

Town Council Work Session
March 20, 2012
Council Chambers
6:00 pm

Minutes & General Account

Town Council Work Session, March 20, 2012, 6:00 pm, Council Chambers, Town Hall.

Council Members Present: Mayor Volz, Council Member Walls, Montgomery, Thomas, Nixon-Roney (arrived late)

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

Visitors Present: Harold Rush, Carol Brooks of the Jamestown News, and Chris Womack

1. Call to Order – Mayor Volz called the meeting to order. This meeting is to discuss the Capital Improvement Program and to hear from citizens on items they would like included in the budget or placed on the CIP.

Mayor Volz announced that each person that would like to make a comment is allowed 3 minutes to speak. Council may ask questions of the speaker for clarification, however, no dialogue.

2. Citizen Input Regarding Capital Improvement Program – Mayor Volz asked if there was anyone that wished to speak. The Town Manager said the current CIP summary sheet is on the website.

No one wished to speak.

3. Capital Improvement Program Council Discussion – Mayor Volz opened the meeting for Council discussion. The Town Manager stated that the new Council Members, Lynn Montgomery & Tommy Walls, were given the proposed CIP for the next fiscal year. The incumbents have the adopted CIP for the current year as well as the proposed CIP. The CIP plan given to the Council at this meeting is what needs to be discussed.

Mayor Volz pointed out that the CIP is divided into: 1.) Must Do Projects 2.) Should do Projects and 3.) Could Do Projects. The Town Manager said any project that is listed in the CIP for fiscal year 2013, if it is an unfunded item at budget time, the project will be shifted out. At the bottom of the page on each project, is a listed funding source.

Mayor Volz stated a tax increase is one source of income. However, if we remain patient the area around the Sheetz will develop someday. The construction contract for the By-Pass will be released this August. NCDOT feels (weather permitting) the construction around the Sheetz area would be completed first. This gives the developers of Grandover the opportunity to begin

development in this area. There are 34 acres in this area to be developed. His opinion is to take the revenues from this area as it develops and put these funds toward the CIP. The Town has never been in favor of raising taxes unless really necessary. Council Member Montgomery asked if the Town has received its new tax evaluation. The Town Manager said we hope to receive that information soon.

The Town Manager said the Wrenn-Miller Park is first on the “must do” list. He turned the meeting over to the Planning Director who is in charge of the project. Johnson reported that the Town has been doing some in-house work on the site. We are under time constraints with PARTF. We purchased the land with a PARTF grant and have a 5 years time line to develop the Park. We are in year 3. The Town has applied for another PARTF grant to help fund the development of the Park. We should hear the outcome regarding the award in midsummer. (June-July) The proposed CIP for Wrenn-Miller Park does not reflect the grant funding. We would adjust the CIP to show that amount.

Johnson said PARTF makes grant awards in May & June. The Town will receive an invitation to attend the award session. Johnson will let the Council know the dates. It would be good for the governing body to attend.

Council Member Walls asked what the budget for the Wrenn-Miller Park would include. Johnson said the plan calls for 2 phases. Phase 1 will include walkways, picnic tables, benches and games area. We could not include the restrooms during this phase due to funding. Council Member Walls asked how donations were progressing. Johnson said we have approximately \$6000.00 - \$7000.00 to date.

Chuck Smith said while not a “Must Do” item, it is a project discussed for quite some time; curbside recycling. The current policy of Jamestown is not to allow containers at the road. Smith directed the Council to items; Phase 1 garbage carts and retrofitting garbage trucks and phase 2 is curbside recycling.

The proposal has changed since the last CIP revision. The cost was simply way too much to fund purchasing carts & providing curbside recycling. The revision is to provide in a 2 year phase:

First year to purchase 95 gal. household garbage carts with an increase in the solid waste fee. The Town would purchase the carts for the 1300 customers of the Town. We would provide those to the residents. We would retrofit our two Sterling Garbage trucks. (2002 & 2007) The truck would take the cart into the back of the hopper, put the cart back down and then sanitation workers would put the cart back at the curb. The solid waste fee would increase to \$12.00 per month. The current fee is \$7.00 per month.

The second year, we would use the funds to purchase carts again for recycling. The Town would contract with a hauler to pick up the recycling carts for us. We would eliminate the drop off center located at the Town Hall. The funds previously paid to service the drop off site would then be used to contract with the hauler. Residents would have a Jamestown household waste & recycling cart. Town would pick up the trash and a private hauler would pick up the

recyclables. Within two years of increasing the solid waste fee, we could implement both those programs and sustain the program. The solid waste fee would remain at the increase for the Town to replace carts, maintaining contracts for haulers and purchasing a new garbage truck.

The Town would retrofit both our existing garbage trucks in the first phase of the curbside recycling project. Council Member Nixon-Roney asked for cost comparisons. The Town Manager said the current recycling drop off site costs about \$30,000.00 a year. We cannot get a firm bid on the contract services to haul recyclables until we actually go out for bids. However, it would probably almost double the cost to provide the curbside recycling. Yet, with the addition of the recyclables the Town should see a reduction in the household waste. This should yield a savings to the Town in reduced tipping fees. There is also the possibility if we contract with the right hauler, we could get paid back for some of the recyclables they pick up.

Smith said in the Town's recycling program, we would probably specify every other week for recycling. The household trash pickup would go to once a week. Council Member Walls asked if they have looked at contracting out everything; trash & recyclables. The Town Manager is not in favor of that. We lose the customer service aspect. Citizens call the Town Hall and are used to the personal contact with the Town. The Town also collects yard waste.

The Mayor said he would like to see us put out a poll on the utility bills to see what the citizens would prefer. Many citizens seem to prefer the bags. Council Member Nixon-Roney said she thought the Town Manager had found a way to recycle with bags. Town Manager said it can be done, but the contractors did not want to give us a price until we put out a formal proposal for bids. Council Member Nixon-Roney said if we make it easy for citizens to recycle, more will do it. Council Member Walls questioned if citizens would buy the bags or be given the bags. Mayor said that is one of the details to sift through. The Mayor felt we should take this idea to the contractor and get information from the contractor and compare to what we are paying now. We may see a very close number. Council Member Walls shared that at the elected official school he just attended, someone from Rhonda, NC said they switched to recycling and use just 1 can for garbage and recycling.

Mayor Volz said one reason this Town went to bags was that citizens did not like seeing cans left on the street or in front of houses. The Town Manager said lots of citizens like the 2 times a week garbage pickup. When I first started as the Public Service Director, James Plantation was in the development stages. As it turned out, that development was not successful. However, if it had materialized the Town was going to have to seriously consider going to pick up garbage once a week and splitting the pickup between the Town. We are that close on collection. There are days the crew collects during the day and barely gets the trash off the truck by 3:45pm, when the scales close. So, any shift or disruption in operation right now could trigger that once a week pickup and split pickup through the Town. The idea of recycling is to reduce the amount of household waste. Council Member Thomas said he lived in Greensboro and they only had garbage pickup once a week. It is something one can transition to.

Mayor Volz asked if there was a smaller garbage truck that could service the areas that are having issues in the afternoon with the crows. The Town Manager said to do that would

include purchase of additional equipment and additional labor. The Public Services Director has thought of some new ideas. The Town runs the same route for garbage collection, leaf collection and brush collection. Certain areas of Town the bags stay out longer than others due to the route. Operationally we could change the route. We can do that however, citizens are accustomed to the garbage truck arriving in their neighborhood at a certain time. The Town advises citizens to have their garbage out by 7:00 am. If we reverse the route, someone's trash may not be picked up because they did not put it out early enough. We will be inundated with calls. Council Member Nixon-Roney said she has heard it is not necessarily a timing issue. Council Member Walls said he offered a solution to allow citizens with chronic crow problems to use a can with a lid on it. The Town Manager said if we pass a policy that will allow cans, we would have to allow all 1300 citizens to use the cans.

Council Member Nixon-Roney said she would like to hear from the people that pick up the trash. Bags stuffed in cans could slow down the garbage collection. She would like to hear from the employees that would be affected by it. The Town Manager spoke with Republic Waste. They allow 32 gal. containers to be used by residents. (many put out 2 containers) They recently provided 95 gal. carts to everyone. Citizens were told to keep the cart if they preferred. They still collect the 32 gal. carts but the 95 gal. carts hold 3 times as much. Republic reported that the efficiency of the program improved. The side load truck pick up of the 95 gal. container was more efficient than the 32 gal. cart with workers loading into the truck. The truck is doing the lifting for them.

Council Member Walls stated he does not know if Council will pass this request policy change, but he does ask that we seek a solution for these neighbors they have been begging for years for this to stop. Some are too elderly to get down and pick up the trash left on the ground. Also received calls from pregnant women that can't pick up the trash. It is unsanitary what is left behind. Council Member Montgomery said people in Forestdale East told her they put pepper on the bags to keep animals out. Council Member Thomas feels we need to try something. We have been hearing about this for a long time. He does not see that the cans should be a problem. Council Member Montgomery said she went through Council Member Walls's neighborhood on trash day. There were maybe 8 properties that were affected. Council Member Thomas said we need to try something. If it doesn't work we will try something else. We need to help the people with this chronic problem.

Council Member Nixon-Roney again stated she would like to hear from the pickup crews. Paul Blanchard, Public Services Director, said the driver is concerned about getting to the scales on time. If we don't get the truck emptied we have to park the truck in another location due to possibility of fire.

The Mayor directed the Town Manager to poll the citizens via the utility bills. The Manager said it will be May before the in-town water bill is mailed. The Mayor feels we need to have the information from citizen polling in order to build the CIP. Council Member Nixon Roney said there are issues with the totters too. She would like to see a proposal on the recycling of the bags and addressing the 8-10 people that have problems with the crows separately. If we have curbside recycling let's take bids for proposals.

The Town Manager said we can put together a proposal for bids. If more than we are funding now, \$30,000.00, it will be a budget issue. Council Member Walls agreed to get bids. It appears to be about 10 homes that have the problem. However, the Town Manager said if we allow cans for just the ones with chronic problems, we have to allow for all citizens. Council Member Montgomery said the majority of people that don't have a problem want to use the bags, put at the curb and be done with it. Council Member Thomas stated it seems so simple to me to allow cans verses spraying garbage down with ammonia or pepper.

Council Member Nixon-Roney suggested Council Member Walls's proposed garbage pick up policy could be presented as a case study; for a temporary time to see how it goes. The Town Manager said it will change operations. We just have to make sure we get the garbage truck to the scales.

Council Member Nixon-Roney would like to see statistics on how many times the Town has missed the dump over the last month. Then, if we do this temporary can pickup for the chronic areas, we will know if it is adding to the time schedule for the garbage truck. Council Member Thomas agreed to try it and see if it works. Mayor Volz said notify these affected areas that we are going to pick up their trash earlier. These areas would be picked up in a service truck and then transferred to the garbage truck. Smith said the Town can run a second route with the service truck at 7:00 am to pick up the areas with problems. Smith said it will take time to educate the people.

Council Member Nixon-Roney is uncomfortable with making this permanent. I want to see the results. Council Member Walls said make it temporary. Smith said we can pick up with a service truck for the 8-10 houses. But if we are allowing containers for 30 days and then no longer allowing it, people will stay confused. The Town Manager said he feels more comfortable allowing a service truck to pick up the 8 – 10 houses. Council Member Nixon-Roney said to identify the people with a problem, advise those residents to have the trash out by 7:00 am.

Mayor Volz stated it is time for the regular meeting to begin.

Council Member Nixon-Roney made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Montgomery made a second to the motion. It was a unanimous vote to the motion. The meeting ended at 7:00 pm.