

TOWN COUNCIL
First Subcommittee Meeting
June 13th, 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, James Pruett, John Ragsdale and Chris Vincent.

Members Absent: Robert Lawrence and James Hudson

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; Spencer Cheatham, Fire Chief, and other interested persons.

I. Agenda Changes

There were no changes made to the agenda.

II. Adoption of Minutes

May 9th 2023

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

III. Finance

A. CD Rates

Mr. Edwards advised that the maturity date on a CD the town has with C & F Bank is today, the town has ten days to decide if they want to renew the CD. Mr. Edwards presented the Committee with the attached quotes for the current CD rates.

Mr. Lawson asked if the entire town’s money is in one bank.

Mr. Edwards stated yes, everything is in C & F Bank.

Mrs. Ball asked if the town has any money in United Bank.

Mr. Edwards advised no. The rate with United Bank for 13 months is 4.65% and 4.6% for C & F Bank for 12 months.

Mrs. Ball advised that she thinks we should diversify the town money.

The consensus of Town Council is for the town to keep the funds in C & F Bank for a 1 year term with a one-time free withdrawal.

IV. Community Development Committee

A. Rotary flags for Hero’s Program

John Harper advised that he looked at the old Pizza Hut property for the flag display. The location still has the asphalt parking lot about 2 inches under the

grass, the location is not suitable for the flag display, it would only allow us to go 2 to 3 inches into the ground. Each anchor goes 12 inches into the ground, the flags are 3 feet by 5 feet, the poles are 10 foot, and there are 100 flags. Mr. Harper asked if the Rotary can use the lot at the corner of 14th Street and Main Street.

Mr. Edwards advised that he is concerned about the parking and where people can park and look at the display safely. We need to make sure that people do not park on Main Street to look at the display.

Mr. Pruett suggested the Rotary look at the old Hodges lot on the corner of 13th Street and Main Street. The lot is bigger than the lot at 14th Street and it will have easier parking access. Mr. Pruett asked if the display would be visible on the Hodges lot.

Mr. Edwards advised that it would be visible from 14th Street.

Mr. Harper advised that he will review the Hodges property and that the display will run from June 21st for two weeks through July 6th.

The consensus of Town Council is for Rotary to use the Hodges lot on the corner of 13th and Main Street and if the property is not suitable for the Rotary to come back to Town Council to review an alternative location.

B. Fowl Ordinance

Mr. Edwards presented the revised Fowl Ordinance prepared by the Town Attorney and advised that there is a lot to think about with the ordinance. The size of the property, maximum number of chickens, and the keeping of roosters are the main issues.

Mr. Lawson stated that the goal is for people to keep their chickens on their property regardless of the size of the property.

Mr. Nein stated that the chickens would be confined to a coup and that a lot of the ordinance is not necessary.

Mr. Edwards advised that it shouldn't be a problem. A coup is an accessory structure for a single family dwelling.

Mr. Nein advised that he has 30 acres and that his coup is located in the side yard of his property.

Mr. Edwards stated that the ordinance would be designed to apply to everyone and not one person.

Mr. Nein stated that the ordinance does not focus on noise and chickens running at large.

Mrs. Ball stated that if you live in the town, there should be a limit to chickens of 6, and no roosters. Mrs. Ball also stated that she had a neighbor that she did not know come to her to complain about the chickens and roosters in the area. The neighbor lives on the back of my lot next to a house that has chickens and roosters running at large.

Mr. Lawson asked if everyone agrees that fowl should stay on their own property and that the noise of a rooster or other crowing fowl is an issue.

The consensus of Town Council is yes, fowl should stay on their own property and the noise and smell is an issue.

Mr. Edwards advised that he will make the changes and bring the ordinance back next month for further review.

IV. Public Works

A. Groundwater withdrawal Permit Renewal

Walt Feurer presented an agreement with Kimley-Horn for an hourly rate to provide support and assistance with the submission of a permit renewal. The process will take approximately two years to receive a renewed permit. The cost is not to exceed \$45,000 and funded through the utility reserve account, funds would need to be appropriated.

Mr. Edwards advised that the agreement will be on the Town Council agenda for approval.

V. General Information

A. PPTRA

Mr. Edwards advised that the town has not received any information from the County for the Personal Property Tax. Normally the town sets the PPTRA at the June meeting and tax bills go out in July. But the County has not received all the information needed to calculate the percentage for the PPTRA. Hopefully we will receive it in time for the meeting on June 26th.

B. School Facility Tour

Mr. Edwards advised that a tour of the school facilities is scheduled for this Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

C. Parking Downtown

Mr. Edwards advised that the town has received an email from Tommy Redd regarding parking downtown of boats and POD's.

Mr. Lawson stated that he noticed a POD on the street downtown.

Mr. Edwards advised that there is no ordinance against POD parking on the street. Town staff called the resident and asked them to move the POD into their yard.

D. GAGA Pit

Mr. Edwards advised that the GAGA Pit has been built at the Pavilion, GAGA balls will be available at the Food Truck events for the public to play GAGA ball.

E. Eagle Scout Project

Mr. Edwards advised there is a new Eagle Scout project that hopefully will be complete by the end of July. The project will be bulletin boards, one located at the pavilion, a seconded at the town park. To begin, we will post town events to see how it goes and Melissa Anderson will be handling the posting of events.

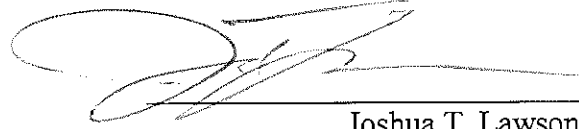
VI. Town Council Agenda

Mr. Edwards advised that the Groundwater Withdrawal Permit will be placed on the Town Council agenda for action.

VI. Next 1st Committee Meeting: July 11th 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