

NAVASSA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

December 21, 2023

7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Eulis Willis, Mayor
William Ballard, Councilman
Thurman Everett, Councilman
LaTonya Lowe, Councilwoman Elected

Jerry Merrick, Councilman
Ida Dixon, Councilwoman
Ernest Mooring, Councilman

STAFF PRESENT

Michelyn Alston, Clerk
Dale Thomas, Police Chief
Ryan Marlar, CPA
Claudia Bray, Financial/Project Consultant

Landin Holland, Planner
Norwood Blanchard, Attorney
Nina Teasley, Admin. Assistant
Tracey Troy, recorder

CITIZENS & VISITORS PRESENT

Vonnie Ballard
Malikya Shaw
Denise Shaw
Charlie Graham
Travis Lowe
Aquentta Beatty
Pamela Merrick
Clifton Ballard
Shawnte Graham

Lucrecia Merrick
Kaelyn Shaw
Gaylian Barbour
Melvin Walker
Sequanna Lewis
Evan Merrick
Patricia Moore
Steven Hatcher
Brian Voylie

Thomas Merrick, Jr
Malik Shaw
Deanna Graham
Conswalia Green
Henry Robbins
Casondra Simmons
Liza Moore
Craig Suggs
Diane Graham

Council Member Everett led the Invocation.

Mayor Willis called December 21, 2023, meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

ADJUSTMENT & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVERETT TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVERETT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH NECESSARY CORRECTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

VENDORS/VISITORS WITH TOWN BUSINESS

Danna Layne, CPA with Nunn, Brashear & Uzzell presented the board and the citizens with the Audit results fiscal year end June 30, 2023. She did an overview of the following:

- Financial Highlights
- Overview of the financial statements
- Comparative figures
- Budgetary Highlights
- Economic Factors and next year’s budgets

Ms. Layne informed the board one of the findings were segregation of duties and recommend the board hire a permanent person for administrative positions with some accounting skills. The other finding was an issue with a payroll tax penalty and Mr. Marlar will develop a calendar and a check list for reports. The FPIC letter is required to NC LGC, signed by board by Feb 21, 2024.

BUSINESS

Budget Ordinance Amendment O-2023-09

FY 2023-2024 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, 2024.

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>
10-4120-99	Contingency		\$6,540.53
10-4300-55	PS Equipment	\$6,540.53	

Adopted this the 21st day of December 2023.

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MOORING TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT BUDGET ORDINANCE O-2023-09. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Cemetery Committee Developed

The mayor asked that a Cemetery Committee be developed for the town’s own properties. This committee will consist of 7 people. The board held a brief discussion afterward Attorney Blanchard stated a Resolution to developed committee would be suitable. Councilman Ballard request for three members of the Council and three at large citizens.

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVERETT TO MOVE FORWARD DEVELOPING A DRAFT RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A CEMETERY COMMITTEE. 4-YEAS- Dixon, Ballard, Everett, Mooring, 1-NAY-Merrick.

PARKS & RECREATION

The Board received a request from Edgar Robbins and Chris Graham to reserve the basketball court Saturday and Sunday starting April 1, 2024, to July 31, 2024, to have a youth basketball league ages 8 through 17 for estimated four hours.

Mayor informed the board and citizens that Brunswick County will be doing work on the ballfield, but this should not interfere with the project. Councilwoman Dixon stated that any issue arises please use 911 if needed. Councilman Everett was concerned if there was any liability that will be charged to town. It was suggested that a waiver of liability be signed by parents releasing the Town.

COUNCILMAN EVERETT MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MOORING TO APPROVE THE BASKETBALL COURT REQUEST FOR USAGE. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Mr. Holland, updated the board on the following items:

- Submitted a grant for additional funding to improve flooding at Cedar Hill Road. This grant is through NOAA.
- The Town will begin Code Enforcement for overgrown yards, dilapidated houses, abandoned homes, etc.
- Cypress Landing will begin the next phase and Indigo West will begin work in 2024.

Robin Court Request

COUNCILMAN MOORING MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO TABLE THE ROBIN COURT REQUEST. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Thomas informed the board and citizens that the department will begin 10 hours shifts at the beginning of the New Year.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Everett stated he was happy that Ms. Lowe will be taking his seat and holding up the laws and doing what's best for the town. Know who you are and who you belong to and stand on the truth.

Councilwoman Dixon is thankful for another woman on the board.

Councilman Mooring report that he attended several conferences and schools. Also, the following items:

- working on Air Quality Monitoring for individuals' homes
- Democracy Green checking water quality in your homes,
- bike/Skate Park that will be located in District two

A donation in the amount of \$25,000 was given for capital project for physical fitness center.

Mayor Willis thanked Councilman Everett for his service, stating it was for a short time, but he made a great impact on the community, and he appreciate him.

Councilwoman Lowe thanked family and friends for support and stated she's ready to begin work.

Councilman Ballard thanked everyone for having confidence to re elect him for another term.

Councilman Merrick thank God, family and citizens and plan on giving 110% regarding matters that come before him. He also references history in the making regarding having two females on the board and he plans on moving the town forward really fast.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Mayor Willis did the introduction of the Presiding Official Honorable Judge Pauline Hankins.

Honorable Judge Pauline Hankins issued the Oaths of Office.

"I, Jerry Merrick, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will be alert and vigilant to enforce the laws of this State; that I will not be influenced in any matter on account of personal bias or prejudice; that I will support and maintain the constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith; and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and execute the duties of my office as a City Council Member according to the best of my skill, abilities, and judgment; so help me, GOD".

Sworn to and subscribed before me this, the 21st day of December 2023.

"I, William Ballard, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will be alert and vigilant to enforce the laws of this State; that I will not be influenced in any matter on account of personal bias or prejudice; that I will support and maintain the constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith; and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and execute the duties of my office as a City Council Member according to the best of my skill, abilities, and judgment; so help me, GOD".

Sworn to and subscribed before me this, the 21st day of December 2023.

“I, LaTonyia Lowe, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will be alert and vigilant to enforce the laws of this State; that I will not be influenced in any matter on account of personal bias or prejudice; that I will support and maintain the constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith; and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and execute the duties of my office as a City Council Member according to the best of my skill, abilities, and judgment; so help me, GOD”.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this, the 21st day of December 2023.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN DIXON TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN DIXON TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Attorney Blanchard will prepare the necessary documentation for Councilwoman Dixon regarding the personnel matter discussed.

The Board agreed to move forward with the personnel matter that was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem