

TOWN OF REDDICK COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
May 6, 2021

Reddick Town Council met in regular session on Thursday, May 6, 2021, at the Community Building.

PRESENT:

James R. Stroup, Mayor
Marjorie Stroup, Clerk
Steven Rogers, Council Pres.

COUNCILMEN

Shirley Youmans
Martha Cromwell
Nadine Stokes
Myra Sherman

GUESTS

Charles Pete	Pam Gerard	Dick Gerard	Ullysse Brown	Preston Bowlin
Cindy Rogers	Lucy Ward	Elizabeth Jefferson	Andrea Livingston	Kathi Bellamy
Bill Bellamy	Mae Gordon	Maggie Woods	Robert Law	Kim Law
Matthew White	Ed Willis	John Melin	Bridgette Pacll	Ray Thomas
Debbie Sanderson	Alfonso Owens	Pat Simpson	Nadine Stokes	Charlotte Lawrence
Carmen Gordon	Virginia Goodson	Cathy Kuhl	Keegan Johnson	Henrietta Turner
Joe Perry	Rodney Long	Mary Lambert	Niki Mitchell	Chuck Funkey
Chad Sweetalla	Ebony Youmans	Minika Youmans	Devonte Poole	Fred Youmans
Teresa Sweetalla	Yvonne Hinson	Francine Edwards	Claudia Miller	Bishop Stockton, III
George Stratton	Jan Stratton	Dewayne Evans	Christopher Kennard	Jason Kipfer
Andrea Brooks	Lisa Martineau	Chenita Cunningham	Ivonna Nichols	M Mitchell

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

Newly elected Councilman Shirley Youmans and Councilman Nadine Stokes were sworn in by Oath of Office by the Town Clerk and took their seats on the Council.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- Minutes of the April 1, 2021, meeting were reviewed and motion was made by Councilman Cromwell to approve minutes with no corrections. Councilman Sherman seconded motion and motion carried unanimously.
- Financial statement for the month of April was reviewed. All bills for the month have been paid and income exceeded expense for the month by \$1920.38. For the year income exceeds expense. Raymond James Statement for April has not been received. Projections remain at \$47,000 interest for the year on investments. Councilman Cromwell made motion to approve report as presented; Councilman Sherman seconded motion. Motion carried, pending audit.

FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR 2019-2020:

- Crippen and Company does an annual review of the Town's financial records which is then reported to the State of Florida per state statutes. Matthew White, the auditor for Crippen, distributed copies of the audit to all councilmen, and reported that the Town fairly presented financial paperwork to the firm and they felt that they could give a clear audit opinion as to the records. The Sep 30, 2020 year end showed Town revenues in excess of about \$136,000 and the records showed the Town was under budget in expenses. The audit report will be filed with the State. He reported that even though Covid-19 happened which was detrimental, the Town exhibited good financial management. Most significantly, there was a build-up of funds. Investments are being managed in accordance with Investment Policy. The Town has been able to operate without levying any taxes through investments and state and county taxes. We hope to build the reserve so that interest will cover up to 50% of the Town's operating expenses which include garbage pickup, street lights, and mowing the right-of-ways. By trying to keep a tight control on the funds, it lessens the burden on the citizens. The Investment Policy is mandated by the State and we must follow strict guidelines. It is a well thought out financial plan for the Town. A copy of the audit report is available at the Town office and at the Public Library.

- Mayor Stroup read a letter of request from Reddick-Collier Elem. School asking that we again support the school's Kimberly Halling Award for 5th grade achievement. The donation requested is \$200.00 and has been supported by the Town of Reddick for the past 25+ years. Councilman Cromwell made a motion that we again donate the \$200.00 to support this program and Councilman Stokes seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Council President introduced State Representative Dist. 20 Yvonne Hinson who was in attendance.

SHERIFF'S DEPT:

Lt. Joyner was unable to attend this month's Council meeting because of a meeting at the County office. He sent his report for the month of April, showing 67 calls, broken down as follows: Traffic-7; Security-8; Reports-6; well-being check-1; disturbances-9; 911 hang-ups-12; suspicious activity-5. Council President expressed concern on continued activity of 4-wheelers and dirt bikes racing on highways. Lt. Joyner has promised that he will attend to the problem as soon as possible.

Preston Bowlin with Emergency Management was introduced. He has been in charge of Covid Testing and vaccines for the County and is in charge of emergency management from hurricanes and other emergency situations. Mr. Bowlin presented the new EMS guidelines and gave all Councilmen a brochure on how to respond and report during emergencies. He shared that the County is winding down Covid vaccinations at the Paddock Mall on May 27th. Other sites will be opened around the County. He stated that vaccinations at the Paddock site are walk-up (no appt necessary). Currently there are no lines.

Mr. Bowlin then began discussing the renewal of the Local Mitigation Resolution. Representatives from the cities in Marion County and key organizations work to develop a comprehensive plan for handling emergencies. He made referenced to a Power Point Presentation available for review. Targeted areas are updating flood zones and pandemics and the elderly. There is a GIS for Marion County showing the County's susceptibility to floods, earthquakes, sinkholes, etc. He stated that Reddick is in a good position for these emergencies. Grant money is available to Town for generators, infrastructures, storm shutters, etc. They is also grant money available for post disaster events. EMS will send out email tomorrow about grant money. EMS is working to minimize disasters. It is our responsibility to recognize areas of concern, such as lift stations and other structures which are susceptible to brush fires, floods, and storms and try to develop a plan to fix issues. Costs are split with the Town. EMS needs someone from Reddick on the Steering Committee. He encourages the Town to be involved in this so projects can be funded. The Local Mitigation Resolution is updated every five years. Mr. Bowlin opened the floor to questions from Council and guests. He also stated that LMS is accepting projects from the Town and the County to be put on a list as funds become available. Projects will be split-funded: 25% payable from Town and 75% payable from County. Projects must be on list to get funding. The County will help steering committee members complete required paperwork and applications. The Steering Committee has a member from each municipality except Reddick. Funding will be for municipal use and municipal buildings. The Resolution was then read by the Mayor. After the reading, Councilman Cromwell made a motion that we accept the Resolution as presented and Councilman Stokes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The Mayor signed the Resolution and Mr. Bowlin stated that is would be on file with Marion County Clerk of Court. There were no questions from attendees.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

1. Junk vehicles on NW 46th have been removed.
2. Interlocal Agreement is still in process until Junk and Litter Ordinance is completed.
3. Trying to determine ownership of mobile home on Lily Wilson property.
4. Violation of Zoning Ord. by Jason Kipfer operating a business on a residential property.
 - a. Jason Kipfer addressed Council. He feels that Council is making a personal attack toward him ever since he purchased the property. He does not feel he has committed any violations. He states that Code Enforcement and the EPA have both inspected his property and neither found any violations. He feels he has been compliant with the Junk and Litter Ordinance. Council President asked Mr. Kipfer if he was

operating a profitable business from the property. Mr. Kipfer responded “no”. He continued that he restores and fixes cars and it was more of a hobby. Council President reported that the parcel is zoned R-2 and has been since adopting the Comprehensive Land Use Plan in 2011. No commercial activity is permitted south of County Rd. 316, and that Mr. Kipfer must comply with all R-2 zoning. Mr. Kipfer responded that he has made major improvements to the property. Council President informed Mr. Kipfer that his neighbors have continually made complaints about his working heavy equipment into the early morning hours and that he has been burying junk. Mr. Kipfer responded that no one has come to him with any complaints.

- b. Mike Mitchell also spoke concerning violation. He stated that in the Town minutes that Code was going to be changed and that he feels the proposed Junk and Litter Ord. is a major change directed at Mr. Kipfer. The Council President again stated that Council has been receiving reports and requests for assistance from Mr. Kipfer’s neighbors about noise, lights, and disturbances until 2:00 and 3:00am. When these reports are received, Council must address.

ROAD WORK:

Dead End road signs have been ordered. Councilman Youmans asked again about potholes on NW 48th Avenue and right-of-way that needs to be cleared. Mr. Pete reported that on NW 44th Avenue Road there is a pothole where you turn at the stop sign. This is a County Road and the Clerk will report it.

STREET LIGHTS:

All street lights seem to be working. Council President commented that all street light problems need to be reported to the Clerk along with the pole number of the light. Duke Energy usually reports within a couple of days. It was reported by a guest that the blinking school lights were not working properly. The Clerk responded that the school lights were the responsibility of the School Board and if they would call the elementary school involved, they have a key to the lights and they could report the problem.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **COMMUNITY CENTER:** The Center will continue to be closed for events until further notice because of social distancing and sanitizing following CDC guidelines. Mrs. Law commented that there is now a stray that can sanitize tables and chairs that is supposed to last for five years after one use. Council President stated that the Community Center will be closed until reviewed at the July meeting.
- **COVID 19 UPDATE:**
You need to contact the Dept of Health for locations. The vaccine is readily available with no appointments and no waiting lines. The Paddock Mall site will be open until May 27th. Other sites available are Walmart, Publix, Walgreens, CVS, and Winn-Dixie.
- **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**
Univ. of Florida will not be able to assist us but will recommend another plan group. Councilman Cromwell will check into options and report back to Council. After updating the Plan, it will be effective for another ten years before it will need to be updated again.
- **OLD HIGH SCHOOL:**
Although the school will be demolished, it will not be burned because pollutants. The School Board will notify Council before anything else is done.
- **FREDERICK FRANKS**
No report
- **JUNK AND LITTER ORDINANCE SECOND READING:**
The proposed Junk and Litter Ord. will provide Code Enforcement and the Sheriff Dept with a workable ordinance. There are only two changes from old ordinance: 1) 50 ft from property line specification has been eliminated and 2) the sheriff’s dept and other law enforcement agencies have been added. All procedures are the same otherwise. The Mayor then read the Ordinance #2021-001.

Mr. Pete commented that the activity on NW 157th was still going on and they were leaving trash behind.

Mr. Gerard noted that “identifying” trash if dropped by perhaps the garbage company after pick up would be the responsibility of the person. Council President stated no. Mr. Gerard then asked about privacy fences 8 ft or more hiding violations. Council responded that privacy fences do not eliminate violations. He then asked about unserviceable vehicles being restored because they cannot always be licensed until after restoration is complete. Council responded that if a vehicle is being restored it is not in violation, but cannot set there for years before restoration is started. Mr. Gerard also mentioned a typing error that needed correction.

Mrs. Law commented that the ordinance will cause undue burden. She has a limousine that needs repair from storm damage in 2018 but it has not been started. She also objected to privacy fences not be satisfactory for vehicles being repaired. She suggested that we make an “abandonment” ordinance for unserviceable vehicles.

Mr. Law asked if there was a time limit for corrections. Council President stated that 30 days would be allowed. A letter would be sent out by Mayor stating violation with a 30-day allowance for correction and an invitation to attend the next Council meeting to explain why more time might be needed and the plan for correction.

Councilman Sherman made a motion that the Junk and Litter Ordinance #2021-001 be accepted and put into force. Councilman Cromwell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS PROCLAMATION:

The Forest Chapter of Abate presented motorcycle safety awareness to those present and made an offer to be available to be of assistance in helping with motorcycle safety. The Mayor then read the Proclamation declaring May as motorcycle safety awareness month.

ANIMAL CONTROL INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT UPDATE:

The County is updating its interlocal agreements. The Animal Control agreement has not been updated for more than a decade. Because the agreement is not complete and there are many changes, including an extensive fines addition, the Council will table until the next meeting when more information will be available.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Marjorie Stroup, Town Clerk

James R. Stroup

Date: