

Town of Peletier
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, March 6, 2023

Mayor Dale Sowers called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Members present: Commissioners Dan Taylor, Walter Vinson, David Bragg and Tim Quinn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bragg to approve the Agenda with an amendment adding Closed Session (Attorney & Client) to Other Business. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vinson and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to approve the February 6, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bragg and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

Department Reports:

- a. **Code Enforcement Officer Report** – presented
- b. **Western Carteret Fire/EMS Report** - presented
- c. **Financial Report** – presented
- d. **Planning Board Report** – none
- e. **Commissioners' Report** – Commissioner Quinn asked for an update on the Church. Mayor Sowers said he picked up permit for handicap ramp, back repairs and painting is done. Still need to work on left back corner of foundation.
- f. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Sowers stated that he met with David Bone from ECC (Eastern Carolina Council). ECC membership dues would be less than \$300 per year. Mayor feels that ECC has a lot to offer the Town and can help with a lot of things moving forward. A meeting has been set up for Friday, 17th, at 10 am for presentation by Mr Bone. Meeting is open to the public. Also, Whitehouse Fork Rd is due to be repaved within a year.

New Business:

1) Amended Nuisance Ordinance – Chapter X.Nuisances, Divisions I, II, III, Sections 10-1 thru 10-11.

Any fines will be directed to property owner. If fines are not paid, they will be sent to County for collection via tax bills. The County gets 2% of any fines collected.

Commissioner Quinn asked if we could add an Admin fee to all fines.

2) Public Hearing – Adopt Amended Nuisance Ordinance , Chapter X.Nuisances, Divisions I, II, III, Sections 10-1 thru 10.11.

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to go into Public Hearing for discussion of adopting Amended Nuisance Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quinn and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

Cesar Collazo asked who gets the imposed fine on rental properties, the renter or property owner...property owner

Barbara Quinn asked if fine not paid and we have to do work a second time, does fine increase...no

After further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Quinn to adopt the Amended Nuisance Ordinance to include a \$175 Admin Fee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bragg and pass unanimously (4 to 0).

3) Racetrack – Wheatly Law Group – appealing fine for Ordinance violation – Brett DeSelms, Town Attorney, stated that he has been in contact with Racetrack Attorney and still needs to have further discussion with him. He suggests we table this matter until April Meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bragg to table the Racetrack appeal for 30 days, April 3, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quinn and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

4) New Auditor – Williams, Scarborough, Gray, LLP (existing Auditor) eliminating auditing services. Need to find a new Auditor.

Lee Carroll, Town Accountant, has suggested 5 firms to contact for future Town Auditor. Commissioner Quinn suggested choosing 3 of the 5 closest firms and send request letter to each. Adding this matter to April Agenda.

5) Commissioner Overby's Replacement – nomination and voting

Commissioner Vinson nominated Sonny Mason and Commissioner Quinn nominated Donna Bierly. After each nominee addressed the Board, voting took place. Commissioners Vinson and Taylor voted for Sonny Mason and Commissioners Bragg and Quinn voted for Donna Bierly. Due to the tie, Commissioner Quinn asked Commissioner Vinson to make a motion to allow a straw vote. Commissioner Vinson declined.

Town Attorney Brett DeSelms said the Board should discuss the issue and then revote. After a brief discussion, the vote was the same, Commissioners Bragg and Quinn voting for Bierly and Commissioners Vinson and Taylor voting for Mason. Mayor Sowers cast the tie-breaking vote for Sonny Mason. Mr Mason will be sworn in during the April 3rd meeting.

Public Comments (3 minute limit)

Lauren Daniel, not a resident of Peletier, said the Board needs to be more transparent.

Donna Bierly, town resident and candidate for Commissioner, feels like she won. She said do not let fear deter you from these meetings.

Barbara Quinn, resident of Peletier, feels like Donna Bierly deserves to be on the Board of Commissioners and deserved the Mayor's vote.

Old Business:

Vegetative Waste Ordinance – Brett DeSelms, Town Attorney, stated that he has ordinance draft drawn up by Donna Bierly and is still going through it. A lot still needs to be done before moving forward. DeSelms suggested waiting another 30 days.

Other Business:

Closed Session – meeting between Attorney and Client

A motion was made by Commissioner Vinson to go into Closed Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Taylor and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

Discussions: Racetrack ordinance and appeal

Scotty Outdoor – billboard permit and ordinance

Transparency

Waste Vegetative Site and Ordinance

After discussion and info updates from DeSelms, a motion was made by Commissioner Bragg to go out of Closed Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quinn and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

Commissioners Comments Review:

None

There being no further business before the board, a motion was made by Commissioner Quinn to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vinson and passed unanimously (4 to 0). The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Bea Cunningham
Secretary to Board of Commissioners