

MINUTES
WARSAW TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
November 11th, 2021

The regular meeting of the Warsaw Town Council was held on Thursday, November 11th, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at 78 Belle Ville Lane, Warsaw, VA. Council Members Present: Mayor Randall L. Phelps, Vice-Mayor Paul G. Yackel, Ogle E. Forrest, Sr., Mary Beth Bryant, Ralph Self, Jonathan B. English and Faron Hamblin. Council member Rebecca Hubert was absent.

Town staff present: Town Manager Joseph N. Quesenberry, Community Development Specialist Melissa Coates, Chief of Police Joanie Kent, and Treasurer/Clerk Julia Blackley-Rice.

Also present: Sara Carroll, Frank Johnson, Molly Barbee, Ian Hoyt, Krista Sisk, Julie Vawter, Chad Rock, Belinda Reynolds, and several others.

The meeting was live streamed on the Town of Warsaw's Facebook page.

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Phelps called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Hamblin made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Self seconded the motion which was carried by the following votes:

Randall L. Phelps	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Ralph Self	Aye	Jonathan English	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye		

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Mayor Phelps opened the public hearing by reading the public notice as advertised in the Northern Neck News. The mayor opened the floor for comments regarding the rezoning. Krista Sisk: Ms. Sisk began with the positives of rezoning for the development. She would prefer having more neighbors in that area rather than a strip mall or something similar. The main concern is the density of the proposed plans. She would like to see more single-family residences that would complement what already exists. She is fearful that if there are a lot of homes together in that small of an area, it would have a more city feel rather than a small-town feel.

There were no further comments and Mayor Phelps closed the floor to public comments. Mayor Phelps then opened the floor to the Council for discussion. Councilman English requested clarification about the purpose of the public hearing. He then shared concerns

that sparked from a meeting with Sherriff Steve Smith and the County Administrator. Councilman Hamblin commented that he would like to see it rezoned for homes rather than businesses. Vice mayor Yackel agreed with councilman Hamblin; there is limited space for housing. He understands the concerns, but he does believe rezoning is in the best interest of the Town. Mayor Phelps then asked Ian Hoyt with Style Craft to speak regarding the project. Mr. Hoyt spoke on the proposed layout and on the history of the company.

Councilman Ogle Forrest made a motion to approve the zoning amendment to change from C-2 to R-12 for tax parcel 24-6. Councilman Hamblin seconded the motion, carried by the following votes:

Randall L. Phelps	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Ralph Self	Aye	Jonathan English	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye		

Mayor Phelps closed the public hearing.

2. Mayor Phelps opened the second public hearing by reading the public notice as advertised in the Northern Neck News. The mayor opened the floor to the public for comments. Belinda Reynolds: Ms. Reynolds spoke against the time change. Her concerns were that the citizens would not be able to make it in time to make public comments.

There were no further comments and Mayor Phelps closed the floor to public comments. Mayor Phelps opened the floor to Town Council for discussion. Councilman English spoke on his concerns with having very late nights and would be in favor of having an earlier meeting. Councilman Self spoke on his concerns with office staff having long days and late nights. Mayor Phelps spoke on his concerns with not being able to interact with potential businesses, partners, community members, etc. due to having the meetings at a later time. He mentioned that if citizens cannot make it by 6, they do have the option to send public comment ahead of time. Councilman Hamblin spoke on council wanting to have the community members present and engaged. Vice-Mayor Yackel spoke on his concerns with the time change and understood not being able to make it on time if you work.

Councilman English made a motion to change the time of Town Council meetings from 7pm to 6pm with the opportunity to contact the Town office with any public comments. Councilman Self seconded the motion, carried by the following votes:

Randall L. Phelps	No	Paul G. Yackel	No
Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Ralph Self	Aye	Jonathan English	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye		

Mayor Phelps closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Phelps opened the public comment portion of the meeting. Sara Caroll spoke regarding a school zone for Cuddle Bugs. She stated she was not concerned about having a school zone during the day, but she was concerned about the speed differences. As chamber president, she wanted to thank the Town for their support of Warsaw Fest. They are going to announce their shop local giveaway soon.

Mayor Phelps closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

REPORTS

Mayor's Report: Deferred

Town Manager's Report:

1. Christmas Dinner- Christmas Dinner will be 12/14 at Relish at 6pm.
2. Christmas Parade- The Main Street program will have their Christmas Parade on 12/4 at 3pm. It will be the route used in previous years.
3. Holiday Market- The Main Street program will also have a holiday market on 12/4 at the Town Park.
4. Christmas Town- The Town is having Christmas Town on 12/10 from 5pm to 10pm. If you can make it, please come out.
5. Town office closure- The Town office is closed on 11/12 in observance of Veteran's Day.

Police Report: There were 165 calls for service, 43 traffic stops, 28 summonses issued, 4 arrests, did traffic control for a 5k run and participated in Trunk or Treat.

Planning Commission: Councilwoman Bryant reported that the Planning Commission did meet and voted to recommend approval of RDK Land Holdings ordinance amendments.

Northern Neck Regional Jail: Report is in packet.

Council Committee Reports: No meeting scheduled.

WWTP Report: Given by Town Manager Joseph Quesenberry. We are working with Dr. Mutoti and we have the ability to accommodate a lot of new things in town. Everything seems to be running smoothly.

OLD BUSINESS

Projects Report:

- We did receive the planning grant for the Housing project and the Scott Town community was included as a portion of the project. We will get that team back together and start on that process. The Town will go door to door and send information to residents in the project area.

- We are still trying to fill vacant spots Downtown and we have new tenants coming in.
- We are starting on an irrigation plan for the Bounds and Dominion is starting to install more lighting.

Christmas Town Update:

We are excited to say we have a lot of vendors for the event. Main Street will be closed from St. Johns to the area around AmeriGas. Relish will be providing oysters and alcohol. There will be carriage rides, roasted chestnuts, Santa and Mrs. Claus, a concert with Old Rapp providing drinks, an ice rink, a swing ride, and a small train. We are working with sponsors to cover costs. We are very excited to see the turnout.

NEW BUSINESS

Speed limit discussion- Some concerns were brought up about the speed limit on Hamilton Blvd. We would need to adopt a resolution to adopt those new speed limits. In the Warsaw Professional Arts building there is a school for autistic children coming in, and that was locked in for a 10-year lease. Based on that information, we might need to consider reducing the speed. Chief Kent said that there have been reports of speeding on Hamilton, and they have started to run radar in that area. Overall, Council would like to see Hamilton Blvd and the entirety of Main Street as posted 25mph zones. Councilman Self would like to see this speed enforced very heavily.

Final Downtown Parking improvements- Joseph Quesenberry reviewed the results of the parking study that was done with the Council. Parking improvements will be made along Main Street and along Belle Ville. There will also be an added Crosswalk near Hunan Village.

CLOSED SESSION: Personnel – Section 2.2-3711 A5 (Prospective Business)

Vice-Mayor Yackel moved to enter closed session in accordance with Section 2.2-3711A (5) Prospective Business of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The motion was seconded by Councilman Forrest and carried with the following votes.

Randall L. Phelps	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Ralph Self	Aye	Jonathan English	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye		

Councilman Hamblin moved to come out of closed session and reenter regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bryant and carried with the following votes.

Randall L. Phelps	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Ralph Self	Aye	Jonathan English	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye		

Council then certified by roll call vote that they only discussed matters cited in the motion to enter closed session and legally permitted to be so discussed in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act subsections cited in the motion to enter closed session. The roll call votes are as follows.

Randall L. Phelps	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Ralph Self	Aye	Jonathan English	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye		

In action out of closed session, Councilman Hamblin moved to approve a \$3,600.00 economic incentive grant to Your Party Box. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bryant and carried with the following votes.

Randall L. Phelps	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Ralph Self	Aye	Jonathan English	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye		

Councilman Self moved to approve a \$7,200.00 economic incentive grant to Finn & Pearl. The motion was seconded by Councilman Forrest and carried with the following votes.

Randall L. Phelps	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Ralph Self	Aye	Jonathan English	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye		

Councilman Forrest moved to approve a \$7,200.00 economic incentive grant to WATER. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bryant and carried with the following votes.

Randall L. Phelps	Aye	Paul G. Yackel	Aye
Ogle F. Forrest, Sr.	Aye	Mary Beth Bryant	Aye
Ralph Self	Aye	Jonathan English	Aye
Faron Hamblin	Aye		

Mayor Phelps informed the body that Councilman Hamblin and he had a community meeting with several prominent members of the black community. Mayor Phelps thought the meeting brought forth a good dialog on how to move forward, how the Council and the community at large can be more engaging and respectful. There will be additional conversations going forward but overall Mayor Phelps thought it was a very positive and beneficial meeting. Councilman Hamblin and Councilman Self both agreed with Mayor Phelps perspective on the meeting.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Councilman Self can't get over the opportunities that Warsaw is receiving. The Town Manager's tireless efforts to secure grant funds for Warsaw is paying off.

Councilman English appreciates all who were in attendance in the meeting tonight. He hopes everyone continues to come.

Councilman Hamblin is looking forward to the Christmas Town event. The Town has been doing a great job celebrating Christmas in the past, but this year it looks like the event has exploded and his family is excited to check it out. Councilman Hamblin also wanted to note that at the community meeting last night he was able to personally apologize to members of our community that he offended. Councilman Hamblin also wanted to take this opportunity to apologize to the Town Council and to the citizens of Warsaw.

With there being no further business, Mayor Phelps adjourned the meeting at 8:35.

Submitted by: Julia Blackley-Rice, Clerk