

NAVASSA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

June 16, 2022

7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Jerry Merrick, Councilman
Ida Dixon, Councilwoman
James Hardy, Councilman-via zoom

STAFF PRESENT

Darryl Decotis, Police Chief
Norwood Blanchard, Attorney
Coy Wolff, Police Officer
Tracey Troy, audio recorder

Amirabbas Vaziri, Police Officer
Michelyn Alston, Clerk
Matthew Kollmeyer, Police Officer
Patrick Merrill, auxiliary Officer

CITIZENS & VISITORS PRESENT

Scott McCaffrey
Alex Sands
Dorsey Jones, Jr
Rodney Grady
Alonzo Ballard
Charlie Malone
Barbara Watson
F. Hooper
Lee Curry
Denise Shaw
Claire Woods-zoom
Jackie-zoom
1 617 448 9762-zom
1 404 431 1755-zoom

Henry & Janice Robbins
Rose Terry
Darlene Jones
Steven Hatcher
Craig Suggs
Richard Watson
Minnie Brown
Tonya Lowe
Melvin Walker
Susan McCullen-zoom
Diane-zoom
TheoronWallmenich-zoom
1 919 288 8079-zoom

Mayor Willis called June 16, 2022, meeting to order.

ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

Councilman Hardy requested to adjust agenda to add the hiring of a planner.

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO ADD THE HIRING OF A PLANNER ON THE AGENDA. 3-AYES, 2-NAYS VOTE. Ayes-Merrick, Hardy, Ballard. Nays-Dixon, Mooring.

Councilman Hardy requested to add RFQ for Administrator Position on the agenda.

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO ADD THE RFQ FOR ADMINISTATOR POSITION ON AGENDA. 4-AYES, 1 NAY VOTE. Ayes-Hardy, Ballard, Dixon, Merrick. Nay-Mooring.

Councilman Hardy requested to a Bonus for Staff to the agenda. He explained because of the situation that the Town was placed in the staff could not work.

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO ADD BONUS FOR STAFF TO THE AGENDA. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Councilman Hardy requested to a add Contract Service for Accounting with Claudia Bray to agenda.

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO ADD CONTRACT SERVICE FOR ACCOUNTING TO AGENDA. 3-AYES, 2-NAYS. Ayes-Hardy, Merrick, Ballard. Nays-Mooring, Dixon.

Councilman Ballard requested to add Parade Committee request for funding distribution to the agenda.

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO ADD THE PARADE COMMITTEE FUNDING DISTRIBUTION REQUEST TO THE AGENDA. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

The Police Chief request that the swearing in of auxiliary officer be added to the agenda.

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO ADD SWEARING IN OF AUXILIARY OFFICER TO THE AGENDA. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITIONS. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 21, 2022, MEETING. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

VENDORS/VISITORS WITH TOWN BUSINESS

Scott McCaffrey requested that the board hold a meeting to discuss his project on Robin Court that has been in process since December. He explained that contact has been made with Sam Shore who is currently aiding the town with Planning Services to see when his project will be approved. Attorney Blanchard explained the process and request a public hearing for the special use permit.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Finance Officer

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO APPOINT COUNCILMAN JAMES HARDY AS FINANCE OFFICER. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

The question was asked if Councilman Hardy could hold both offices as Finance Officer and Budget Officer and it was confirmed by Ms. Susan McCullen from LGC that he could.

The Budget Officer will be added to next month meeting.

Check Signing Authority

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN HARDY TO ADD COUNCILMAN MERRICK AS THIRD CHECK SIGNING PERSON. ALL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilman Hardy has authority as Finance Officer, Councilman Ballard was appointed prior.

Truist Resolution for Bank Accounts

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MOORING TO APPROVE TRUIST RESOLUTION FOR BANK ACCOUNTS. ALL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Fiscal Budget 2023/2024 Ordinance

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO ADOPT THE FISCAL BUDGET 2023/2024 ORDINANCE. ALL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

POC for NFWF Projects and all Grants

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD FOR MAYOR PRO TEM JERRY MERRICK TO BE APPOINTED. ALL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Paycheck Quote

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO MOVE TO LATER DATE IF NEEDED. ALL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Police Department Renovation Quote

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MOORING TO APPROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT RENOVATION QUOTE FROM OTIS MAPSON IN AMOUNT OF \$2,500.00. ALL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mosquito Machine Quote

The Budget Officer informed the board that a budget amendment will be needed for approval of the mosquito machine quote.

United Way Senior Agreement

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO APPROVE UNITED WAY SENIOR AGREEMENT. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Seaboard Industrial Park Request

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO DECLINE THE EXTENSION. ALL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nomination for Parks/Recreation Board

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN DIXON TO APPOINT CHERYL LEWIS TO THE PARKS/RECREATION BOARD. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Nomination for Planning Board

Mr. Rodney Grady has declined the position on the Planning Board.

Research switching style of Government

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO HAVE RESEARCH DONE TO SWITCH TO MANAGER STYLE OF GOVERNMENT USING COG TO GIVE RECOMMENDATION. 3 AYES, 2 NAYS

Yeas-Hardy, Ballard, Merrick. Nays-Dixon, Mooring.

Attorney Blanchard suggested they contact Town of Belville who recently changed government style.

Research Options for Equal Voting District Representation

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO RESEARCH OPTIONS FOR EQUAL VOTING DISTRICT REPRESENTATION. 3-AYES, 2-NAYS. Ayes-Ballard, Hardy, Merrick. Nays-Dixon, Mooring.

Hiring of Planner

Mr. Devin Crim was recommended by COG and the Administrator after his interviews.

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO HIRE DEVIN CRIM AS TOWN PLANNER WITH SALARY OF \$50,000. 3-AYES, 2-NAYS. Ayes-Merrick, Ballard, Hardy. Nays-Dixon, Mooring.

RFQ for Administrator Position

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO MOVE FORWARD WITH A RFQ FOR ADMINISTRATOR POSITION. ALL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilman Hardy will take the lead on this subject.

Bonus for Staff

Councilman Hardy stated that a bonus for staff should be given since the Town was unable to operate and staff was not able to work due to no fault of their own. Full time who receives \$1,500 and Part Time \$750.00

Susan McCullen from LGC stated the salary line can be used but do a budget amendment and it still go through the payroll system. Reducing the salary and increasing the Bonus.

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO APPROVE THE BONUS FOR STAFF IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500 FOR FULL TIME AND \$750 FOR PART TIME AND ALSO BUDGET AMENDMENT REDUCING SALARY AND INCREASING BONUS. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Ms. McCullen suggested they move forward with budget amendment for Mosquito Machine.

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR MOSQUITO MACHINE. 3-AYES, 2-NAYS. Ayes-Merrick, Ballard, Hardy. Nays-Mooring, Dixon.

Line item -4710-24 reduce \$2,000, Line item- 4710-76 increase \$2,000

Accounting Service Contract

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO APPROVE THE ACCOUNTING SERVICE CONTRACT WITH CLAUDIA BRAY FOR SIX MONTHS AT A RATE \$3,000 A MONTH. 3-AYES, 2-NAYS. Ayes-Merrick, Ballard, Hardy. Nays-Mooring, Dixon.

Parade Committee Funds

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO APPROVE THE FUNDING REQUEST FROM PARADE COMMITTEE WITH THE CORRECTIONS IN WORDING ON THEIR REQUEST. ALL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Swearing in of Auxiliary Officer

COUNCILMAN HARDY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO ADD PATRICK MERRILL AS A AUXILLARY OFFICER. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Mayor Willis gave the Oath of Office to Patrick Arrington Merrill

“I, Patrick A. Merrill 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.”

Public Hearing for Special Use Permit

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT AT NEXT MONTH MEETING AT 7:00 PM. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

COUNCILMEMBERS REPORT

Councilman Mooring informed everyone that he was selected to attend a workshop that will be held at the rural center.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Rose Terry asked did we have other candidates for the planner position and asked was he still waiting for the position since April. Also inquired as to how the bonuses were calculated.

Craig Suggs asked if the Town could reach out to the State about having the street repaired on Old Mill Road near the bridge.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Willis asked for adjourned of June 16, 2022.

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

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem