

MINUTES
WARSAW TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Warsaw Town Council was held on Thursday, January 14th, 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., Ralph W. Self, Mary Beth Bryant, Jonathan B. English, and Faron Hamblin. Council Members present by phone: Rebecca Hubert. No council members were absent.

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

Others present were Sara Carroll and Brennen and Michelle Belfield.

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

During review of the consent agenda, Mayor Phelps suggested that they amend the agenda by striking the closed session(#9). Councilman Hamblin motioned to amend and adopt the consent agenda as proposed and Councilman Self seconded the motion carried by the following votes:

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

By phone: Rebecca Hubert Aye

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PUBLIC HEARING #1- Belfield Childcare Business

- Mayor Phelps opened the public hearing by reading the public hearing notice. *Notice was properly advertised in the Northern Neck News, editions 12/23/2020 and 12/30/2020.

Mayor Phelps then turned the floor over to Joseph Quesenberry and Melissa Coates to provide background information on this public hearing.

To speak to the issue: Sara Carroll, the owner the Cuddlebugs, has concerns. She wants more childcare in the area as there is a serious shortage in the Northern Neck. But it does

need to operate within the proper rules and regulations to protect the safety of the children. The licensing process takes at least 90 days. Owners Brennen and Michelle were present to answer any questions. Brennen spoke that several parents contacted Michelle who has been in education and childcare for 14 years. Due to the pandemic these parents were struggling to find childcare. The Belfield's have filed the paperwork with DSS to begin the licensing process. Due to the pandemic, the Governor has removed the restriction for the time being as long as the paperwork for licensing has been submitted. All CDC guidelines are being followed and social distancing is being practiced. Melissa Coates spoke that when the Town became aware of the business she believed that a Conditional Use Permit was needed but when Michelle submitted her business plan the operation is performing more like a school and not like a daycare. Schools are permitted in an R-1 district as a by-right. Joseph Quesenberry informed Town Council that Planning Commission recommended it to Council with conditions such as the Belfield's having Business license fees and commercial water and sewer.

PUBLIC HEARING #2- D Hanks Wholesale Landscaping

- Joseph Quesenberry provided background on the request. Planning Commission did recommend approval with conditions. The conditions are a minimum setback from the road of at least 100ft., landscaping to be provided for any site issues to cover an aesthetic nature, proper signage will be installed, and Mrs. Coates and Mr. Quesenberry complete a site visit to approve adherence to the conditions before operation commences. There was no public comment on the request. Joseph Quesenberry reported that the staff has no issues. Mayor Phelps closed public hearing 2 and moved on to the third.

PUBLIC HEARING #3- Dolan Storage

- Joseph Quesenberry provided background on the request and clarified that this is a request to amend zoning ordinance. Planning Commission tabled the request to research further after hearing from the County Administrator. After hearing background on the request, Vice-Mayor Yackel recommended this be referred to the ordinance committee first for further review. There were no further comments, so Mayor Phelps closed the public hearing.

Councilman Hamblin motioned to approve the Belfield public hearing and councilman Self seconded the motion carried by the following votes:

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

By phone: Rebecca Hubert Aye

Councilman Forrest motioned to approve the D Hanks public hearing with the restrictions stated. Councilman Hamblin seconded the motion carried by the following votes:

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

By phone: Rebecca Hubert Aye

Vice-Mayor Yackel motioned to refer the Dolan Storage to the Ordinance Committee. Councilman Forrest seconded the motion carried by the following votes:

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

By phone: Rebecca Hubert Aye

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

REPORTS

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Phelps would like to see the Town Council begin a Town Hall online Q&A session once a quarter. He said he would also like Town Council to think over the times at which they meet. He asked that Joseph Quesenberry put out a survey to see what the people would want.

Town Manager’s Report:

- Welcome to Councilwoman Bryant. Also, a warm welcome to Chesapeake Donut and Ace Hardware.
- Employee Restructuring: The Town is sorry to see Rylee go but wish him well in his new endeavor.
- COVID 19 update: At the end of December there was a Town employee that contracted COVID 19. Currently there is one other employee that has been exposed and has to quarantine for 14 days. Due to continuity of government, we are on schedule to receive vaccines next week and government ID’s will be made.
- A/V Installation: Set to begin between the 25th-28th of January.
- DHCD: We are the spotlight community for the success of our Main Street Project.
- Office remodel: Should be finished this week due to CARES act funds. Funding was also used to ensure the office was safe for employees.
- Julia Blackley-Rice elaborated on the COVID relief funds and how they were used. The Town was able to help 12 residents with their overdue bills.

Police Report:

Chief Kent reported that for the month of December they had 102 calls of service, 30 traffic stops, 25 summonses issued, and 4 arrests made. They also participated in the Christmas event in the park. Chief Kent introduced the new hire, James Belcher, who has over 13 years in law enforcement experience.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Report:

This report was deferred.

Planning Commission:

Still in need of 2 planning commission members. Recommendations were given during public hearing. New chair is Elizabeth Franklin, and the Vice chair is Regis Slaw.

Northern Neck Regional Jail:

Report is in packet.

Council Committee Reports:

No committees met.

OLD BUSINESS

Revitalization Report

The Bounds: Twenty thousand dollars' worth of topsoil was placed on site. There are some slight erosion issues. Sections of curb and sidewalk that were broken have been repaired. Melissa Coates and Joseph Quesenberry will reconcile the project to see what is left to fund and start closing the project out.

Main Street: Brick paver sidewalks are complete at the corner of Main street and St. John's. New curb and gutter were put in front of Verizon. The stormwater line at Ace Hardware has been completed.

Saddlery: Our Public Works team is installing the sewer line there and saved the town money. The drain pump that Porch Creek installed is not right and some water did enter the basement.

Downtown clock: This was deferred at last month's meeting. A potential spot is at the Bounds. Need to have something at the Bounds to help make that area stand out. Councilman Self thought we should get some community input as to where they would like to see it. Councilman Yackel would like to see if we could get someone to give the town a conceptual drawing. Mayor Phelps suggested the Town put a survey out to the community and get their ideas.

Sons of AR would like to place a commemorative landmark to honor the black patriots who fought in the revolutionary war. They are not asking for any funding.

VDOT TAP Grant:

No updates. No response from VDOT yet.

IRF:

There are 2 remaining contractual elements and Andy Beale is ready to start.

NEW BUSINESS

-W/RC Community Market: the town is seeking a RBDG to assist with construction of a Community Farmers Market. There was a strong community response to the survey seeking information regarding the market. This is a project that Town Staff is excited to work on.

- W/RC EDC: Joseph Quesenberry read a statement from Richmond County's County Administrator Morgan Quicke. He suggests a joint committee of 2 Richmond County Board of Supervisors, 2 Town Council members, and 1 at large member. Rebecca Hubert and Faron Hamblin will be the two members of the Town Council on the committee.

-Tourism initiatives: Joseph Quesenberry spoke on this to say that tourism did not make much sense when we were trying to build everything up. There is a state grant of ten thousand dollars a year and we have a part timer that has taken interest in tourism if we are awarded the grant. Within the next fiscal year, the hope is to start a "Visit Warsaw/Richmond County" website.

There was discussion on the topic of updating the Town of Warsaw logo to involve a more regionally appropriate design. Following the discussion, no action was taken. There is no change to the logo.

A work session was scheduled for the Capital Improvement Plan and Saddlery for January 28th and 6:00pm.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mary Beth Bryant- Has learned a lot and is really looking forward to working with the Town.

Ralph Self- Ecstatic about the Town's progress and what the new year will bring. COVID has been a challenge but hopefully we will be coming to the end of it soon.

Faron Hamblin- Warsaw is his favorite place. It has been great working with Town Council members, and he is excited about the two new businesses.

Ogle Forrest- We have the right group of people coming together at the right time. We have a blank slate at the Bounds and the time is coming to turn it into a place to stop and see.

Jonathan English- Welcome to Mary Beth. Nice to know that you can't go anywhere in the Northern Neck and not hear about what is going on in Warsaw. Thank you to Town Staff for all of their hard work.

Paul Yackel- It is neat to see all of the billboards that show the hard work that the town puts in.

Ralph Self- The energy we have in the Town is awesome.

There being no further business, Mayor Phelps adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by: Julia Blackley-Rice, Clerk