

**TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00PM**

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keith Warren
Mayor Pro Tem Clay Wilson
Bobby Mosteller
Rebecca Johnson
Melissa Curtis

STAFF PRESENT

Chase Winebarger
Julie A Good
Terry Taylor
Kelly Melton

COUNCIL ABSENT

Joe Wesson

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Keith Warren called the meeting to order at approximately 6:03pm.

INVOCATION: Pastor Levi Addison gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Keith Warren led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to adopt the May 16, 2023 Agenda.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Clay Wilson seconded, to adopt the May 16, 2023 Agenda. All were in favor.

APPROVE APRIL 18, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to approve the April 18, 2023 regular meeting minutes.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to approve the April 18, 2023 regular meeting minutes. All were in favor.

APPROVE APRIL 25, 2023 BUDGET SESSION MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to approve the April 25, 2023 budget session meeting minutes.

Melissa Curtis made a motion, and Clay Wilson seconded, to approve the April 25, 2023

budget session meeting minutes. All were in favor.

APPROVE APRIL 25, 2023 BUDGET WORKSHOP CLOSED SESSION MINUTES: Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to approve the April 25, 2023 budget workshop closed session minutes.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to approve the April 25, 2023 budget workshop closed session minutes. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keith Warren asked if anyone had any questions or comments at this time.

Jo Ann Miller came and thanked the Council for the generous donation that was given to the American Legion Post 392.

PUBLIC HEARING: FY 2023/2024 BUDGET

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to open the public hearing.

Bobby Mosteller made a motion, and Clay Wilson seconded, to open the public hearing. All were in favor.

STAFF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS: Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the budget is balanced as required by the NC Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. The Town's overall budget for FY 2023-2024 totals four million six hundred twelve thousand seven hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$4,612,729.00). A few highlights of the proposed budget include no property tax increase; two point five percent (2.5%) increase in water and sewer rates per five (5) year NCRWA Rate Study; no increase in sanitation fees; fund balance appropriations for capital projects; maintains current levels of benefits services to citizens.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one wished to speak.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to close the public hearing. All were in favor.

COUNCIL ACTION: Clay Wilson made a motion, and Melissa Curtis seconded, to adopt the FY 2023/2024 Budget, the FY 2023/2024 Budget Ordinance and the FY 2023/2024 Fee Schedule. All were in favor.

RECOGNITIONS:

APRIL RECYCLE REWARDS WINNER: Mayor Keith Warren announced Cleat Isenhour as the May Recycle Rewards Winner. A credit of forty dollars (\$40.00) will be added to the current sanitation bill.

No Council action was required.

FINANCIAL:

Mayor Pro Tem Clay Wilson made asked that Council recuse him from the discussion and vote on agenda Item 9A. JW Farms Donation Request.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Melissa Curtis seconded, to allow Mayor Pro Tem Clay Wilson to recuse himself from the discussion and vote for agenda Item 9A. JW Farms Donation Request. All were in favor.

JW FARMS DONATION REQUEST: Mayor Keith Warren stated that a donation request in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) had been submitted to Council.

Melissa Curtis made a motion, and Bobby Mosteller seconded, to give a donation in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) to JW Farms to sponsor food for the widow's breakfast. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keith Warren asked if anyone had any questions or comments at this time.

No one wished to speak.

UPDATES:

MAY CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: Town Code Enforcement Officer Curt Willis stated that there are fourteen (14) code enforcement cases that are open.

No Council action was required.

TOWN MANAGER UPDATES: Town Manager Chase Winebarger had the following updates:

- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that Spring event at Baird Park went well. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he had not received any complaints from the vendors and had only heard compliments from vendors and the public about how well the event went. Town Manager Chase Winebarger also stated that he had heard very good reviews on the fireworks show. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the only complaints that he has received from the public were regarding parking and traffic issues in and out of Baird Drive.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that next year the Town would need to go up on the tap fees. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that, not counting labor, the town is losing about ninety-one dollars (\$91.00) on tap installs. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the increase will be in the FY 2024/2025 Budget.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the current NCRWA Rate Study was a five (5) year study and will run through FY 2025/2026. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that at that time the Town will have a new rate study.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Town is actively exploring options for architecture services.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he has a contract from West and Associates, Town Engineers, to bid grading for Phase I of the Baird Park project.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he had been in contact with Caldwell County regarding Evergreene Industrial Park. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Caldwell County has started with the mulch removal and the Town has volunteered a man and a truck to help. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Town will help with the cost of the mulch removal.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he has had some complaints about Air B-N-B's in Sawmills. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that there will need to be some discussions, at a later date, regarding Air B-N-B's, Barndominiums and Tiny Homes ordinances.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the Junior Legion team will be playing home games at Baird Park beginning in June.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he has gotten requests from parents and grandparents about the Town putting in a covered area near the playground at Baird Park. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he had gotten a quote for ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000.00) for a covered area that would match what was already at Baird Park. Council asked Town Manager Chase Winebarger to some more research and get a more concrete price.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that in the last two (2) weeks that there have been termites found in Town Hall and that the Town is working to get them taken care of.
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he wanted to end the meeting on a high note, so he wanted to make Council aware that there was thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) in interest made last month.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Melissa Curtis wanted to thank everyone for coming to the meeting.

Bobby Mosteller wanted to thank everyone for coming to the meeting.

Clay Wilson wanted to thank everyone for coming to the meeting.

COUNCIL ADJOURN: Mayor Keith Warren asked for a motion to adjourn.

Clay Wilson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:35pm.

Keith Warren, Mayor

Julie A. Good, Town Clerk