMAN MOORING MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN DIXON TO TABLE WINDOWS AND DOORS QUOTE UNTIL MAY 2ND WHEN ADDITIONAL QUOTES WILL BE PRESENTED. 3-AYES, 1-NAY. ALL VOTED BY SHOW OF HANDS.

The plumbing quotes were discussed, and some board members requested clarification on the quotes.

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN DIXON TO TABLE UNTIL MAY 2ND. 3-AYES, 1-NAY. BY SHOW OF HANDS.

NEW BUSINESS

Hiring of Police Officer

Chief DeCotis introduced Amirabbas Vaziri to the citizens and recommended that the board swear him in as part time officer making him the fifth officer for the police department.

There was a discussion between Chief and Mayor regarding procedure with hiring of officers, the Administrator asking that the board take action to hire, then swear officer into office. The format that the Chief suggested regarding procedure can be discuss another time.

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MOORING TO HIRE AMIRABBAS VAZIRI AS PART TIME POLICE OFFICER. ALL VOTE IN FAVOR BY SHOW OF HANDS.

Mayor Willis gave the Oath of Office to Amirabbas Vaziri.

“I, Amirabbas Vaziri accept the duties and responsibilities of the position of Police Officer with the Town of Navassa, and do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability; so help me God.

I do solemnly swear that I will be alert and vigilant to enforce the criminal laws of the State of North Carolina; that I will not be influenced in any matter on account of personal bias or prejudice; that I will faithfully and impartially execute the duties of my office as Police Officer according to the best of my skill, abilities, and judgment; so, help me, God.”

DOT Mowing Agreement

The board was presented with NCDOT reimbursement agreement for mowing season 2022 in the amount of \$4,617.05.

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MOORING TO ENTER INTO MOWING AGREEMENT WITH NCDOT. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Community Yard Sale Request

A request to use the Community Center Green Grass area in the back to hold a community yard sale on May 14th at 7:30 am was presented. Each vendor will be responsible for their set up and clean up and no entry into the building is require.

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO APPROVE USAGE OF COMMUNITY CENTER OUTSIDE AREA FOR COMMUNITY YARD SALE. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Proclamation-Municipal Clerks Week

Proclamation

53rd ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK
May 1 - May 7, 2022

Whereas, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world, and

Whereas, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants, and

Whereas, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies, and agencies of government at other levels, and

Whereas, Professional Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all.

Whereas, The Professional Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community.

Whereas, Professional Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, provincial, county, and international professional organizations.

Whereas, it is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk.

Now, Therefore, I, Eulis A. Willis, Mayor of Town of Navassa, do recognize the week of May 1 through May 7, 2022, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week, and further extend appreciation to our Professional Municipal Clerk, Michelyn Alston and to all Professional Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

Dated this 21st day of April 2022

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Motorola Quote

Chief stated the reason he has chosen the Motorola Quote is because the county has an agreement that they will program all radios for free. He reminded the board that he is actively seeking grants to purchase the remaining radios.

Mayor Willis expressed his disagreement with the timing of the purchase stating we are within months of a new budget year, and it could have waited.

The Administrator informed the board that the Police Department has funds because the department was not operational half a year.

Chief DeCotis update

- Police Chief stated department staffed with five employees, and he thanked council for their support with the hiring of employees.
- All the software systems are up and operating and officers trained to use software.

Councilwoman Dixon thanked the Chief for his efforts on getting the police department up and running.

Mayor Willis asked what is needed for the officers to move into the renovated police department.

Chief stated his understanding is the toilets, hanging of doors, but he would do the evidence room himself.

Councilman Merrick stated that is why he disagreed with putting the renovations items on hold.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The board reviewed the O-2022-02 Budget Amendment Ordinance for action.

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT ORDINANCE O-2022-02. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

FY 2021-2022 Budget Ordinance Amendment

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Governing Board of the Town of Navassa, North Carolina that the following amendments are made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

Section 1. To amend the General Fund to transfer funds as follows:

General Fund Amendments

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>(Decrease)</u>
10-4120-40	IRS Payment	\$6,709.46	
10-4710-10	Retirement		\$6,709.46
10-4300-55	PS Equipment	\$25,000.00	
10-4300-00	PS Salary		\$12,500.00
10-4710-01	Salary & Wages		\$12,500.00

Adopted this the 21st day of April 2022.

Budget vs Actual and Bank Reconciliation

The Budget vs Actual and Bank Reconciliation are place in members packets.

COUNCILMEMBERS REPORT

Councilman Mooring reported that himself, Councilwoman Dixon, Councilmen Hardy and Ballard along with the Clerk will be attending City Vision Conference held in Wilmington NC.

Mayor Willis stated he is going to Washington DC to attend the mayor's conference. The only expense for the town will be the rental car.

Councilman Merrick stated his disappointment with not being able to move forward with the hiring of the planner since we are contracting those services out on a temporary basis. We have applicants applying but we lose them do to our slowness. Currently we have two full time and 1 part time person and need to hire an administrative assistant, now it time to move forward and I'm disappointed how we aren't taking care of the Town Business.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Williams spoke on the following items:

- Inquired about another way to get out of Magnolia Drive.

- Inquired about the Trestle Way project that the board spoke about years prior, wanted to know what happen with the completion of that project.
- Requesting a fire hydrant near his home.
- Asked about the gate that was placed in the area, which could have been used for another exit.

Mr. Woodberry asked why the wording remove written on the speed bumps on Magnolia Drive and request that they remain to slow down traffic.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Willis asked for adjourned of April 21, 2022.

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

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem