

Walter M. Gardner, Jr.
Mayor

Robert F. Davie, Jr.
Administrator

TOWN OF WARRENTON

Historically Great - Progressively Strong

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Regular Monthly Meeting of Board of Commissioners November 9, 2015

Those attending were Mayor Walter Gardner	Robert Davie, Town Administrator
Commissioner Palmer "Woody" King	Goble Lane, Police Chief
Commissioner Mary Hunter	Mitch Styers, Attorney
Commissioner George "Al" Fleming	William "Bill" Perkinson, Public Works
Commissioner John Mooring	Jennifer Harris, Warren Record
Commissioner Margaret Britt	Annette Silver, Minute Taker
Commissioner William "Tom" Hardy	

Commissioner Kimberly Harding was absent. There were approximately 50 citizens present.

Call to Order/Minutes/Agenda

Mayor Gardner called the regular monthly meeting of the Town of Warrenton to order at 7PM. Those attending were asked to observe a moment of silence remembering all Veterans. Commissioner Hardy asked that the family of James White and the Town of Norlina be included in remembrance. Commissioner King led Pledge of Allegiance. The Conflict of Interest Statement was read by the Mayor. The Proposed Agenda was presented with motion to approve by Commissioner Fleming and second by Commissioner King. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comments

The Citizen Comment rules were read by Town Administrator. Attorney Nathan Baskerville spoke on behalf of his client, Andre Hendricks, owner of Time Out Sports Bar. Baskerville stated the proposed ordinances for a Sports Bar in Warrenton needed to be consistent with state laws and definitions and with other municipal ordinances already in place. In reviewing the ordinances, Baskerville believes the exemption portion is unfair as the Police Chief would have the final and only authority to exempt businesses. He further believes that a group of persons should consider the exemptions. Mr. Hendricks wants to be a contributing business owner and implement changes as suggested but believes he is being unduly singled out. The Sports Bar wants to work with the Town, according to Baskerville. Carolina Stover spoke in support of Time Out and staff, stating that as a young citizen of Warrenton the establishment is a good place where young people can go and mingle. Annika Conrad, a 2nd grade teacher in Warren County, stated her support for local merchants and Time Out. After a long, stressful day with students she can go to Time Out and be someone other than Ms. Conrad. Rachel Head also expressed support of Time Out. Debbe Speer spoke in support of stricter enforcement of new ordinances for bars. Ms. Speer previously operated a business that served alcohol and stated that business owners should be aware of ABC rules that have to be followed. Ray Harris spoke as a supporter of Time Out Sports Bar by comparing Time Out with Robinson Ferry then Warrenton with Wake County. Harris believes Time Out is being picked on by people who do

not want to have fun and should be treated as other businesses in Town without fear of police. Anne Harris, as owner of the property where Time Out is located, felt forced to speak in defense of Andre Hendricks. Since Hendricks opened the Sports Bar he has complied with everything he has been requested to do. Therefore, she believes he is being harassed unduly as a Town business and enough is enough. Yolanda Hargrove spoke as a patron of Time Out saying it is for grown people to gather and relax. There they have fundraisers and gatherings that support various programs in the County.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was presented.

- (a) Minutes of Board meeting October 12, 2015
- (b) Year-to-Date Revenue and Expenditure Reports (Budget vs. Actual)
- (c) Monthly Checks Report
- (d) Public Works Monthly Report
- (e) WWTP Monthly Report
- (f) Police Activity Report

Commissioner King made motion with second by Commissioner Britt to accept the Agenda. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Committee Reports

Finance and Administration

Commissioner Hunter had no report in addition to submitted.

Public Works

In absence of Commissioner Harding, William "Bill" Perkinson had no report in addition to one submitted. Commissioner Britt asked when information in letter concerning trash pick-up would be effective. Perkinson stated immediately. Commissioner Hardy inquired as to when speed limit changes take place and new sign put up. Chief Lane replied that Town is waiting for the approval of DOT for changes.

Public Safety

Commissioner Hardy reported in addition to written report, some court cases are ongoing. A police car has been ordered as referred to in October Minutes. Mayor stated there have been few fire calls but training is ongoing. Junior Firemen fundraiser hotdog sale is scheduled for November 11, 2015 from 11:00 to 1:00pm.

Human Resources/Information Technology

Commissioner Fleming stated everyone is happy as far as Human Resources is concerned. Information Technology seems, also, to be doing well as the outbound telephone dialing technology has been recently used.

Revitalization/Historical

Commissioner King was glad to see a large group of citizens present at the Board meeting to hear about the Town's efforts to improve things for its citizens. Commissioner King described various Town efforts and events. First, Mrs. Rose Shingler reported that the fifth Fright Night was by all accounts successful with approximately 160 people participating and vendors happily selling. The next event in Town will be Town Cafe', on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 6:30PM at the armory. The Town Cafe' will seek citizen feedback on prior accomplishments as well as direction for the future. Prelude to Christmas is scheduled for December 12 at 4:00PM on the Courthouse Square with the Parade starting at 5:00PM. A rain date is set for December 13th. Commissioner Fleming asked if times would be the same on rain date. Response yes.

Commissioner Britt asked if St. Nick would reappear. Response yes. Commissioner King reported that the Revitalization budget shows revenues currently at 62% of projections (\$3000) and expenses at 49% of projections (\$1900). The names Patricia Allen, Craig Hahn, Rose Shingler and Jereann King-Johnson were presented as re-nominations for the Revitalization Board and serving 3-year terms. A motion was made by Commissioner King with second by Commissioner Fleming to accept these names for the Revitalization Board. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Beautification/Facilities

Commissioner Britt thanked Bill Perkinson and staff for continuing to keep Town clean. Harriett Banzet has spoken with Commissioner Britt with regard to painting water towers with either murals or historic statements, as is done in other small towns. Town Administrator will look into the possibility.

Planning/Zoning/Annexation

Commissioner Mooring had no report.

Old Business

At the Historic District October 26th meeting Robert Davie presented a COA application on behalf of the Town for demolition of the Cannon House - 208 E. Macon Street. A motion to demolish the house was made and approved by Historic District Commission (HDC). HDC approval was preceded by a Town letter to Attorney Robby Mays, representing the property owners and heirs of Dr. Angela H. Williams, requesting remediation by repair or demolition. Attorney Mays replied by letter to the Town indicating that remediation was not possible or imminent and therefore the Town would need to proceed with demolition on its own. Davie stated that the Town could recoup its costs by selling salvaged material from the house. A motion was made by Commissioner Mooring with second by Commissioner Hardy to approve the recommendation of the HDC and demolish the Cannon House. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

The Nightclubs-Private Clubs-Taverns and Bars Ordinance was discussed by Commissioner Hardy giving background and current status to Board. Board members agreed with Commissioner Hardy that the purpose of the Ordinance was not to impair businesses but to make and keep Warrenton safe and clean. Hardy stated that, in fact, the prior Board voted unanimously in favor of opening the Sports Bar. While the exemption and penalties in the proposed ordinance give final decision to Police Chief, it was suggested the wording be changed and a committee be formed to review complaints that arise. A motion was made by Commissioner Mooring with second by Commissioner Fleming to return ordinance to committee for review and recommendations. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. A new business application for 139 S. Main Street was presented. A motion was made by Commissioner Hardy with second by Commissioner Mooring to table until adoption Ordinance for Sports Bar. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Davie gave the following Grant updates:

USDA Rural Development \$3.8 million project cost (45% of cost is grant with balance in a 40-year loan) includes Town Hall renovation, water main, water line repairs, and radio-frequency water meter installation. The Town's audit report has been sent to USDA with expectation of a commitment letter from USDA by Thanksgiving.

Main Street Solutions Fund \$125,000 renovation of two buildings for Quilt Lizzy. (No Town matching funds required.) Received partial reimbursement for first building from USDA; requesting additional \$25,000 for total grant amount of \$150,000.

NC Commerce \$37,500 planning grant to generate a revitalization and ultimate streetscape plan for Main and Macon Street corridors. (Goal to eventually put power lines underground.) No Town matching funds required. Received verbal approval from NC Commerce.

NC Parks & Recreation Trust Fund \$28,500 to develop park on donated property. Four acres donated on Hayley Street; received verbal approval. No Town matching funds required.

Golden Leaf \$200,000 for renovation/construction of building for brewery. Initial letter of inquiry to be reviewed at Golden Leaf December meeting. No Town matching funds required, however, Town must purchase initial property for \$50,000.

National Endowment for the Arts \$50,000 for Main Street Illumination Project. There is a \$50,000 Town match required; application is pending with NEA.

New Business

Town Administrator requested using \$500 from Contingency Budget line 37-400-212 for trial run of marketing Warrenton and its merchants and events over Facebook for 6 months. Buggs Media, a company that specializes in Facebook marketing and that successfully marketed the Lake Gaston Chamber of Commerce, will be engaged. A motion was made by Commissioner Fleming with second by Commissioner Britt to approve. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. There is an open seat on the Zoning Board. The Zoning Board requests approval of Sallie White as alternate member to fill the seat previously occupied by Bill Neal (term begins January 16 for 3 years). A motion was made by Woody King and seconded by Al Fleming to approve the appointment. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Announcements

- Rotary Club donated Clock presentation will be on November 20, 2015 at 11:00am on the Courthouse Square.
- Farm City Week Luncheon is November 18, 2015 from 12:00am to 1:30pm at the Armory
- Mayor Gardner acknowledged Michael Coffman, Frank Holt and John Blalock as Commissioners who will join Board in December. He thanked Debbe Speer for her constant positive ideas for improving the Town.
- Mayor Gardner also thanked commissioners leaving in December for their service in all areas and on all projects during their terms.

Respectfully submitted
Annette H. Silver