

TOWN OF REDDICK COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

September 5, 2024

Reddick Town Council met in regular session on Thursday, September 5, at 7:00 PM at the Community Building.

PRESENT:

Nadine Stokes, Council Pres.  
John Vetter, Mayor

COUNCILMEN

Patti Vetter, Councilman Pro Tem  
Shirley Youmans, Councilman  
Myra Sherman, Councilman  
Andrea Barnes, Councilman

ABSENT: Marjorie Stroup, Clerk

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

First order of business was to swear in the newly elected officials. John Vetter took the oath of Mayor, followed by Nadine Stokes, Patti Vetter, Shirley Youmans, Myra Sherman, and Andrea Barnes. They all signed the Oath of Office.

Next order of business was to elect a Council President and a Council President Pro Tem. Councilman Patti Vetter made a motion to elect Nadine Stokes as Council President and motion was seconded by Councilman Sherman. Motion carried unanimously. Next, Councilman Youmans made a motion to elect Patti Vetter as Council President Pro Tem, seconded by Councilman Sherman. Motion carried unanimously, pending clarification from Ethics Commission.

**MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

- Minutes of the December, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Mayor Vetter questioned the \$250.00 threshold for maintenance costs before requiring approval from Council. He felt that it was a larger figure, more like \$500.00. A motion was made by Councilman Vetter to approve minutes with the maintenance cost figure being checked. Councilman Sherman seconded motion and motion carried unanimously.
- Financial Statement for the month of August, 2024 was presented for review. Income exceeded expense for the month by \$4,158.09; however for the year, expense exceeded income by \$39,031 due to costs in clearing right of ways and from clearing debris from Hurricane Debby. Motion was made by Councilman Vetter to approve the August financial statement, and was seconded by Councilman Barnes. Motion carried unanimously, pending audit.

**SHERIFF'S DEPT:**

Lt. Keith McQuaig gave a report for July and August activity. There were 200 calls for services. There were 36 traffic stops, 30 building checks, 18 civil infractions, including one fleeing and eluding and one arson. 66 reports were written; and he was happy to report all in all there was no cause for concern. Mayor Vetter requested a meeting with Sheriff Woods to discuss things in Reddick and he is looking for more police presence in Reddick. Lt McQuaig will get with the Sheriff's Office and

make arrangements. Councilman Sherman expressed her gratitude to the Sheriff's Dept for attending the backpack give away held at her church. Guest Lara McGlohorn attending the meeting asked about loud music around 7:00pm after which there was a lot of dog barking on the eastern side of Town. She heard that the noise maybe from dog fighting. It happens of weekend evenings mostly. Lt. McQuaig will check on it and see what is going on.

#### **ATTORNEY RANDY KLEIN:**

Attorney Randy Klein address Council. He shared that his involvement with Reddick goes back to 1962 when his family and the Rogers family came to Florida. His father was a councilman and the town attorney for many years. He took over after his father on an as needed basis, never charging for his services. Councilman Sherman stated that at a time when she was struggling trying to finish school and raise her two sons, his father helped her monetarily when she needed it most. Because of his assistance, she was able to finish college and made her future possible. Mr. Klein offered his advisory assistance whenever the town needed it.

#### **CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Because the Council was convening after an 8 month absence, there was no report.

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

Mayor Vetter reported that NW 155<sup>th</sup> had been graded, but with all the rain, it needs grading again. Also, NW 46<sup>th</sup> and NW 48<sup>th</sup> need right-of-ways cleared of mulberries again. Councilman Youmans is concerned about the trash and debris accumulating on the right-of-ways and made a call for citizens to spread the word to work at keeping things picked up and clean and to stop throwing their trash out along the streets. Community support is needed.

#### **STREET LIGHTS:**

All street lights seem to be working.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Vetter welcomed everyone and gave a special thanks to Steve Rogers for all the work he has done for the Town of Reddick and also a thank you to Cindy Rogers, his wife, for her support when he was gone doing town business. He also thanked Mrs. Stroup for keeping things going while we were reorganizing. We need the community to be involved in the town's business. Let's spread the word and get people to come to the meetings and get involved. Let's get to work!

The Community Center is in need of repairs. The roof is leaking, the front door jams are rotting and need repair, and the building needs a facelift. The installation of the doors will be \$2400 and installation would be about \$750.00. Windows were recently installed in the town office. More repairs are needed, but we need to take baby steps. Councilman Vetter asked that we get a firm proposal before beginning. Mayor Vetter stated that the generator needs to be repaired. We have no standby power. Generac from Orlando will charge \$150/hour plus travel and parts. A monthly maintenance contract is available through Generac. Repairs will probably cost \$4,000 to \$5,000. Council Vetter recommends that we get the generator going. She feels this is a priority because the hurricane season is upon us; we need to move forward. The cost is an estimate. After discussion, it was decided to get a firm cost. The generator was given to us from the county and we paid for its installation. Guest Joe Perry feels this is a bad idea putting good money on a bad piece of equipment. He feels we should purchase a new one. The cost of a new generator will be \$30,000 plus. Guest Fondale Evans agrees that we should try to fix the generator we have. It was decided to that if repairs are more than \$4,000, we should revisit the issue. Councilman Vetter made a motion to get the generator fixed if it can be done for \$4000. If not, we will bring it to the table again. Councilman Sherman seconded the motion.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **PROPOSED RECREATION AREA:**

Steve Rogers wanted to update everyone about the park going in at the old sheriff's substation. First he wanted to say thank you to the members of the Council and to the Mayor for stepping up to the plate to keep our Town. He reported that the recreation area is moving forward but slowly. All plans have been approved and going out in the next 30 days for bids and work will begin this fall. Payment for the playground equipment has been made. There will be a kick-off ahead of time and he would like all members of Council there. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony. Hopefully, it will be done before school is out. Mayor Vetter asked if he would be our liaison with the Parks and Recreation Dept. He will share the date for ground-breaking when he gets it.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **1<sup>st</sup> READING OF 2024-2025 BUDGET:**

Mayor Vetter presented the 2024-2025 budget. Estimated revenues other than transportation are \$264,095.00. Transportation revenues are estimated at \$23,210., for a total estimated revenue of \$287,305.00. Expenditures for the town (including mowing of right-of-ways, trash pickup, insurance, street lights, auditor/accountant fees, etc) are expected to total \$264,095.00. Transportation costs breakdown will total \$23, 201.00, totaling \$287,305.00, for a balanced budget. Council President Stokes made a motion that we accept the proposed budget as presented and it was seconded by Councilman Vetter and Councilman Youmans.

- **COMMUNITY CENTER RENTAL:**

Should we keep the Community Center closed until repairs and maintenance is finished? Councilman Vetter made a motion that it remain closed until repairs and a plan for rentals is designed. We should keep it closed until January 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilman Youmans and Councilman Sherman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- **CUTTING MULBERRIES FROM RIGHT-OF-WAY:**

Mayor Vetter has a list of roads that need mulberries cut on the right-of-ways. Jason Perry is a contractor who will work for \$3000/day. He will share the list with Councilman Youmans.

- **GRADY STAFFORD:**

Grady Stafford addressed the Council and asked about a contract and was told there was not contract except with Squeekie Klean Landscaping who mows the right-of-ways. Other maintenance is done on a price per job basis. He asked about a contract like the mowing of the right-of-ways and he would meet the price. He says he was not given the opportunity to give a flat rate. He would like to stay part of the team. Mayor Vetter assured him he was still part of the team. Councilman Vetter stated that she would like to see a uniform price.

- **DEBRIS AND PROPERTY PLACED ON RIGHT-OF-WAYS:**

Mayor Vetter stated that he has noticed residents placing their yard debris, etc. on the right-of-ways. He wanted everyone to know that this is the property owners' responsibility and the Town will not be picking it up. As in the past, if the Town must pick up the debris, an invoice will be sent to the property owner for the cost.

- **KIM LAW:**

Mrs. Law voiced objection to be approached by the Mayor about debris across from her house. She stated that he should be sure his facts are correct before acting. Mayor Vetter responded that from this day forward he would send a certified, return receipt letter if he has an item to be addressed with her.

- **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MEETING:**

A meeting with the Dept of Emergency Management and Preston Bowlin is being set up for Council members to attend.

- **PERFORMANCE BONUS FOR MRS STROUP:**

Lara McGlohorn from the guests would like to see Council give Mrs. Stroup a performance bonus for the work she did in keeping the Town running. Mayor Vetter asked past Council President Rogers if this was a possibility. He stated that a performance bonus was possible, but not an increase in salary. Council and Mayor agreed that she should receive some recognition for keeping the Town together. Council President Stokes made a motion that we give Mrs. Stroup a bonus of \$2,000 and Councilman Vetter and Councilman Youmans seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Marjorie Stroup, Town Clerk

John Vetter, Mayor