

**TOWN OF WEST POINT
TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
MINUTES
MAY 22nd 2023**

I Tour of School Facilities

Mr. Edwards advised that Dr. Frazier has invited Town Council on a tour of the school facilities on June 15th at 4:00 pm. There will not be an Education Committee meeting until July 20th Dr. Frazier will not be available for the July meeting so he is inviting Town Council on a tour in June.

II Chickens

Andrea Erard, Town Attorney, advised that there some chicken issues in town, but the town does not regulate chickens. The town does have an ordinance that says chickens/fowl cannot trespass onto another person's property. It's a class 4 misdemeanor, but an officer or animal control has to see the violation in order to issue a summons. Or the homeowner can witness the violation then go to a magistrate to swear out a warrant. Ms. Erard also stated that in her experience, a chicken ordinance is very controversial and will bring out a lot of different people with a lot of different perspectives.

Mr. Edwards presented a draft ordinance that was prepared the last time the chicken/fowl ordinance was discussed.

Mrs. Ball advised that she has pictures and a video of the chickens and roosters in her yard. The rooster's crow all day long and they leave feces through-out the yard.

Ms. Erard stated that the Town of Ashland has reviewed the fowl ordinance twice in twenty years and that Ashland has a chicken permit application that owners have to submit to the town before they can have chickens. Ms. Erard suggested Town Council look into the reason why you want a chicken ordinance.

Mr. Lawson asked what can be enforced in the current code.

Ms. Erard advised trespassing.

Mr. Lawson asked what about the nuisance law.

Ms. Erard stated that there are two kinds of nuisance, a public nuisance and a private nuisance. Depending on how many neighbors in the area are unhappy with the noise and feces, there is a possibility of filing a public nuisance case. Ms. Erard also stated that she drove by the location last Friday and did not see any chickens, it looked like they have been moved.

Mrs. Ball stated that it is the strangest thing, every time we discuss the neighbor's chickens, they disappear.

Ms. Erard stated that in regard to Mrs. Ball, there are some issues that can be addressed.

Mrs. Ball advised that there should be a limit placed on how many chickens a homeowner can have and they need to be contained. Mrs. Ball also stated that when she pulls into her driveway, the chickens take off and run back to their property. But once I go into the house, the chickens come back out into her yard, they come on the deck and leave feces everywhere.

Mr. Nein stated that he done some research and that other localities have the same language as the town code.

Mr. Lawson advised that there are two Town Council members absent and suggested continuing the discussion when the rest of Town Council is present.

Mr. Edwards suggested that chickens be placed on the next committee agenda.

III Adam Hayes - Property Located at 921 Lee Street

Ms. Erard advised that she and the building official toured the property at 921 Lee Street and that Mr. Hayes was present with his attorney Brett Bohannon. Mr. Hayes is working to comply with the town code and he will be removing some of the sheet rock so the electrical can be inspected.

IV. Duval Property at 2960 Mattaponi Avenue

Mr. Lawson asked if there is a court date for the property at 2960 Mattaponi Avenue.

Ms. Erard stated not yet, we are waiting on a court date. Ms. Erard also stated that there are other property violations around town.

Mr. Lawson advised that the Duval property issues have been going on for a long time and we need to address the issues. Mr. Lawson stated that he would like to see progress with the Duval property.

V. Virginia Unemployment Commission – Unemployment Hearing

Ms. Erard advised that the Virginia Unemployment Commission has denied the Town's request for an in person hearing. There will be a telephone hearing and the date has not been set yet.



Joshua T. Lawson
Mayor, Town of West Point

ATTEST:



Karen M. Barrow
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF WEST POINT
TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES
MAY 22nd, 2023**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The West Point Town Council held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 22nd 2023. The Honorable Joshua T. “Jack” Lawson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Invocation was given followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Jack Lawson, Mayor; Deborah Ball, Vice Mayor; Jim Hudson, Robert Lawrence, John Nein, and John Ragsdale.

Members Absent: James Pruett and Chris Vincent

Also Present: John B. Edwards, Jr., Town Manager; Andrea Erard, Town Attorney; Karen Barrow, Town Clerk; Tim Sawyer, Chief of Police; Holly McGowan, Community Development Coordinator; Walt Feurer, Director of Public Works; Donna Pauley, Human Resource Officer; Melissa Anderson, Communication Manager and Events Planner; Spencer Cheatham, Fire Chief; Ron Minick, Building Inspector and other interested persons.

II. CITIZENS ADDRESS TO COUNCIL

A. Public Hearing, Sale of 721 Main Street

Mr. Lawson read the advertisement then asked the Town Clerk if any one asked for a copy of the contract.

The Town Clerk advised the town received the attached email this afternoon from Molly Booker with some comments regarding the library.

Mr. Lawson asked if anyone asked for assistance to attend the public hearing.

The Town Clerk advised that the Town received no requests.

Mr. Lawson opened the floor for the public to comment on the public hearing. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

1. Action

Mr. Lawrence made a motion to adopt the attached resolution as presented, seconded by Mr. Ragsdale. Upon roll call Mr. Hudson, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Nein and Mr. Ragsdale vote “Aye” and Mrs. Ball voted “Nay”. The motion was approved on a 4 to 1 vote.

B. Citizens Address to Council

Mr. Lawson opened the floor for citizens to address Town Council on any Town related business.

1 Michael Adams, 2620 C Street, West Point, Virginia stated that he parks in the parking lot behind the Blue Crab late at night to help his wife clean the restaurant and close up. The homeowner beside the parking lot on 7th Street has called him twice with complaints, Mr. Adams stated that he does not know what to do to satisfy the homeowner.

Mr. Lawson asked if anyone else would like to address Town Council on any Town related business. There being none, the Citizens Address was closed.

III. COUNCIL RESPONSE

Mr. Lawson advised that a lot of the issues with the 7th Street Parking Lot are parking in the alley, noise all hours of the night, and a diesel truck left running.

Mr. Edwards advised that new parking signs have been ordered, there will be no parking between the hours of 10:00 pm and 7:00 am, and towing will be enforced.

Mr. Lawson told Mr. Adams that he can park on Main Street and there cannot be any parking in the alley.

IV. AGENDA CHANGES

There were no changes to the agenda.

V. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Hudson made a motion to adopt the following consent agenda, seconded by Mrs. Ball. Upon roll call Mrs. Ball, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Nein, and Mr. Ragsdale all voted "Aye". The motion was approved.

- 1) Town Council and Work Session minutes of April 24th 2023
- 2) Cash Reports
 - a) General Fund
Cash on hand as of April 30th 2023 - \$8,458,333.39
 - b) Water Fund
Cash on hand as of April 30th 2023 - \$3,112,974.49
 - c) CIP
Cash on hand as of April 30th 2023 - \$(475,042.03)
 - d) Solid Waste
Cash on hand as of April 30th 2023 - \$374,354.27
- 2) Monthly Budget Report
- 3) School Fund Cash Report
 - a) Cash on hand as of April 30th 2023 - \$302,974.40
- 4) West Point Monthly Police Activity Report
- 5) Building Official Monthly Report

Mr. Nein asked if the fence at the play ground near the Town Park has been fixed.

Walt Feurer advised that the gate has to be fixed frequently due to children swinging on the gate.

- 6) Public Works Monthly Permit Report
- 7) Community Development Monthly Permit Report
- 8) Treasurer Monthly Report
- 9) Human Resource Monthly Report
- 10) Fire Department Monthly Report
- 11) Communication and Marketing Monthly Report

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Economic and Community Development

Mr. Edwards advised that at the May 9th meeting the Community Development Committee discussed the Good Neighbor Center, the Fowl Ordinance and the Go Va Grant.

B. Education Committee – Mr. Ragsdale reported for the Committee

Mr. Ragsdale advised the Education Committee met on May 18th 2023 to discuss the following: 1) Dr. Frazier introduced Christ Walker as the new Safety and Transportation Director. 2) Chris Walker reviewed the safety programs for the 2023-24 school year. 3) Updates to the library facilities at the High and Middle schools. 4) An update on the Summer Academy and the new Preschool program.

C. Finance Committee – Mrs. Ball reported for the Committee

Mrs. Ball advised there was nothing to report.

D. Public Safety

Mr. Edwards advised there was nothing to report.

E. Public Works – Mr. Lawrence reported for the Committee

Mr. Lawrence advised that the Public Works Committee met on May 9th 2023 to discuss the following items: 1) There are a number of trees in downtown that have red ribbons around them. These trees are scheduled to be pruned, they are not being removed. There are fifteen trees that are scheduled for pruning. There is one tree scheduled to be removed and that's the tree located out-side of the bakery across the street from St. John's church. 2) Signage with parking restrictions for the Town Hall Parking Lot has been ordered. 3) Due to issues and complaints with the 7th Street Parking Lot, signs will be posted with no over-night parking.

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S ITEMS

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was nothing to report under Old Business.

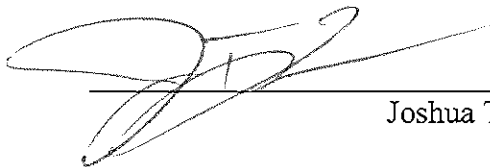
IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Planning Commission Report

Mr. Edwards advised that the Planning Commission did not meet in May and that there will not be a meeting in June.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Lawson adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.



Joshua T. Lawson
Mayor

ATTEST:



Karen M. Barrow
Town Clerk