

TOWN OF REDDICK COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

September 7, 2023

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

PRESENT:

Marjorie Stroup, Clerk
Steven Rogers, Council Pres.
John Vetter, Mayor

COUNCILMEN

Martha Cromwell, Councilman Pro Tem
Nadine Stokes
Shirley Youmans

ABSENT: Myra Sherman

GUESTS

Dick Gerard	Pam Gerard	Joe Perry	Terry Tabor	Jeff Oswald
Cathy Kuhl	Cindy Rogers	Brian Kuhl	Alphonso Lamar	Katrina Chisolm
Emmanuel Johnson	David Glynn	Robert Law	Kim Law	Tony Ward
Kathy Teshesly	Benita Horne			

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

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- Minutes of the August 2023 meeting were reviewed . A motion was made by Councilman Cromwell to approve minutes with no corrections. Councilman Youmans and Councilman Stokes seconded motion and motion carried unanimously.
- The Financial Statement for the month of August, 2023 was presented for review. All bills have been paid. Income exceeded expense for the month by \$10,119, and for the year expense still exceeded income by \$8,655. A motion was made by Councilman Cromwell to accept the financial report as presented and Councilman Stokes seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, pending audit. Investments now show a projection of 2.2% YTD return. Interest income is projected for next 12 months at \$116,527.

SHERIFF'S DEPT:

Dep. Rodriguez reported as Lt. McQuaig could not be present. He gave a report for August activity; 95 calls for services. There were 25 traffic stops, 16 security checks, 3 wellness calls, 2 disturbances, 6 suspicious activity. Council President Rogers requested assistance with school traffic at intersection of CR316 and CR25A at the flashing 4-way stop. We need assistance in traffic control, especially on Friday's. Traffic for student pick up backs up through the intersection, causing a traffic problem. Dep. Rodriguez said he could send a deputy when available. Council President Rogers suggested they contact the SRO at the elementary school to come out and control traffic at dismissal. Dep. Rodriguez stated he would let Lt. McQuaig know of the situation. Question was raised by guest about progress on stolen lawn equipment. Deputy had no information.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Council Pres. Rogers reported that we have a new Interlocal Agreement with the County who will be handling unsafe structures, junk and litter, and zoning. We need to document with warning and letter any violations and if still unresolved the County will take over.

ROADWORK:

Councilman Youmans received calls. A tree fell on NW 154th by post office. There is still a pothole that needs repair at Club Charmant; she has called Donnie Cassidy. Stop sign on corner cannot be seen at NW 48th Ave. Mulberries have overgrown area. She received a call from Mrs. Anderson who lives on NW 155th complaining of cars speeding through the area. Dep. Rodriguez was informed of the speeding. He will get with traffic unit and let them know to monitor. The "mulberries" and brush are out of control because of all the rain. The overgrowth is impeding progress of the garbage trucks on their routes. Council Youmans should get a scope of work together and get bids Councilman Youmans asked for someone to help direct her. The main concern is any intersection where the line of sight is blocked takes priority. No bid is required for emergency work and should be rotated between Donnie Cassidy and Grady Stafford. Councilman Youmans asked about spraying overgrowth as the County does. Concerns about overspray killing lawns and contaminating the water supply were voiced. Councilman Youmans again asked those attending the meeting to call her about any problems. Council President Rogers stated that the information about taking bids on the mowing contract has been posted on the website. We will be accepting bids until Oct. 2nd. We will hopefully get three bids and will vote on contract at the October 5th meeting.

STREET LIGHTS:

Councilman Stokes reported that all streets lights seem to be working.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Hurricane Idalia did little damage; only took down one tree. The Generac generator is still being repaired. Digital display is bad and has been ordered. He and Council President Rogers met with Duke Energy about franchise agreement on right-of-ways. Mr. Owens has removed burned house remnants on 25A north. Millard Barrons has been parking his semis on the right of way overnight. He was given 30 days to find another location.

The Community Center needs repairs to gutters and needs to be pressure washed. Also, standing water needs to be addressed. He would like to see a security system. He then asked for recommendations from Council. All items are basic maintenance. When hall is rented, renters drive on lawn and over septic tank. We need to replace barriers so that cars cannot drive on lawn and back up to double doors. He would supervise. Council President commented that we have limited staff. We could get together a list of activities and have something to get a estimate on then bring it before Council for a vote. Mayor Vetter will get an overall package estimate and bring it back to Council next month.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **PROPOSED PARK AND RECREATION AREA:**

Council President Rogers attended workshop with the School Board and they have made a 180 degree change in their position and level of support. They are now requesting that we provide a new well and septic system at a cost of \$30,000 min. They would not allow us to tie into the sewage system currently on sight because they fear it might overpower it. The County has worked with us but the School Board now refuses to lease the location unless with add the additional items. We have refused the additional costs. Yesterday, Mayor Vetter and Council President Rogers met with the Parks and Recreation to look at other parcels of land that is available. The lot where the old Sheriff's substation was located has a well and septic already there. We are now pursuing this new location. Parks and Recreation is now going to redesign and do all necessary testing. They see no problem with the area and as of today, budget dollars are still being provided but at a new location. Already has Interlocal Agreement with County. We will get new price from County and; hopefully, at a lower cost. Extra funds saved could be used for tennis courts. Parks and Recreation will take care of landscaping and

tree trimming and maintain. We will pay a service fee to the County for inspectors, cleaning, etc. A question was raised about having a fence and gates. We will not know until we see the new plans. The basketball court was fenced with school property because the School Board owned the parcel where it was built. By state law it had to be fenced in. The Town does not own enough land next to the tennis courts to put in another court. We are hoping to start on the park at the first of the year, the original start time. The County Comm. is still making funds originally budgeted available, \$300,000.

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

Windows for office are ordered and should be installed in the next few weeks.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2nd 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 are \$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 and Councilman Stokes seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- **KATRINA CHISOLM**

Ms. Chisolm came to address her not getting her damage deposit returned. She stated she drove up the sidewalk to the double doors but did not drive on the lawn to unload her vehicle. Council President read to her from the Rental Agreement that all loading and unloading was to be done at the side doors. He further stated that the sidewalk had just been replaced at a cost of \$3500.00 and was for foot traffic and it was not a road. The Community Center is not a money maker. We had a choice of raising rent and/or the damage deposit. It was decided to keep the rate for residents but to increase the damage deposit so encourage people to follow the rules. Ms. Chisolm then stated that Mrs. Stroup gave the key to Ms. Kingcade but that she was the one who signed the agreement and no one else should have received the key. Mrs. Stroup stated that that very morning, Ms. Chisolm requested that she give the key to Ms Kingcade. Ms. Chisolm stated it made no difference. Council determined that all rules will be followed in the future, no exceptions. A vote was taken as to whether to return Ms. Chisolm's damage deposit as follows Mayor Vetter, yes; Nadine Stokes, yes; Steven Rogers, no; Martha Cromwell, no; Shirley Youmans, yes. Councilman Youmans made a motion that we amend the agreement to include not driving on the sidewalk. Councilman Stokes commented that this will now cause a hardship on some, but the rules will be adhered to

- **DUKE ENERGY ORDINANCE:**

The Town will be considering an ordinance at the next two meeting addressing Duke Energy and their being able to maintain electric poles and electric on the town's rights-of-way.

- **TERRY TABOR:**

Mr. Tabor addressed Council requesting permission to put a used car lot (5-6 cars) at his current site to sell. The property is zoned business and there is room. He would store the cars behind the fence and it would not interfere with parking at his restaurant. Councilman Cromwell made a motion that we permit the request and Councilman Youmans seconded the motion. Motion carried, unanimously.

- **GRANTS FOR BROADBAND**

Councilman Stokes reported that Yvonne Hinson has sent out a flyer about grant funds available for improving broadband. October 1st is the deadline for applications. It is a cost reimbursement program. More information is available on line. Council President responded that he had seen the flyer also. Mayor Vetter stated that as he understands it, we must provide the service and it would have to be channeled through Windstream. For Reddick, staff is a problem and expertise is a problem. Councilman Stokes agreed that we would have to form a partnership with Windstream. She has yet to talk to someone. He will look into it and get back with us. Concern: a lot of funding programs take an enormous amount of effort and time and a lot of strings are attached as well as reporting. Concerning the reimbursement clause, how long will it take to get our money back.

- **TENNIS COURTS**

Excess funds from recreational park or if park does not develop, funds will be used for Tennis Courts. Repair costs for courts is estimated at \$135,000.00.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Marjorie Stroup, Town Clerk

John Vetter, Mayor

Date: