

Reddick Town Council Meeting
June 4, 2020

MINUTES

Reddick Town Council met in regular session on Thursday, June 4, 2020, at the Community Building at 7:30 pm.

PRESENT:

James R. Stroup, Mayor	Michael Salter, Councilman
Steven Rogers, Council President	Marjorie Stroup, Town Clerk
Thomas Joyner, Councilman	Martha Cromwell, Councilman
William E. Willis, Councilman	

GUESTS:

George Stratton Lucy Ward

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Council President Steven Rogers, with Mayor Stroup giving an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

- Minutes of the May, 2020 meeting were reviewed and with no corrections being made, Councilman Joyner made a motion to accept minutes as presented, and Councilman Salter seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- The financial statement for the month of May, 2020 was presented. Income exceeded expense by \$7374., giving us a positive figure for the month. Raymond-James Statement has not yet been received. Income exceeded expense for the year, giving us a positive YTD of \$16416. Councilman Willis made a motion that the financial report be accepted as presented, and Councilman Joyner seconded the motion. Motion carried, pending audit.

COUNCIL SEAT VACANCY:

Councilman Pulliam notified the Mayor at the last Council meeting that he is stepping down from his seat on the Town Council which he has held for 46 years for health reasons. By Town Charter, under Section 16, the Mayor is to recommend a replacement for approval by Council for the unexpired term of the vacancy. Mayor Stroup is making a recommendation that Martha Ann Lockamy Cromwell be nominated to fill the vacancy left by Councilman Pulliam. Councilman Willis made a motion that we approve the Mayor's nomination and Councilman Joyner seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Council President Rogers welcomed Mrs. Cromwell to the Council after being sworn in by Mayor Stroup.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:

No report was available and Lt. Nichols was not able to be present. Mayor Stroup asked if anyone knew anything about the automatic weapon firing heard all over town on Tuesday afternoon. It was near NW 43rd Ct, off of NW 155th St. Mayor Stroup called 911 and was told that it had already been reported and that someone was on the way. He also asked to be notified of outcome, but never heard from anyone nor if a deputy had responded. The gunfire was from a very large weapon and could be heard throughout the Town. The Town office received several calls inquiring about it. Lt. Nichols was not available to answer any questions. George Stratton also reported that an older model maroon crew cab was driving down CR 316 shooting out the window of the vehicle. We have a problem with a lot of guns in the area. We need assistance from the Sheriff's Dept. to rein it in. There is a frequency of gun fire

in Reddick and it appears to be increasing. Lucy Ward has called in on several occasions of cars speeding down the road and loud music coming from a neighbors house until early hours of the morning, but has had no one contact her even after requesting a deputy contact her. Councilman Willis and Councilman Cromwell, who live in the same area, agreed with Mrs. Ward concerning the music and speeding. We need to convince more people to call in complaints and ask for contact. The anonymous line is a crime stopper line.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

The Town received an anonymous email about cars and junk on NW 148th Place. Councilman Salter also stated that he has the same problem up from his house on NW 46th Place. Council President Rogers talked about an ordinance prohibiting parking on the right-of-way overnight. We have an enforcement issue. Junk and litter is under Code Enforcement. He will try to get someone from Code Enforcement to meet with the Council and go to addresses in question. Citizens become extremely frustrated about junk and violations. Property on 25A and NW 148th Place have a lot of vehicles parked on the right-of-way, creating a hazard. Council President Rogers and Mayor Stroup will have a meeting with County. We will send a letter concerning parking on the right-of-way and about junk and litter from Mayor Stroup to resident stating that they are in violation. The Council will then address it and report it to the county for the next step.

ROADWORK:

A letter for grading will go out this month to the County Road Dept. Councilman Pulliam was responsible for road work and estimates of repairs. We will need to work collectively if we are to stay on top of these responsibilities: signage, right-of-way debris, and road repairs. Councilmen can call in a problem, but be sure to let Clerk know. We need to get an estimate for more lime on NW 157th and NW 48th Ave.

STREET LIGHTS:

Councilman Salter reported a street light cycling on and off on NW 48th Avenue, pole number B237851.

TAX APPRAISAL TOWN OF REDDICK:

The Marion County Property Appraiser has notified the Town that the current value of property for Reddick, Florida is \$13,400,000, with new construction valuing \$330,000. Last year's value was \$12,270,000.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **COMMUNITY CENTER MAINTENANCE:**
Donnie Cassidy has repaired outlets, locks, lights, and closets. Old files will be moved to closet and active files will be housed in the office. Overhead lights for hall need to be replaced as they are obsolete and ballasts and bulbs can no longer be purchased. Donnie Cassidy gave us a bid for the new lights which will be LED lights. The cost of the 9 lights and fixture is \$1,160.58. Councilman Willis made a motion that we accept the bid from Donnie Cassidy and go forward with the replacement. Councilman Salter seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **LIBRARY SIGN:**
The street sign for the public library branch in Reddick has been replaced.

- COVID 19 UPDATE:
Starting June 5, Gov. DeSantis has opened the State for Phase II. This openings restaurants, bars, gyms, etc up to 75% capacity. Concerning the Community Center rental, it would entail monitoring for masks, social distancing, etc. as well as sanitizing after each use. We do not have the staff to effectively do this. It was the decision of the Council to revisit opening the Center for events at the July meeting.
- DOWN TREES ON BRYAN STREET:
One of the trees has been moved off the fence and it not blocking road. The other tree has been cut up by needs to be removed. Mr. Stratton stated that he had spoken with someone who was going to move it to a burn pile. Council President Rogers told him if it is not moved, to let him know and Town will remove.
- LOTS OWNED BY TOWN:
There are several 50 foot lots owned by Town. These lots are too small for use, except when adjoined to an adjacent property. There is interest on a couple of the lots. They must pick up legal costs and each lot will be \$1,000.

NEW BUSINESS:

- COMPILATION OF TOWN BOOKS BY CRIPPEN AND COMPANY:
Compilation report was given to all Councilman. Council President Rogers reviewed the report which shows that finances of the Town were in order. Income exceed expense for the year and there is no debt.
- RV PARK NEAR FLEMINGTON:
Mayor Stroup explained that a 40 acre tract is being considered by mud boggin races. It is estimated that they will be handling 225 cars per hour, becoming very loud. This is farm preservation land. The Mayor would like to send a letter to the County Commission, expressing concerns about breaking up the land and setting a precedent to this farm preservation area. We will also contact McIntosh to ask that they also send a letter to the County Commissioners .
- CARD RECEIVED FROM REDDICK-COLLIER ELEM.:
A card has been received from Reddick-Collier expressing their appreciation for our support of their academic endeavors.
- PURCHASE OF ANIMAL CAGE:
Town Clerk M. Stroup requested that the Council approve the purchase of an animal trap to be used to trap feral dogs when requested. Animal Control will come pick up the animal and we would not have to wait for a trap to become available. This sometimes takes two to three weeks. Council President Rogers conveyed his concerns about being responsible for setting and checking the trap, as well as picking it up and delivering it. Councilman Salter volunteered to take on that responsibility. Councilman Salter made a motion to purchase the trap and Councilman Willis seconded the motion. There was one negative vote. Motion carried.

- APPRECIATION FOR COUNCILMAN PULLIAM:

Councilman Salter suggested that we write a letter of appreciation to Councilman Pulliam for his service. Council President Rogers stated that a plaque has been purchased and that we need to coordinate the presentation to a meeting when Commissioner Stone could be present. It is no small feat to be of service for 46 years with no compensation.

All business being finished, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Stroup, Mayor

Marjorie Stroup, Town Clerk