

TOWN OF REDDICK COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

November 2, 2023

Reddick Town Council met in regular session on Thursday, November 2, 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
Shirley Youmans, Councilman
Myra Sherman

ABSENT: Nadine Stokes

GUESTS

Cindy Rogers	Addye Thompson	Pam Gerard	Dick Gerard
Patti Vetter	Fondale Evans	Brian Kuhl	Cathy Kuhl
Jocelyn McKathan	Anna Struyk	Robert Struyk	Cynthia Davis
Joe Perry	Michelle Stone	Preston Bowlin	Keith McQuaig
Staci Bertrand	Beverly Jamerson	Alphonso Lamar	P J Stafford, Jr
Addie Thompson			

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 October, 2023 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Councilman Cromwell to approve minutes with no corrections. Councilman Sherman seconded motion and motion carried unanimously.
- Council was presented with the FY 2022-2023 financial statement, showing the year ending with income over expenses of \$82,813.67. The Financial Statement for the month of October, 2023 was presented for review. All bills have been paid. 2nd Local Option Gas Tax for October has not yet been received. Expenses exceeded income for the month by \$12,165.26. This was caused mainly by paying liability insurance. For this fiscal year the cost of insurance was \$13,262.00, up from last year's \$10,030.00. Motion was made by Councilman Cromwell to approve the October financial statement, and was seconded by Councilman Youmans. Motion carried unanimously, pending audit.

SHERIFF'S DEPT:

Lt. Keith McQuaig gave a report for October activity. 90 calls for services. There were 7 traffic stops, 25 building checks, 14 disturbances, 8 civil calls, 7 assisting other agencies, 1 alarm; and he was happy to report all in all there was no cause for concern. A report of a homeless vagrant seen at several locations. They have not run into him. Hanging around school area and causing concern. He introduced Dep. Matthew Larson who is a deputy for this area. A question was raised about sex offenders in the area and how far did they need to be from the school. Lt. McQuaig stated that that information can be found on line. As far as distance from school, it would depend on offense.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Preston Bowlin, director of EMS, addressed those present and Council. He stated he has left information concerning emergencies for anyone to take. He also left information on sink holes and weather stems. There are some books for kids about 30/30 rule and about wind and lightning. He suggested we download the free

app for the phone to receive alerts for Marion County. You can receive alerts for the north end of the county. Also available are emergency medical magnets which are useful for the emergency rescue and fire department. You complete the form and it gives them all the information about medications, surgeries, allergies, etc. to the fire dept and emergency rescue. Also, posters with emergency numbers and other information. Elected Officials receive emails for alerts and information from EMS. Hurricane season is not over yet. Keep your eyes open and stay prepared. F-ROC is a new program for working with Tallahassee during emergencies. It is an all-in-one system which unifies reporting and applying for assistance. We expect 60-90 day turn around for getting funds reimbursed. A mutual aid agreement is filed and returned. We can get necessary supplies for emergencies. Local Mitigation Strategy: Marion County has received money for mitigation grants to help those affected by storms/floods etc. Also help on completing applications for the grants. Preston is fighting for a weather radar for Marion County. Nearest is Jacksonville and Tampa and they both miss us. In June 2024, we will get our own radar for Marion County. Marion County now has a mounted horse unit and will come to events when requested. Council President Rogers stated that the Public Library will be having a Reindeer Romp in December with hotdogs, water, snow cones, etc. He also said thank you for the support EMS gives the library with traffic cones and signs. Bowlin said to give them a call for more assistance. Council also told him of the BBQ Festival held by the Friendship Baptist Church this Sat and Sun, from 9am to 4pm.

COMMISSIONER MICHELLE STONE:

Commissioner Stone shared that a new animal shelter will be going in on a 20-acre parcel on SR40, across from the airport. It is badly needed. She also shared that the penny sales tax expires in 2024. All municipalities shared in the proceeds to be used for roads, capital improvements, and public safety. If it is allowed to expire, everyone will lose. There will be a public hearing on December 5th about putting it on the ballot in 2024 for renewal. The major change will be extending its life from 4 years to 20 years. The tax is paid universally, 35% coming from people passing through Marion County. Council President Rogers commented that Reddick received \$86,195 from the sales tax in our last fiscal year. He spoke in favor of the tax and its help to the citizens of Reddick. Commissioner Stone said the since its inception, we have collected \$1.3 billion dollars for public safety and it is critical for our road system in Marion County, as well as fire protection. Preston Bowlin suggested attending the Citizen's Academy to see where your money is being spent. Councilman Youmans asked what roads were are on the list to be done. Commissioner Stone suggested going to the website marioncountysalestax.org to see every single road project. Commissioner Stone reported that Jim Couilliard with Marion County Parks and Recreation has the MOU ready for the new park. It will be on the agenda of the next Marion Co. Commissioner's meeting. On the Dec. 5th Commission meeting, they will be honoring Mr. Curry who is stepping down for chair. He will continue to serve on the Commission, however. They will also be honoring veterans at the meeting on Nov. 7th on Fort King Street.

ROADWORK & STREET MAINTENANCE:

Councilman Youmans reported that she called Donnie Cassidy about stop sign on NW 157th. Council President Rogers commented that Mr. Cassidy is in the hospital again and we will need to contact Margie Stroup or Mayor Vetter to coordinate work with Grady Stafford.

STREET LIGHTS:

All street lights seem to be working. The light on NW 42nd Court has been installed and all other repairs have been done.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **2nd READING OF PROPOSED DUKE ENERGY ORDINANCE:**

Ordinance 11020223-1 was reading by Mayor Vetter. Councilman Cromwell made a motion that the new ordinance giving Duke Energy right of access for utilities be accepted, and Councilman Youmans

seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Duke Energy will be taking down all of the old cable wires left by Communicom so that there is no more dangling, unsafe cable.

- **PROPOSED PARK AND RECREATION AREA:**

The MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) has been received from Parks and Recreation and will be on the agenda of the next Marion Co. Comm. Meeting. The park will be a tot park for children, but because of the next location there will be no walking trails. They have reduced the yearly annual cost of maintaining the park. The Town will be paying \$150,000 and the County will be paying \$300,000 for the construction of the park. Parks and Recreation will operate and maintain the park and the Town will reimbursement them at the rate of \$13,500 per year. They will also be responsible for inspections, etc, as is done at all other parks in Marion County. Our liability insurance rates will not increase. Councilman Cromwell made a motion to accept MOU and Councilman Youmans seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Vetter gave a report on estimates for work to be done on the Community Center. The parking stops and installing will be done for \$1,000.00 (stops installation \$800.00), and pressure cleaning the bldg. will be \$300.00. Councilman Cromwell stated that the roof also needed to be cleaned, but Council President answered that it cannot be pressure washed; it needs to be cleaned differently. Mayor Vetter stated he is still getting bids on the gutter replacement over the entry doors. Councilman Cromwell made a motion to accept bid for replacing parking stops and pressure cleaning building and Councilman Youmans seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Vetter also reported on Code Enforcement. Two certified letters have been mailed to Cody Thompson. His property has a fallen tree across the house and has many junk cars. The Mayor has talked with Addie Thompson at property site, but her son, Cody, was not there. She advised there is no money to deal with violations. Frederick Franks has made an offer to purchase the property and clean it up. The deal seems to have fallen through. Mrs. Thompson is not legal owner of house and has no authorization to negotiate. Another certified letter is going out on this week as last notification. Mrs. Thompson was present at meeting and advised that Cody will start getting cars off property and start cleaning property up. He plans to remove junk cars first and once gone, begin taking down house, brick by brick until work is done. Family is supposed to help him. She was advised that once letter is received (at her address), he will have 30 days and then report at next council meeting on December 7th, where we will determine how much progress has been made.

OnSite Generator is still ordering parts for the generator. Mayor Vetter has ordered some replacement signs for the Community Center.

- **FUNERAL HOME AT BANK BLDG:**

Permit application has been completed by Regal Funeral Services and notice sign has been posted at Wells Fargo Bank bldg. Most services will be held at churches, but parking is still a question. Owner of property has given permission for overflow parking to be across street at auction center. Decision/approval will be made at December 7th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **PUBLIC SCHOOL WORKING GROUP:**

The School Board has requested that a Council representative be part of the school board working group, which meets two to three times a year to discuss any changes in the community involving the school. Council President advised this will be part of the School Liaison Councilman, Nadine Stokes.

- **I-75 EXPANSION MEETING:**
Elected Officials with meet with Florida Dept. of Transportation consultants on November 3, at 11:00am, to discuss planned I-75 expansion plans from CR 326 to 44th. There will be an open meeting in December for the public.
- **FUTURE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN MARION COUNTY:**
Information and booklet received concerning meeting with Marion County Commission on future development in Marion County. Mayor Vetter will be attending.
- **COMMUNITY CENTER KEY DROP BOX:**
Currently in the Community Ctr. Rental agreement, the key must be returned to Mrs. Stroup after the event. This can be problematic if event runs late or Mrs. Stroup is not available. Council President Rogers suggested that a key drop box be installed on the community center so that at the end of the event, the key can be dropped in after building is secure. This a minimal cost and after discussion, it was decided that a maintenance cost under \$250.00 did not need to go before the Council. Councilman Cromwell made a motion to that effect and Councilman Sherman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- **TIMER FOR A/C-HEAT UNIT AT COMMUNITY CENTER:**
Dick Gerard made a suggestion that because units are often left on after an event, that a timer be installed to turn it off automatically. Mayor Vetter commented that he would look into that.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Marjorie Stroup, Town Clerk

John Vetter, Mayor

Date: