

TOWN OF REDDICK COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

August 6, 2023

Reddick Town Council met in regular session on Thursday, August, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Community Building.

PRESENT:

Marjorie Stroup, Clerk
Steven Rogers, Council Pres.

COUNCILMEN

Martha Cromwell, Councilman Pro Tem
Nadine Stokes
Shirley Youmans
Myra Sherman

ABSENT: John Vetter, Mayor

GUESTS

Dick Gerard	Pam Gerard	Joe Perry	Margarita Sullivan	Greg Stafford
Cathy Kuhl	Cynthia Davis	David Glynn		

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Council President Rogers, with Councilman Sherman giving an invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- Minutes of the July 2023 meeting were reviewed . A motion was made by Councilman Cromwell to approve minutes with no corrections. Councilman Youmans seconded motion and motion carried unanimously.
- The Financial Statement for the month of July, 2023 was presented for review. All bills have been paid. Income exceeded expense for the month by \$667, but for the year expense still exceeded income by \$1664, caused by expenses for right-of-way maintenance totalling \$14,444.74. A motion was made by Councilman Cromwell to accept the financial report as presented and Councilman Stokes and Sherman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, pending audit.

SHERIFF'S DEPT:

Lt. Keith McQuaig gave a report for July activity. 48 calls for services. There were 16 traffic stops. Among reports written a gentleman was sent to the hospital with injuries, a dementia patient was located, one report of fraud and one arrest for drugs.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Council Pres. Rogers shared that Mayor Vetter has contacted Marion County Code Enforcement again we have been presented with an Interlocal Agreement and our attorney after reviewing has approved the Agreement. It covers not only Junk and Litter, but also unsafe structures and zoning. We now have the ability to enforce our zoning ordinance. We can also thank Commissioner Stone for her assistance. The procedure for reporting will be the Town Council initiating request in writing to the violator. If violator is compliant then situation is complete. If non-compliant a certified letter will be sent with a time limit set to become compliant or violator can appear before Council explaining why they need more time. If still non-compliant, documentation is then sent to the County Code Enforcement Office. The Town will be charged \$50/hr for the officer and \$30/hr for administrative work. The County can then levy fines until violation is cleared. Contract is for 1 year with automatic renewal after that. Councilman Cromwell made a motion that we accept the Interlocal Agreement and Councilman Sherman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ROADWORK:

Margarita Sullivan thanked Council for clearing trees that had come down around her property. Councilman Youmans reported that the pothole at Club Charmant previously filled, has opened up again. Also several large oaks have come down and have been removed. Council President Rogers said that there are some areas that need trees trimmed high enough that garbage truck can get through. NW 155th has finally been graded and limerock added. Council President Rogers also stated that we need to get some caution tape and cones to mark areas that are impassable , especially since Hurricane season is upon us.

STREET LIGHTS:

All streets lights seem to be working.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **PROPOSED PARK AND RECREATION AREA:**

We have signed agreements with the County and the School Board has given approval for their attorney to draft a lease agreement. Council President will be attending a workshop on the 17th of August where he will pick up the lease and take it to our attorney for review. Dr. Sarah James has been very helpful in the process. Hopefully, by the 1st of Sept. we will have a lease agreement to vote on.

- **WINDOW A/C UNIT FOR TOWN OFFICE:**

Currently, the office has to be cooled by running the a/c units for the entire building. To save money, and more efficiently cool office, a window unit and window replacement could be done. The cost of the replacement window and a split a/c until should run about \$2500.00. Councilman Cromwell made a motion that we install the unit and window. Councilman Youmans seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **TRIMMING TREES AROUND COMMUNITY CENTER:**

Grady Stafford has submitted an estimate to limb up and haul off trees and debris from around the Community Center of \$2500.00. Councilman Sherman made a motion that we accept his estimate and proceed with the work and Councilman Youmans seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- **UPGRADE FOR QUICKBOOKS AND DESKTOP COMPUTER:**

The current computer being used for town business is over 12 years old and has become unable to handle upgrades. Additionally, the Quickbooks program is a 2013 edition and needs to be upgraded. Councilman Cromwell made a motion to purchase necessary replacements and Councilman Stokes seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- **CHANGES IN INSURANCE COVERAGES:**

Our insurance carrier, FMIT is changing our coverage basis from Specialized to Blanket Coverage. They will be coming to Reddick to appraise Town property. Our insurance coverage has increased 32%. This has nothing to do with the addition of a park. We need to decide on a deductible. Councilman Cromwell recommended that we accept the 5% deductible and made a motion to that effect. Councilman Youmans seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- **1st READING OF PROPOSED 2023-2024 BUDGET:**

The proposed budget for next fiscal year was presented for its first reading. Total revenues other than transportation taxes is \$257,495.00. Total transportation revenues are estimated to be \$38,600.00, and total AARP (American Rescue Funds) are \$164,000.00, totaling \$421,495.00 estimated revenues.

Expenditures other than transportation total \$257,495, with transportation expenditures of \$38,600 and American Rescue (park) expense of \$164,000, totaling \$421,495.00 estimated expenditures.

Councilman Cromwell made a motion to accept the first reading of next year's fiscal budget. Councilman Sherman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- **MOWING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT:**

Our current contract has expired in December, 2021. Contract will be opened by bids. We would like to have at least three bids and will advertise the scope of service and hopefully, we will present bids at next month's Council meeting. We will need to take into account the increase in insurance costs.

- **SALE OF TOWN LOTS:**

Grady Stafford would like to purchase two parcels in the Gattrell subdivision ; however one parcel has two lots that are not adjacent. He would like to see that parcel split and then purchase one of the split parcels along with a parcel next to it. He would like to clean up the lots and hopefully, get rid of junk cars and parts that are being dumped onto the property. Councilman Cromwell made a motion that we sell the lots at a rate of \$1000 each, even though the County estimates their value as \$1400 each. Councilman Sherman seconded motion and motion carried unanimously. Council President also mention that we recently had a request to split a parcel, leaving one of the parcels as too small to do anything with. The requestor had to go on record in writing that he was aware that he was creating an unusable parcel.

- **COVID ON THE RISE:**

Councilman Sherman wanted to caution everyone that Covid is on the rise again and to be extra cautious.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Marjorie Stroup, Town Clerk

John Vetter, Mayor

Date: