

Special Meeting of the Town Council
April 19, 2011
6:15 pm
Council Chambers

Minutes & General Account

Special meeting of the Town Council, April 19, 2011, Council Chambers, Town Hall

Council Members Present: Mayor Volz, Council Members Nixon-Roney, Thomas, Gray and Ragsdale

Staff Present: Chuck Smith, Judy Gallman, Paul Blanchard, Matthew Johnson, Martha Wolfe and Beth Koonce, Town Attorney

Visitors Present: Joyce Volz, Carol Brooks of the Jamestown News, Sarah Glanville, Malcolm Carter, Keith Lackey, Jim Weisner- Harvest Church

1. Call to Order – Mayor Volz called the meeting to order.
2. Council discussion of the Town of Jamestown Capital Improvement Plan – Mayor Volz turned the meeting over to the Town Manager. Smith stated he would like to go over the list of projects then open up the meeting for Council discussion.

Council received their CIP books, divided into General Fund and Water/Sewer Fund. The projects are prioritized as “Must Do”, “Should Do” and “Could Do” as defined:

“Must Do” – Imperative Project

“Should Do” – Essential Project

“Could Do” – Important but could be delayed without detrimental effect

Smith stated at the last meeting, Council reviewed the General Fund CIP. He asked if Council had any questions regarding this. The Council discussed sidewalk projects. Smith said the E. Main Street sidewalk extension is a very expensive project with no clear stopping point other than driveways or mid block. To lead a pedestrian to a location, we would have to extend the walks all the way to Yorkleigh Lane.

Smith said staff looked at the Oakdale Rd. project. Oakdale Rd. has several cross streets. We could extend the walk block by block. This is a less expensive project and we find stopping points along the way. Therefore, we can adjust our budget accordingly. Example: Main Street to Hillstone (exclude sidewalk in the Rail Road Right-A-Way) about a \$64,000.00 project. We have a definite starting point and ending point and you are leading pedestrians to a certain destination.

Mayor Volz said his concern about the Oakdale Rd. sidewalk is the pedestrian crossing at the Rail Road. Smith said they would talk with NC Railroad about the options for constructing sidewalks over the railroad crossing on Oakdale Rd.

Council Member Thomas asked if there was a time-limit for construction of the Wrenn Miller Park. Smith stated there is a 5 year time line to begin construction once the property is purchased. We are 2 years into that period. Smith said we are trying to devise a plan to construct the minimum requirements for a Park. Then the Town will apply for a PARTF grant. We can then continue to construct the Park in phases. Smith said the numbers given in the CIP plan for the Wrenn Miller Park will be decreased to reflect the minimum amount for Phase 1 of the Wrenn Miller Park.

There was a brief discussion on equipment needs. Smith directed Council attention to the "Must Do" list. He stated the server at the Town Hall is a necessary expense for operation. Smith stated the Public Records Laws require the Town to back up certain files.

The Finance Director reported that we have \$180,000.00 in reserve for Powell Bill. The Town will use these funds for street resurfacing. Gallman has included these 2 items in the operating budget. (Town Hall server and Powell Bill Roadway Improvements)

Smith stated this is the first CIP list the Town has produced. The CIP is a good way to forecast and prioritize for the future. The CIP Plan will be renewed each year. Funding sources may change each year.

Smith recognizes that sidewalks are very important to the Council. The Town will continue to apply for grants; Safe Routes to School, CMAC and Enhancement Grants. Mayor Volz said as part of the Ragsdale High School renovations, a sidewalk is being constructed. This might help the Town when applying for future grants.

Gallman said in the Water/Sewer Fund, the Town can do all the projects listed for the next year (Must do, Could Do and Should Do) through operating funds and net assets.

Council discussed the Powell Bill Funds and street repair/repaving. The Powell Bill Funds are used once every other year to repair streets. The Town has a list of prioritized streets for repair. While the Powell Bill Funds can be used for sidewalk projects, the Town has street repairs that surpass the Powell Bill Funding. If we use Powell Bill for sidewalk projects, we get behind on street repair. Per Gallman, the amount of funds we get from Powell Bill continues to go down. There will be a point when we will run out of Powell Bill Funds.

Mayor Volz complemented the Town Manager and the Finance Director for the proposed CIP projects plan. They did an excellent job.

Council Member Ragsdale asked if the Water/Sewer project for radio read meters could be done over the next 2 years. Smith stated we are implementing a Pilot Program with 33 new meters to test the efficiency of the program. Then plans are to implement that program next year Town wide.

The Radio Read Program includes one man with a lap top and receiver in the truck. The driver will not have to travel the whole Town for readings. The reading is transmitted from the water meter. We should be able to complete water meter readings in less than a day.

Smith said staff will revise some of the CIP information before the presentation in May. Some of the projects will be proposed in the 2011/2012 budget. Once the Council is in agreement with the CIP document, we will ask for adoption of the CIP along with approval of the budget.

Council Member Nixon-Roney made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Ragsdale made a second to the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 6:50 pm.