

Town of Walnut Cove

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 2019

Mayor Charles Mitchell

Commissioners Present:

Danny Hairston

Thomas Mitchell

Elwood Mabe

Charles Byron

Staff present:

Town Manager Kim Greenwood

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM at the Walnut Cove Senior Center by Mayor ProTem Elwood Mabe. Wesley Durrell gave the invocation followed by Commissioner Byron leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Town Manager recognized members and guests in the audience. He introduced Tim Terrell that came to represent Silver Creek Solar Farm. He also introduced Lauren Collins, who would be doing the meeting minutes in Amanda Bryant's absence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS-

- i. The Cove Group. August 6, 2019 at 6:30 PM. Oma's Coffee Shop
- ii. Walnut Cove Volunteer Fire Dept; Regular Meeting. 7:00 PM. Thursday, August 1, 2019, Walnut Cove Vol. Fire Dept.
- iii. Walnut Cove Board of Commissioners; Regular Meeting. Tuesday, August 13, 2019. Walnut Cove Senior Center.
- iv. Town Recycling; July 19, 2019 and August 2, 2019.
- v. County League Dinner (hosted by City of King) July 18, 2019, 6:30 PM. King Rec. Acres.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 3

Elmer Davis, 613 Broad Street, Walnut Cove, NC addressed the Board with concern about people speeding on Broad Street. He said children play on the street and that they could get hurt if people continue to speed. He thinks that speed bumps and signage may help with the problem. He also feels that Walnut Cove needs a community center to host events, like reunions. He feels that there is not currently a space big enough for larger events.

Isaiah Brown, 611 Broad Street, Walnut Cove, NC said he had concerns about speeding in Walnut Cove. He said a lot of people speed on Main Street and in Walnut Tree. He said the DMV building was too small.

Ramona Tim, 708 Summit Street, Walnut Cove, NC addressed the Board about her concerns with the solar farm. She said the solar panels had a limited lifespan and was concerned about the disposal of old panels. She said the panels should be disposed of in a way that was not harmful to the environment. She also said that legislation regarding the disposal of these panels was not passed and was recently replaced with more lenient regulations.

ADJUSTMENTS/CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA-

No adjustments or corrections to the agenda were made.

A motion was made by Commissioner Byron to accept the agenda as written and seconded by Commissioner Hairston. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Byron to approve the minutes from June 11, 2019 Regular Board Meeting as written and seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Water Mapping Grant Update.

- a. Town Manager Greenwood gave an update on the grant
- b. He plans to meet with John Akers of Anderson & Associates.
- c. Mr. Akers has advised he believes the town is eligible for a water grant which would also include suggestion for placement of isolation valves.
- d. The Rural Water Association has not confirmed a dated, therefore the Town Manager will meet with Mr. Akers on Wednesday, July 10, 2019.

B. Silver Creek Solar (Representative)

- a. Attorney Tim Terrell represented Silver Creek Solar Farm
- b. The cost of solar production has gone down significantly in recent years, so it is now possible to produce more farms.

- c. Due to regulations regarding the purchase of clean, renewable energy, Duke Energy will likely buy, and may be required to buy, from Silver Creek Solar.
- d. Silver Creek wants to work with local businesses, employees, and materials whenever possible. They would like to make a written agreement about this.
- e. Tim Terrell said he would like for there to be a job fair in the area to connect local people with his company and so they can see what other jobs they may be qualified to do.
- f. Tim Terrell said that many of the articles, like the ones Ramona Tim handed out, are largely from traditional energy companies that see solar energy as a competitor. He said to consider the source when researching.
- g. The panels are made of high-quality glass and most portions of the panels are recyclable.
- h. The design of the panels will allow for little erosion or damage to the ground. This also means that the panels are easy to remove.
- i. A fence and vegetation could be placed around the solar farm.
- j. Commissioner Byron said that many people were wondering how the town would benefit from the farm. Terrell said that due to tax breaks and incentives, the town would likely make more from solar than if the land was used for agriculture or residential space. He can get more specific data on the finances.
- k. Commissioner Byron asked how big the farm would be in comparison to other farms to which Tim Terrell stated the farm would be mid-size to large.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Brian Booe, Chief, WCVFD gave the Fire Dept. quarterly report.

- a. Between March 1-June 30, the department responded to 298 calls, 110 of those being in town.
- b. There is a lack of volunteers.
- c. Recruitment and retention programs are being made.
- d. This time last year they had responded to 504 calls, but so far this year they have responded to 634.
- e. Improvements are being made to the building.
- f. They recently purchased an RTV which has already been useful.
- g. Commissioner Byron wanted to know if there was anything the Board could do to help the department. Booe asked for continued support. Commissioner Byron said they could help with recruitment if possible.
- h. Town Manager Greenwood, Commissioner Hairston, and Commissioner Mitchell thanked WCVFD for their work.
- i. Booe mentioned portable speed bumps may be an inexpensive, but effective way to control speeding.

B. Fall Cleanup Proposal

- a. Commissioner Byron said a similar program worked well in Winston Salem, NC. He asked about the labor intensity of the cleanup for the Public Works Department, to which the Town Manager said the equipment should do most of the work.
- b. Commissioner Byron said to stress the importance of safety to the employees doing the cleanup.

- c. Mayor Mitchell asked if the cleanup involved old paints. Town Manager Greenwood said old paints would not be collected and that information will be reflected on the handouts.

Commissioner Byron made a motion to accept the Fall Clean Up Program as written with Commissioner Hairston seconding the motion. Upon the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

C. Department of Labor Audit

- a. The Town Manager gave a report of the Department of Labor audit completed on the town office on June 26, 2019.
- b. The majority of the code violations are for the same violation. The biggest area to correct is the overuse of the electrical outlets and to eliminate the surge protectors.
- c. Secondly, the signage is not correct as all exits, public and non-public are to be marked and exits should have emergency lighting.
- d. Thirdly, the fire extinguishers are to be mounted to the wall.
- e. Finally, the walk space should be cleared of mops and brooms giving access to the electric box.
- f. The town was not issued any monetary fines.
- g. Lauren Collins is currently working on drafting a Safety and Health policy as prescribed in OSHA regulations to bring the town in compliance.

D. Senior Citizen Contract

- a. The current contract with the Senior Center expired on June 30, 2019. A copy of the new contract for

consideration was presented that will expire June 30, 2021.

Commissioner Hairston made a motion to enter into the new contract with the Walnut Cove Senior Center. Commissioner Byron seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

E. Town Financial Monthly Report

- a. With the absence of Amanda Bryant, Town Clerk, the Town Manager gave the monthly finance report.
- b. Numbers for June are still being worked on.
- c. Town Manager Greenwood presented the balance in the accounts.
- d. He wants to talk to auditors about how much we should maintain in each account.

Commissioner Byron made a motion to recess into Closed Session with Commissioner Hairston seconding the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 8:19 PM.

At 9:03 PM, the Board resumed its open meeting.

The Mayor announced that no action was taken during the closed session.

Commissioner Byron made a motion to contract Bradley Davis as Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer part-time. He will work for the town part-time with no benefits at \$25 per hour. Commissioner

Hairston seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Byron made a motion to increase Commissioner pay to \$2000 annually (the same as the mayor) with Commissioner Hairston seconding. Upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

F. The Town Manager gave his monthly report.

- a. The License Plate Office profit has not been published due to the holiday. It appears from the traffic that June was a good month.
- b. A reminder that the League Dinner will be in King at 6:30 PM at the Recreational Acres on July 18, 2019.
- c. We have several places in our streets in need of patching and or re-surfacing. Cactyx Surfaces of Winston Salem has agreed to price our work Monday July 8, 2019.
- d. J.W Grading, (Jake Willard) operates a local trimming service in town and will begin some much-needed street trimming this week.
- e. Many compliments have been received about the fireworks. Town Manager Greenwood thanked the Lion's Club for the use of their facility.

GENERAL CONCERNS OF THE BOARD

Commissioner Byron is looking into getting 1 or 2 more wells.

Commissioner Byron made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mabe seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM.

Charles Mitchell
Mayor

Amanda Bryant
Town Clerk
