

NAVASSA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

August 17, 2023

7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Eulis Willis, Mayor
William Ballard, Councilman
Thurman Everett, Councilman

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

STAFF PRESENT

Norwood Blanchard, Attorney
Officer Kollmeyer
Nina Teasley, Admin. Assistant

Michelyn Alston, Clerk
Landin Holland, Planner

CITIZENS & VISITORS PRESENT

Cheryl Lewis
Denise Hopkins
Frank Willis
CJ Malon
Tonya Lowe
Minnie Brown

Karen Merrill
Rodney Grady
Thomas Merrick
Tony Burgess
Henry Robbins

Councilman Everett led the Invocation.
Mayor Willis called August 17, 2023, meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

ADJUSTMENT & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman Merrick asked that Cell phone stipend item 5c be removed from agenda citing G.S. 159-13.

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN DIXON TO REMOVE THE CELL PHONE STIPEND.

A discussion was held among the board to get clarification and Councilman Merrick rescind his motion.

The Clerk asked for the following items to be added to the agenda.

1. WMPO Resolution
2. LN Equipment Invoice
3. RFQ for Attorney

COUNCILMAN MOORING MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO ADJUST AND APPROVAL THE AGENDA TO ADD THE ABOVE THREE ITEMS. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

BUSINESS

Land Boundary

Mayor gave a briefing about the email received concerning the shared boundary with Town of Leland.

Councilman Merrick asked if any other technical advisory been given.

Councilman Everett asked who is doing the survey recommending putting a hold until you further information is given.

Attorney Blanchard informed the board that if the landowner is requesting there is nothing that the Town can do.

Acquisition 2, LLC

The board reviewed the request per email and Councilman Merrick asked has the technical issue been addressed.

Councilwoman Dixon suggested setting a date and time to meet about letter received.

COUNCILWOMAN DIXON MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVERETT TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVE SEPTEMBER 7TH AT 6:00 PM.

3-YEAS, Dixon, Everett, Ballard 2-NAYS Mooring, Merrick.

Cell Phone Stipend

A request to remove stipend and assigned spare phone to Mayor was discussed.

COUNCILMAN MOORING MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO REMOVE CELL PHONE STIPEND AND GIVE MAYOR SPARE CELL PHONE. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Update on Projects

The following updates were given to the board:

- Registers Glass will begin setting the frames next week.
- Shane from Right Angle Engineering is awaiting word from Brunswick County regarding water/sewer variance.
- The upfit permit for building Bray coordinating with Landin Dale for Brunswick County.
- Councilman Mooring and Port City will coordinate regarding Mr. Miller inspecting the doors.
- Three Crossing (Transportation Infrastructure Resiliency Grant) Old Mill Road bridge they are flagging wetlands and surveying a couple more weeks before the other two sites are done.
- NCLM Representative for Black Mountain software will be onsite on Monday to review our system and records. Ryan and Claudia will be onsite as well.
- November 10th UAL class in Wilmington Board has been signed up.
- Kerr McGee will hold a community meeting August 28th at 6:00 pm

LN Equipment & Powersports

Councilman presented the board a quote for equipment repair from LN Equipment in the amount of \$1,173.67.

COUNCILMAN MOORING MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO APPROVE THE QUOTE FROM LN EQUIPMENT IN AMOUNT OF \$1,173.67. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Mayor informed the board that the Parks and Recreation board is requesting an increase in their monthly stipend to \$50.

Councilman Merrick asked that this be tabled, Councilman Everett asked was the money in the budget if so, doesn't see the need for tabling topic.

COUNCILMAN EVERETT MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN DIXON TO INCREASE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD STIPEND TO \$50.00. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Landscape Architecture

The board will seek Landscape Architecture as previously discussed.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Landin Holland introduced himself to the audience and gave a brief about his work experience in planning.

The following updates were given:

- NCDOT will be held Friday regarding The Cedars Development.
- Ivester Road will see an increase in traffic due to upcoming construction.
- Investigating tax rate cap for the Town since all the developments in forthcoming.

WMPO Resolution

COUNCILMAN EVERETT MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTION FOR WMPO. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE WILMINGTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION'S RESILIENCE IMPROVEMENT PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S PROMOTING RESILIENT OPERATIONS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE, EFFICIENT, AND COST-SAVING TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation has developed a discretionary grant program to address surface transportation resilience to natural hazards through the new Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program; and **WHEREAS**, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill has appropriated \$1.4 billion for the PROTECT Program over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, the program supports the development of a Resilience Improvement Plan that addresses immediate and long-range transportation network needs related to comprehensive natural hazard preparedness to limit transportation disruptions, and to identify and assess areas of vulnerability within the transportation network to be considered and prioritized for future resiliency projects; and

WHEREAS, the PROTECT Program encourages that entities, including local governments, that are interested in obtaining implementation funds through the PROTECT Program have an adopted Resilience Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization planning area has observed transportation network disruptions due to natural hazard events such as flooding and has a high likelihood of future flooding and severe weather events such as hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, a Resilience Improvement Plan that covers the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization would include Town of Navassa.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Town of Navassa supports the application from the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to develop a Resilience Improvement Plan for the Greater Wilmington region through the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program.

Adopted and approved on the 17th day of August 2023.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Councilwoman Dixon briefed that the public that interviews were completed and moving forward with next steps.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Cheryl Lewis is requesting that Ivester Court have some maintenance work performed perhaps paved with speed bumps installed. Express concerns about heavy equipment that is used for upcoming development damaging the road further.

Minnie Brown spoke about the hole on Church Street that needs repairing and asked what the Town is going to do about maintenance department.

Antonio Burgess asked the board what is the plan for the Town?

EXECUTIVE SESSION

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK 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.

The board gave personnel directions for Police Chief.

The board gave direction for Attorney to discuss potential litigation matter will hold a meeting with board.

COUNCILMAN EVERETT MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN DIXON TO HIRE BRIAN CRAWFORD TO DO ONE PROJECT BOUNDARY MEETS WITH TOWN OF LELAND. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem