

**Town of Swansboro
Board of Commissioners
February 13, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes**

In attendance: Mayor John Davis, Mayor Pro Tem Frank Tursi, Commissioner PJ Pugliese, Commissioner Larry Philpott, Mayor Pro Tem Tursi, Commissioner Pat Turner, and Commissioner Jeffrey Conaway.

Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Pledge

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. Mayor Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Citizens were offered an opportunity to address the Board regarding items listed on the agenda. No comments were given.

Adoption of Agenda and Consent Items

On a motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Philpott, the agenda and the below consent items were approved unanimously.

Meeting Minutes

- August 22, 2022, Regular meeting minutes
- August 22, 2022, Closes Session meeting minutes
- September 12, 2022, Regular meeting minutes

Budget Amendment 2023-3 Walnut Street Retrofit Project Improvements

Appointments/Recognitions/Presentations

Employee Introduction

Manager Webb introduced Rebecca Brehmer, the new Projects/Planning Coordinator. She shared that Ms. Brehmer had a bachelor's degree in historic preservation and has some land use knowledge in zoning.

FY 20-21 Audit Report

Gregory Redman, CPA presented specific details from the FY 21-22 Audit.

- Governmental Activities Net Position (Unrestricted) for 2022 was \$1,726,460 compared to 2021 at \$1,404,464.
- Total Net Position - \$8,378,928 and increase over 2022 of \$205,728.
- Unassigned General Fund Balance for 2022 - \$2,976,642 or 69% of General Fund Expenditures
- Unrestricted Net Position for Stormwater were \$134,136 and Solid Waste were \$67,680.

- Pension Liability: LEO-Police officers were \$86,581 and LGERS were \$365,977
- OPEB (Other Potential Employee Benefits) Liability of \$520,850 were funds that were not necessarily set aside but rather shown as a possible future liability for the Town.
- Current levy collection percentages town-wide was 99.42% (property taxes 99.37%, and registered motor vehicles 100.00%)

Mr. Redman shared that the Town was above and ahead of other jurisdictions similar in size and there were no findings in his audit.

Business Non-Consent

Future Agenda Topics

Future agenda items were shared for visibility and comment. In addition, an opportunity was provided for the Board to introduce items of interest and subsequent direction for placement on future agendas. The following items were introduced and or added by consensus.

- Presentation by Rob Johnson with Onslow Soil & Water
- Resolution Supporting Veterans Garden
- Presentation by Duke Energy
- Community Meetings Discussion

Joint Meeting with the Planning Board

The joint meeting between the Planning board and the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 5:49 pm. Planning Board members in attendance were: Scott Chadwick, Edward McHale, Laurent Meilleur, and Michael Favata. Edward Binanay and Sherrie Hancock were absent.

Planner Correll reviewed that discussion was desired in conjunction with the Planning Board on revising the Unified Development Ordinance Table of Permitted uses and consideration for moving Special Use Permits from the Board of Commissioners to the Board of Adjustment or staff. Mrs. Correll shared that all Special Uses could be reviewed by the Board of Adjustment, or a type of use standard could be created for review by staff and/or the Board of Adjustment and Special Uses remain with the Board of Commissioners. There were many uses identified as Special Uses and those designations have created several instances where a business was required to obtain another special use permit to operate the same or similar business at the same property. As an example, the Mexican Restaurant at 921 W Corbett Avenue had been out of business over 1 year, and the new property owners desired to open another restaurant of the same cuisine, but the table of permitted uses requires them to get a special use permit.

Mr. Chadwick and Mr. Meilleur both agreed that special uses were a good way for the town to control development and felt the table was acceptable and that special uses could be reviewed by the Board of Adjustment instead of the Commissioners.

After discussion on the history of the table, it was determined that a review of the table was needed. On a motion by Commissioner Philpott, seconded by Commissioner Turner, two members from the Planning Board and two from the Board of Commissioners along with the planning and staff would complete a review of the table of permitted uses. The members selected were Mr. McHale, Mrs. Ramsey, Commissioner Turner and Commissioner Conaway. The informal committee would meet weekly and provide recommendations for changes, edits, and additions for consideration within 30 days.

The joint special meeting ended, and the planning board adjourned at 6:49 pm.

Public Comment

Laurent Meilleur of 220 River Reach Drive shared that he had attended one of the mayor's community meetings and suggested that the Board consider holding such meetings and get involved with the residents. He offered suggestions on targeting certain groups and/or neighborhoods throughout town and having refreshments.

Board Comments

Board members shared their appreciation to Finance Director Johnson and the staff for the positive Audit Report.

Closed Session

On a motion by Commissioner Conaway, seconded by Commissioner Philpott, the board entered closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee.

Pursuant to a motion duly made in and seconded in closed session the board returned to open session.

Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Pugliese, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.