

NAVASSA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

May 18, 2023

7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Eulis Willis, Mayor
William Ballard, Councilman
Ida Dixon, Councilwoman

Jerry Merrick, Councilman
Ernest Mooring, Councilman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Thurman Everett, Councilman

STAFF PRESENT

Norwood Blanchard, Attorney Michelyn Alston, Clerk Officer Kollmeyer

CITIZENS & VISITORS PRESENT

Andre Andrews
Tonya Lowe
Marilyn Holmes

Thomas Merrick Jr
Chiwale Thomas
Beulah Dixie

Scott McCaffrey
Judy Newkirk
Craig Suggs

Councilman Ballard led the Invocation.
Before Mayor Willis called May 18, 2023, meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

ADJUSTMENT & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Dixon asked that Executive Session for Personnel and PD Auto Repair be added to agenda.

COUNCILWOMAN DIXON MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO ADD EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL TO AGENDA AND PD AUTO REPAIR. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Mayor asked that land acquisition be added to Executive Session.

Councilman Mooring asked that landscaping agreement be added agenda, Councilman Merrick asked that it be included in the Executive Session since they must discuss the service price issue.

Attorney Blanchard informed the board that they could only discuss the service price issue for negotiation with the landscaping agreement.

COUNCILWOMAN DIXON MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO ADD LAND ACQUISITION AND LANDSCAPING AGREEMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Councilman Merrick asked that 7a. be moved to executive session to get clarification on Hiring of Police Chief.

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO ADD HIRING OF POLICE CHIEF TO EXECUTIVE SESSION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

VENDORS

African American Foundation donated to the Town for the Community Center hosting their event in the amount of \$300.

BUSINESS

Phoenix Park Water Installation

The mayor spoke about the Phoenix Park water station that he is recommending in the amount of \$4,665 that can be delivered in four weeks. Councilman Merrick questioned if this recommendation was coming from the Parks and Recreation Board or an individual. A discussion was held, and Councilman Ballard recommended Bernard Robbins and Steve Hatcher from district three investigate options for the water installation at Phoenix Park. Councilman Ballard will contact those individuals about the project.

Community Center Rental

COUNCILWOMAN DIXON MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO REOPEN THE COMMUNITY CENTER FOR RENTALS. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Parade Community Center Request

Navassa Parade Community requests to use the Community Center for a Sneaker Ball event for the youth as part of the 2023 Homecoming Festivities.

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO ALLOW USAGE OF THE CENTER. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

PLANNING

Blueprint Brunswick 2040 Plan Public Hearing Date

A recommendation from the planning board to move forward with the plan was given to the Town Council.

COUNCILMAN MERRICK MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO ACCEPT PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION FOR BLUEPRINT BRUNSWICK 2040 PLAN. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN DIXON TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE 15TH AT 7:00 PM FOR THE BLUEPRINT BRUNSWICK 2040 PLAN. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Multi Use Path Project (eminent domain)

Attorney Blanchard briefed the board about the resolution that was drafted a recommended quick take option.

RESOLUTION OF NAVASSA TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZING CONDEMNATION TO ACQUIRE EASEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Town Council has determined that, due to the inability to reach an agreement with the affected property owner(s), it is necessary and in the public interest to acquire by condemnation an easement for the purposes of construction and/or improvement of a sidewalk/multi-use path previously approved by the Town Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Navassa that:

1. The Town Attorney is authorized to initiate one or more condemnation actions to secure the required easement(s) necessary for the project.
2. The Town's Finance Officer is authorized to issue payment for the necessary filing fees and other fees due to the Court (not to exceed the sum of \$500.00 for each condemnation action) and to disburse funds to the Clerk of Court for deposits for the value of the easements (not to exceed the sum of \$250.00 per easement).

Adopted this on the 18TH day of May 2023.

COUNCILMAN MOORING MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN DIXON TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONDEMNATION TO ACQUIRE EASEMENTS. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Councilwoman Dixon informed the board that the insurance would cover most of the repair work to the PD car leaving \$820.51 for the town to cover.

COUNCILWOMAN DIXON MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MOORING TO APPROVE THE VEHICLE FOR REPAIR. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Frank Willis asked if the Town currently has a Police Chief and is the building a Senior Building or Community Center. He is requesting that the building be turned back over to the seniors since it was built for that purpose.

Councilman Merrick informed him to qualify for funding it was named the senior center but have changed to community center.

Mr. Thomas Merrick asked the board what their plans for the youth in the community are.

Councilman Mooring stated before COVID they had positive hoops going and stated that in the past when he asked for participation from the community, he didn't get a lot. But will reach out to Mr. Merrick for his assistance.

Mayor also informed Mr. Merrick that they did swimming for the youths last year.

Councilman Ballard asked Mr. Merrick to attend the Parks and Recreation Board meeting to give them input.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

COUNCILMAN BALLARD MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MERRICK TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Attorney Blanchard read the following directive.

1. Staff were given directions to adjust salary for one employee.
2. Councilwoman Dixon was authorized to make an offer for new Chief.
3. No other action taken.

COUNCILWOMAN DIXON MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MOORING FOR APPROVAL OF THE ABOVE DIRECTIVES THAT WAS READY BY ATTORNEY. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCILMAN MOORING MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BALLARD TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.