

TOWN OF REDDICK COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

October 5, 2023

Reddick Town Council met in regular session on Thursday, October 5, 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  
Myra Sherman

ABSENT: Shirley Youmans, Councilman

GUESTS

Dick Gerard	Pam Gerard	Joe Perry	Kim Graves	Grady Stafford, Jr
Cathy Kuhl	Cynthia Davis	Brian Kuhl	Josef Kuhl	Fondale Evans
Cindy Rogers	Patti Vetter	Rita Brown	Theodore Brown	Tony Ward
Frederick Franks	Lt Keith McQuaig	Alphonso Lamar	Kiana King	

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 September, 2023 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Councilman Cromwell to approve minutes with no corrections. Councilman Stokes seconded motion and motion carried unanimously.
- The Financial Statement for the month of September, 2023 was presented for review. All bills have been paid. Income exceeded expense for the month by \$3159, and for the year by \$8217.68. Year-end figures were not available because September statements have not yet been received. Books will go to the Accountant next week and then to the Auditor. 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. Council President reported that Investment income from Raymond-James projected for the next twelve months is \$116,104. Investment income has return to that of about 10 years ago. We hope to be able to pay most of expense with interest income. We are in a solid financial position.

SHERIFF'S DEPT:

Lt. Keith McQuaig gave a report for September activity. 102 calls for services. There were 20 traffic stops, 22 building checks, 22 911 hangups, 2 alarms; and he was happy to report there were no burglaries or thefts. He noted that a question was raised last meeting about lawn mower and lawn equipment thefts. There were only four incidents over the past six months. Regarding Reddick-Collier traffic situation at dismissal, he has contacts Marion County Public Schools and they are working on the issue. He and the new sergeant have witnessed the problem and are working on getting it addressed. In the meantime, he will suggest to resource office and principal at the school to redirect traffic along old school drive and around to retention area to keep it away from 4-way stop.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Issues will be addressed in Mayor's Report. We do have an Interlocal Agreement with Marion County that will handle Junk & Litter, Unsafe Structures, and Zoning. We will do our part; and if not resolved, it will be turned over to Marion County Code Enforcement. We can now move forward on issues.

### **ROADWORK & STREET MAINTENANCE:**

Issues will be addressed in Mayor's Report. Lines of sight at stop signs have been cleared. Still need to work on cleaning right-of-ways trees and overgrowth. We will address signs and major issues first, then address right-of-ways. Mr. A. Lamar commented that Edvena Harris Lane needed to be trimmed as it was severely overgrown. Council President and Councilman Stokes stated that it had been trimmed back 6 months ago and was already overgrown. It was noted that 41<sup>st</sup> also needs trimming. We will get to it as soon as possible.

### **STREET LIGHTS:**

One street just reported. All other lights seem to be working. If any light is out, please contact Nadine Stokes.

### **MAYOR'S REORT:**

- 1) **Work on Community Bldg** – Windows in office have been replaced and there is now better insulation against heat.
- 2) **Generator** – Needs a part that is on order. On-site does not appear to be very customer oriented. Generator was received through help of Commissioner Stone. On-site is currently provider of service and has replaced several parts, but we currently need a switching part and have by-passed the transfer switch.
- 3) **Millard Barron** – He has removed the three tractors from the right-of-way.
- 4) **Communicom Abandoned Wires** - Have talked with Duke Energy's Staci Bertram and she is checking on this.
- 5) **Repairs to Community Center** – Recommendations: Center needs to be updated. Exterior doors, door locks, windows, gutters all need to be replaced and the building needs to be pressure washed. There is a crack on southeast corner that needs to be repaired. No Parking signs need to be replaced and missing Disabled Parking sign, and we need to add signs for septic, and barricades for drive on lawn. There are holes in the soffit that need to be repaired and the kitchen and bathrooms need updating. Staff's concerns: Will we be opening Pandora's box. Everything will need to be brought up to Federal standards and could be extensive and costly. There is no cooking in kitchen, only warming because of venting, etc. Councilman Cromwell suggested that we begin with maintenance things first and do more as we go along. She suggested that we address security first. Council President Rogers agreed that systems and door locks should be first. That we should wait on windows. Prioritize security and generator.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **PROPOSED PARK AND RECREATION AREA:**

New area selected for park and recreation area (old Sheriff's substation). We have received a letter from Marion County Parks and Recreation concerning necessary topographical map and survey. It will cost \$12,300.00, but Parks and Recreation will cover. After this work is done, it will go to the design team who will provide a proposal. It will be scaled down from original plan because of size, but we hope to remain on schedule timewise. We will need new MOU from the County as the School Board is now out of the picture. This will take additional time. Target date is still to have park done before school is out.

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

New windows have dramatically affected room temperature. We will wait till next summer to see if a window a/c unit is necessary.

- **MOWING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT:**

We received two bids to the mowing contract for the maintenance of the right-of-ways. One from Squeekie Klean Landscaping and one from Grady Stafford, Jr. The bid from Squeekie Klean was for \$38,868 (\$3239/mo) and from Grady Stafford for \$48,000 (\$4,000/mo). Mr. Stafford was present and stated that his bid took into consideration that there would be times when fallen limbs and trees would also have to be moved. Council President explained that the bids had to be considered equally and that his bid should have been on the Scope of Service posted. He also added that that would not be advantageous for him to include fallen limbs and trees. Councilman Sherman made a motion that we accept Squeekie Klean Landscaping's lower bid and Councilman Cromwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **1st READING OF PROPOSED DUKE ENERGY ORDINANCE:**

Contract allowing Duke Energy to be able to put poles and lights and maintain the grid within the Town is up for renewal. The Ordinance and agreement are due to sunset the end of the year. We will need this new Ordinance to continue electric service to the Town. It is a 20-year agreement in 5-year increments and Duke Energy will have the flexibility to take down Communicom's cable and wires. The Ordinance must be read two times and be posted in the newspaper and online. This is the first reading of the Ordinance. Mayor Vetter read the highlights. Kim Graves, a representative of Duke Energy, was available to answer any questions. The Ordinance is strictly for right-of-ways and is number 1-10052023. Councilman Cromwell made a motion to accept the Ordinance as read in the first reading and Councilman Stokes seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- **EMS AGREEMENT RESOLUTION:**

Mayor Vetter read highlights of Resolution R1-10052023 for the coordination of services of Marion County EMS with the Town of Reddick under Florida Statutes Chpt. 252. It facilitates aid for the Town during disasters. The second section is F-ROC which will facilitate funds during emergency disasters. We are in the F-ROC System through 2024. Councilman Cromwell made a motion to accept Resolution R1-10052023 and Councilman Stokes seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- **SPECIAL USE PERMIT – THEO. BROWN :**

Mr. Theodore Brown has completed the Special Use Permit and provided required documents for the placement of a new, single-wide mobile home at 15420 NW 46<sup>th</sup> Ave., Reddick, FL. Notice has been posted the required 10 days. There was no discussion presented so Councilman Cromwell made a motion that we approve the Special Use Permit and Councilman Sherman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. County will provide all permitting.

- **COMMUNITY CENTER RULES:**

Council President presented Community Center rental agreement, stating that we need to follow regulations, change regulations or stop renting facility. Damage Deposits increased because of damage being done to Center. All rules in the agreement need to be followed and we need to make sure everyone is in one accord. The rate is a fair rate for residents, with a higher rate for non-

residents. Mr. Dick Gerard made a suggestion that we mark the keys "Do Not Duplicate" so that we do not have duplicates being cut. Councilman Cromwell made a motion that the rules be strictly enforced to everyone and Councilman Sherman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- **REDDICK-COLLIER PTO FESTIVAL:**

Councilman Stokes read a letter from the Principal of Reddick-Collier Elem. announcing a festival on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 pm. There are requesting supplies and prizes from the Community and funds will be used to set up an account for the PTO.

- **CHURCH OF GOD**

The Church of God will be having free mammograms because of breast cancer awareness month at the church. Please contact the church concerning eligibility. Councilman Sherman also stated an increase in COVID and RSV. Vaccines are available for both.

- **FUNERAL HOME AT BANK BLDG:**

Kiana King addressed Council. She represents a Funeral Group Investor who are interested in the Wells Fargo Bank Bldg. for funerals and memorial services and visitations. The ATM will remain and they will be leasing the bldg. only. It will have a staff of 4-7 people. Concerns about parking were raised as the bank bldg. has limited parking. Ms. King related that the owner of the Auction across the street from the bank has given permission for overflow parking. Cremations will be outsourced. Council stated a Special Use Permit may be required as a safeguard for regulation. More information will be provided if the group goes forward. There were no objections at this time.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Marjorie Stroup, Town Clerk

John Vetter, Mayor

Date: