

Town of New London
Board of Commissioner's Meeting
June 13, 2023

Mayor Tate Daniels welcomed everyone and opened the Public Hearing. Present for the hearing were Mayor Daniels, Commissioners Bill Peak, Johnny Chestnut, Richard Kimmer, Sid Lanier, Timothy Higgins, and Town Manager Susan Almond. Visitors present at the meeting were John & Cathy Kimmer, Mitzie Lanier, Elizabeth Chestnut, Gary & Mary Robinson and Luke Lowery from COG (Centralina Council of Government).

The purpose of the first Public Hearing was to review the proposed 2030 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Planning Board met on Thursday, June 8th to review the proposed plan and unanimously agreed to send the plan to the Town Board for their review and approval. Mr. Luke Lowery from COG assisted the town in preparing the plan. He noted that the Land Use Plan is a vision document that shows where the town wants to be in 10-15 years. The plan helps support decision making but does not dictate what decision to make and does not replace the zoning ordinance. Following discussion, Mayor Daniels closed the first Public Hearing and opened the second Public Hearing.

The purpose of the second Public Hearing was to hear the second reading of the proposed 2023-2024 budget. The changes from the first reading to the second reading for General Fund were: \$7,500 increase to Transfer to Cemetery, \$100 increase to Insurance for Park, \$7,600 decrease to Capital Improvement. The changes to Wastewater were a \$3,000 increase to Sewer Treatment Processing and \$3,000 decrease to Mowing Sewer Right of Ways. The total proposed budget is \$1,229,850.

Following discussion, the Public Hearing was closed, and the Commissioner's Meeting was opened. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Chestnut. Mayor Daniels asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Commissioner Kimmer made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Higgins. Motion carried.

Mayor Daniels asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes from the May meeting. There being no corrections, Commissioner Peak made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Chestnut. Motion carried.

Decision Regarding Proposed Land Use Plan- Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to approve the 2030 Comprehensive Land Use Plan, seconded by Commissioner Kimmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Decision Regarding Proposed 2023-2024 Budget- Commissioner Kimmer made a motion to adopt the proposed 2023-2024 budget, seconded by Commissioner Chestnut. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Ordinance & Tax Rate 2023-2024- Mrs. Almond presented the 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance. Commissioner Peak made a motion to approve the Budget Ordinance for 2023-2024, seconded by Commissioner Lanier. Motion carried unanimously. This Budget Ordinance states the tax rate for New London would remain at \$0.16 per \$100 valuation of property.

Sewer Report- Commissioner Peak reported that the sewer stations are functioning properly. He noted that we are considering a new company for annual maintenance of the sewer stations and will report back at the next meeting.

Code Enforcement- No new issues to report.

Museum Update- Commissioner Lanier reported that John and Cathy Kimmer volunteered at the museum last week and had a few visitors. He noted that Ms. Shirley Baity has volunteered to open the museum July 2nd.

Mrs. Almond reported that New London is participating in a passport program that was developed by the Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society to increase attendance at local museums. Visitors to any participating museum can pick up a passport, which will have information on all the other museums. When they visit any of the museums, they get their passport stamped. Once they've collected enough stamps, they drop off their passport at a participating museum to be entered in a drawing for prizes.

Mrs. Almond reported on the following:

- **Adjustments to the 2022-2023 Budget:**

General Fund- Increase Business Incentives \$34,000, increase Maint./Repairs Museum \$2,500, Decrease Capital Improvement \$36,500.

Wastewater- Increase Sewer Treatment Processing \$1,500, Increase Water Purchase \$4,000, Decrease Maint/Repairs Sewer \$5,500.

Cemetery- Increase Electric Cemetery \$100, Decrease Mowing Cemetery \$100. Following review of the proposed adjustments, Commissioner Higgins made a motion to approve the adjustments to the 2022-2023 Budget, seconded by Commissioner Kimmer. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Supplemental Law Enforcement Contract-** Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to approve the contract for Supplemental Law Enforcement to provide 40 hours per month and not to exceed \$17,000 in compensation per year, seconded by Commissioner Peak. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Audit Contract-** The board reviewed the audit contract from Mr. Tony Brewer to perform audit services for fiscal year 2022-2023 for a cost of \$7,200. Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Lanier. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Waste Management-** the consumer price index (CPI) increase for trash is 5.4% but our contract with Waste Management caps the CPI increases at 3%. The new rate for residential trash and recycling collection is \$16.66 for 2023-2024.
- **COG (Centralina Council of Governments) Membership-** Last year, the COG Board of Delegates voted to eliminate the minimum dues requirement. The rate for all communities is per capita and based on the current population. The town's annual dues would be approximately \$145.00.

- **July Board Meeting-** date has been changed to Tuesday, July 11th at 7pm at the New London Community Center.

Mayor Daniels gave an update on the following:

- **Park Update-** An existing water tap was located near the rustic shelter and PNSWA installed a new meter at that location. Timbers are being treated for the new swings, which are under construction. Cameras have been ordered for the old park and placement of them will be determined.
- **Powell Bill Expenditures-** Commissioner Peak made a motion to accept Mr. Rusty Russell's quote to put piping in the ditch starting at Church Street, going north 420 feet on the east side of Oak Avenue, seconded by Commissioner Kimmer. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Municipal Parks and Recreation Grant:** The County Commissioners approved our matching grant request of \$9,090 for the construction of 6 wooden park swings.
- **Water-Sewer Rate Increase-** Due to increased rates from the City of Albemarle, the proposed water-sewer rates will increase to \$22.00 for water and \$30.50 for sewer. Commissioner Kimmer made a motion to approve the new rates, seconded by Commissioner Chestnut. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Cemetery Update-** Comer Concrete plans to finish pouring the new sidewalks this week.

A Closed Session was called. The Commissioner's Meeting reconvened.

The agenda being accomplished, the meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Minutes submitted by Susan Almond, Town Manager.