

TOWN COUNCIL
First Subcommittee Meeting
May 9th, 2023

The Honorable Joshua T. “Jack” Lawson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at 802 Main Street, West Point, Virginia 23181.

Members Present: Jack Lawson, Mayor; Deborah Ball, Vice Mayor; Johnny Nein, John Ragsdale and Chris Vincent.

Also Present: John Edwards, Town Manager; Karen Barrow, Town Clerk; Walt Feurer, Director of Public Works; Susan Lathan, Town Treasurer; Holly McGowan, Director of Community Development; Donna Pauley, Human Resource Officer; Melissa Anderson, Communications Manager/Events Coordinator; Ron Minick, Building Inspector and other interested persons.

I. Agenda Changes

There were no changes made to the agenda.

II. Adoption of Minutes

April 11th 2023

Mrs. Ball made a motion to adopt the minutes, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale. Upon a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

III. Community Development Committee

A. Good Neighbor Center

Mr. Edwards advised that after the last meeting, based on the information the town had received regarding the condition of the good neighbor center, Mr. Edwards called Bob Ryalls to go and look at the structure to make sure the building official didn't need to inspect the building. The Good Neighbor Center uses two rooms in the building and those two rooms are the only rooms that are having any structural issues. The corner of one room where tin food is stacked is a heavy weight for that location and the floor is sinking from the weight. The second room is where the freezers are located. There is ice buildup in the freezers that is keeping the doors from closing, which has caused mold around the seals. The freezers have not been defrosted or cleaned out, due to their weight the floor is also sinking. The arch diocese has asked the Good Neighbor center to move out by May 25th so that an asbestos survey can be done. Mr. Edwards also stated that because of the child care facility in the same building, there is a security issue with personnel and clients of the Good Neighbor center walking freely around the building. The good neighbor center is currently trying to relocate the tin food to another location. As far as available space for relocation, I'm not sure what space is available for temporary or permanent use.

Mr. Lawson asked if the Ministerial Association has any comments.

Jim Goebel, President of the Ministerial Association advised that the Ministerial Association will be meeting next Tuesday to discuss the issue. We do have to move by May 25th and that some of the churches in the area have small food pantries, but they are not big enough to handle the Good Neighbor Center. We not only provide food, we also provide financial support.

Mr. Edwards stated that the amount of space in the current area is approximately 900 square feet.

Mr. Lawson stated that as far as food is concerned there are some small options to distribute food. The new locations for the small public pantries are a good option, there's one downtown at PCDC and a second located at the YMCA. If the Town has any suggestions or ideas we will contact the Ministerial Association.

Jim Goebel stated that the current pickup location is the Catholic Church and due to the building issues and the child care facilities, I don't see the Good Neighbor center moving back to that location. Mr. Goebel also stated that the Ministerial Association is working on a schedule for pickups that can be publicized, it will take about a month to get organized, it would be helpful if the town can post the schedule on social media so information can get out to the public.

Mr. Lawson asked that the Ministerial Association keep the town informed with what's going on so we can post information as it becomes available.

B. Fowl Ordinance

Mr. Edwards presented a draft ordinance for chickens, ducks, geese, peacocks, roosters, capons and crowing hens. Mr. Edwards stated that the ordinance was drafted from sample ordinances from other localities some time ago from the last time we reviewed the Fowl Ordinance.

Mrs. Ball stated that the issue is common curtesy, her neighbors have roosters that crow all day long from four in the morning, and there are a large number of chickens and roosters that are not contained in any kind of enclosed area.

Mr. Lawson advised that if a person wants free range chickens, they are not allowed in town and asked if we need to set a number on how many fowl you can own.

Mr. Edwards stated that the Town Attorney has advised that if the roosters and chickens are too noisy, the town can enforce the problem through the noise ordinance. The enforcement fee is \$25.00 per violation and it has to be witnessed by a law enforcement officer because it is a misdemeanor. Or a person can go to a magistrate to take out a warrant against the owner of the fowl.

The consensus of Town Council is that the issue needs to be discussed when the Town Attorney is present.

Mr. Edwards stated that he will put the draft ordinance on the Town Council Work Session for discussion.

C. Go VA Grant

Mr. Edwards advised that the Go VA Grant is a grant that was applied for by the Airport Authority. The original application received an award, and we had the grant matched up on how it would be used. Go VA came back and said we could not use the grant the way we proposed. We have gone back and we are now using the timber rights we recently purchased as the match for the grant. We are now in conversation with natural gas to get natural gas at the airport. This project has a lot of moving parts and is moving along.

IV. Public Works

A. Tree Work

Walt Feurer advised that there are a number of trees in town that have red ribbons around them. These trees are scheduled to be pruned, they are not being removed. There are sixteen trees that are scheduled to be pruned. There is one tree

scheduled to be removed and that's the tree located out-side the bakery across the street from St. John's church. The tree is split down the middle and needs to be removed.

B. Parking Lots

1. Town Hall Parking Lot

Mr. Edwards advised that the Town Hall parking lot has 22 spaces. On any given day, town hall employees use 10 spaces, the nail shop takes 4 to 6 spaces, the new tenant behind Town Hall will take a space. That does not leave any space for DMV customers and visitors to Town Hall. Mr. Edwards asked for permission to restrict the parking spaces.

Mrs. Ball suggested restricted parking so people can park in the lot when the town hall is closed.

Mr. Lawson advised that the C & F building was vacant before the Town moved into it, so people used the parking lot.

The consensus of Town Council is to post the parking lot with restrictions during business hours Monday through Friday.

2. 7th Street Parking Lot

Mr. Edwards reviewed an email the town has received from Mr. Hasenyager regarding the Parking Lot on 7th Street. The Town acquired the parking lot from the Fire Department, we put gravel on the parking lot, we cut the grass, we put a trash receptacle out there, and we put bumper blocks to prevent vehicles from hitting Mr. Hasenyager's fence. We recently received a complaint from Mr. Hasenyager about a car alarm that goes off during the day in the parking lot. The car belongs to an employee of Dr. English. The owner of the car is not parking in the lot any more she is parking in another location until the car is fixed. The police department is monitoring the parking lot and the Blue Crab. Mr. Edwards also stated that there are signs posted "No Overnight Parking."

Mrs. Ball suggested a time for no parking to be posted on the signs.

Ms. McGowan advised that town staff are working to schedule a meeting with Greg Guy, the owner of the Blue Crab to address issues involving the Blue Crab.

The consensus of Town Council is for Town Manager to change the signs with a time for the no parking and for the police department to tow vehicles that are in violation of the parking signs.

V. General Information

A. Elevator Update

Mr. Edwards advised that the Elevator repairs will begin on Monday and should be complete by September.

B. Chamber

Mr. Nein advised that the Chamber has asked if the Town would sponsor Jammin on the Point.

Mr. Lawson advised that the Town does a lot for the Chamber.

Mr. Edwards advised that the Town provides the Chamber with grass cutting, trash removal, crab carnival security expense, rental of the port-a-john's, and annual funding. If the Chamber needs anything else, they can make a request and the town will review it.

C. Country Club Swimming Pool

Mr. Nein stated that he has received a request to fill the swimming pool at the County Club.

Mr. Edwards advised that he has not received a request this year and that the pool is not located in the Town of West Point, the pool is in King William County. In the past the Town has supported filling the pool contingent upon the use of the pool for swimming lessons.

Mrs. Lathan advised the pool is being filled with water this weekend and that she will get the cost and amount of gallons of water.

D. King William Tax Rate

Mr. Edwards advised that last night, the King William Board of Supervisors voted 3 to 2 for the Real Estate Tax Rate in district 1 to be .27 cents per \$100.

E. Zoning Appeal – Adam Hayes

Mr. Edwards advised that Adam Hayes has obtained the services of an attorney and has withdrawn his zoning appeal, he is working through the attorney and building official on the renovations so he is in compliant with the zoning ordinance.

F. Glass Island

Mrs. Ball advised that she knows of someone that was jogging on Glass Island, they walked out onto the Fishing Pier. She was told by an officer that she is not allowed on the pier without a fishing license.

Mr. Edwards advised that the location was owned and operated by the Game of Inland Fisheries, the property is posted and you do have to have a fishing license to be on the property.

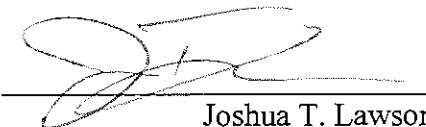
VI. Town Council Agenda

Mr. Edwards advised that the Fowl Ordinance will be placed on the Town Council Work Session for discussion.

VI. Next 1st Committee Meeting: May 9th 2023 @ 4:00 p.m.

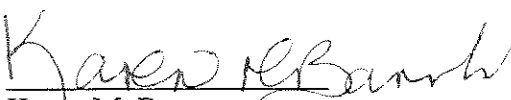
VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.



Joshua T. Lawson
Mayor, Town of West Point

ATTEST:



Karen M. Barrow
Town Clerk