

Former council member honored Horace Warner of Walkertown died of cancer in February

By Melissa Hall
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WALKERTOWN

Walkertown officials and residents remembered former Council Member Horace Warner last week as a public servant who worked to help the town.

The town council and the Forsyth County Republican Party honored Warner last Thursday with two resolutions at the Walkertown library. Warner, 79, died Feb. 21 after a long battle with prostate cancer.

Several county and state officials attended the ceremony during the council meeting.

Warner had served on the town council since 1997. Outspoken as one of the council's most conservative members, Warner gained the respect of political friends and opponents alike for his manners.

Warner was elected to the town council in a year in which voters swept three incumbents off the council. As time passed, Warner was on the losing end of many 3-1 votes.

Former Mayor Enos Jumper said he respected Warner, according to the town's minutes of the meeting.

"He always was a joy to talk to because when I talked to him, he had a unique ability to make me like I was the only other person in the room," Jumper said. "He not only heard your words, he listened to what you were saying."

Marilyn Martin of Walkertown said that Warner never wanted to be thanked for the work he did for the town.

"I thanked him, he thanked me, it just went back and forth," Martin said.

Warner's family was given a framed proclamation, a plaque and his nameplate from the town.

In addition, the conference room in the town hall was named in Warner's memory.

Mayor Doc Davis said that a plaque and a picture of Warner will be hung in the room.

"To remind us that Horace is looking over us at all times," Davis said.

In other business, the council unanimously approved the town's \$1.3 million budget for 2006-07.

The town will maintain its property-tax rate of 20 cents for every \$100 of value. The budget goes into effect July 1.

According to the minutes, Davis said that the town's property-tax base had increased slightly. He said that someone asked him if the budget had a tax increase.

"On the night that we were memorializing Horace Warner, you had the nerve to ask if we had a tax increase," Davis said. "That would not happen."

Council Member Wayne Hester said that the town's recreation committee had discussed whether the town should build a community center and put a small park in the middle of Walkertown.

The council also passed a resolution honoring the Rev. Bobby Roberson of Gospel Light Baptist Church for 50 years as the church's pastor. The resolution proclaimed July 2 as Bobby Roberson Day in Walkertown. The church was formed in 1949 with nine charter members. Roberson became pastor in 1956.

The church has more than 6,000 members and plans to celebrate Roberson's anniversary with the church with services at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, followed by a reception at 7:30 p.m.

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