

TOWN OF REDDICK COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

October 7, 2021

Reddick Town Council met in regular session on Thursday, October 7, 2021, at the Community Building.

PRESENT:

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

COUNCILMEN

Shirley Youmans
Martha Cromwell, Councilman Pro Tem
Myra Sherman

ABSENT: Nadine Stokes

GUESTS

Dick Gerard	Pam Gerard	Lt. McQuaig, MCSO	Cindy Rogers
MacKenzie Cromwell	Fondale Evans	Terry Tabor	Brian Kimak
Joe Perry	George Stratton	Alphonso Lamar	Frederick Franks
Nikita Morgan	Shelia Morgan	Larosa Sims	Victor Boynton

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Council President Rogers, with Mayor Stroup giving an invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- Minutes of the September 2, 2021, meeting was reviewed . A motion was made by Councilman Cromwell to approve minutes with no corrections. Councilman Youmans seconded motion and motion carried unanimously.
- Financial statement for the month of September was reviewed. All bills for the month have been paid and income exceeded expense for the month by \$4,936.54; however, Raymond James Statement has not yet been received. For the year income exceeded expense. 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.

Before we start meeting and to let everyone know, the computer system will be recording the minutes and to make minutes more accurate, anyone wishing to address the Council will come to the podium, identify themselves by giving their name and address for the record.

SHERIFF'S DEPT:

Lt. McQuaig addressed the Council with a report for September. Reddick had a total of 140 calls and 62 were self-initiating by deputies, for service. Of these, we had 19 traffic stops and 4 suspicious activity calls. Council President asked about motorcycle activity which is again increasing. At almost every stop sign, there are skid marks from dragging off. One bike observed is a blue and white, "rocket-type" bike. Lt. McQuaig stated that he has seen this bike also and tried to pursue but lost it. He will let his deputies know to look out for this activity. Council President also asked if there is an update on the removal of the Sheriff's Office Trailer and/or maintenance on grounds. Lt. McQuaig reported that because of Covid 19, their ground crews are short of workers and are behind in work. He does not know when trailer is to be moved and it is on the to do list. We do need to get the grounds maintained. Council President reported that we are having issues with parking on the right-of-way, which is interfering with mowing crews. Lt. McQuaig asked that they be called in on a case-by-case so that they can be handled in that way.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

The Interlocal Agreement with the County is still in process. Mayor Stroup reported that the mobile home on the Lily Wilson property has been removed.

ROAD WORK:

Roads have been graded and limerock has been added. Councilman Youmans stated that the roads look good but it stops at NW 47th St. On the curve where the tree sits at the shoulder, it is very deep. It needs to be fixed. Councilman Youmans asked that everyone ask their neighbors to keep signs protected from damage. Councilman Youmans asked about NW 46th which was to be opened from NW 155th to NW 156th. Council President answered that that is on the agenda for later in the meeting. On Cypress St. Council President reported that Squeekie Klean only mows enough for a car to go through. We will have to get someone with bigger equipment to mow the rest of the width. We need to contract to have someone come in with their big mower several times a year. No one is currently living on the road. We need to evaluate and make recommendations.

STREET LIGHTS:

Two street lights have been reported. All others are working. The street light on NW 155th is up and working.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **COMMUNITY CENTER and COVID 19 UPDATE:**
Community Center will remain closed as Covid.
- **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**
Nothing new to report.
- **REQUEST FOR OPENING NW 46TH AVE FROM 155TH ST TO 156TH ST:**
Donnie Cassidy is trying to work it into his schedule and he will have some assistance from Sheriff's Dept if necessary. Mayor Stroup stated that there should not be a problem.
- **WELLS FARGO ATM:**
We had a call from someone wanting information about zoning, permitting and costs involved. Some surveying is being done. We have heard nothing else.
- **COMMUNITY CENTER LIGHT PERMIT:**
A community concern at past meetings has been brought to Council's attention that we should have a permit for work done in Community Center. We have since had the work inspected by two different licensed electricians and both have stated that because we only replaced fixtures and did not change the wiring, that we did not need a permit for the work. The electricians were 1) Greg Davis Electric Lic# EC13001134, and Advanced Electric & Air, Inc., both from Ocala. In the future, Council will need to be more careful and research work that is done to be sure we are in compliance with County building code and permitting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR COUNCIL:**

Council members will be spear-heading areas of responsibility and bring items to Council for action. Those areas are Sheriff's Dept, Code Enforcement, Road and Street Maintenance, Street Lights, Budgets and Finance, Animal Control, Zoning, Recreation, Health, Trash Pickup, Comprehensive Plan and Emergency Management. We will utilize information given on survey and advertise them on website with phone contact information as a "Who To Call" status for residents.

- **FREDERICK FRANKS - RECREATION AREA:**

Mr. Franks provided a flash drive representation of his proposal for Council to review. The proposal is for a walking trail, parking, playground, fence, etc. that he has had a team come together to create. The park will fit on the present parcel where the Sheriff's Office Trailer is located, unless we could get area where old high school is being torn down. Council President stated that the area owned by school board and County Commission would be a 3-5 year scenario just to get through red tape. If we want to make something happen now, the Sheriff's site would be better. Mr. Franks stated that the recreation area would cost about \$175,000 to \$225,000. He hopes with partners, grants and donations, he could have the money within six months. He is asking the Town to partner and help with grants and fundraisers. He is also working on getting volunteers to do some pro bono work. All in all, looking at being able to open in about a year. Community members he has talked with say they will work a schedule to police the area for safety. The front has parking and the back will have a fence. There is water at the site and we will need two bathrooms and a picnic area. The school site could house a new library, business center, adult education, study area for kids, etc. At this time, the School Board does not have a master plan. Mr. Franks asked if we could show them our plan in a few months and let them know we are ready to put something together and see if we could get them going. Mr. Franks will bringing proposal and budget to next meeting. Council President Rogers stated we are working on some things as we speak. Some funds may be coming available.

- **INVESTMENT FUNDS:**

Council President Rogers is the CFO for the Town and presently there are two signers on the account. Councilman Rogers and Mr. William E. Willis, who is no longer on the Council. At this time, Council President recommends that Councilman Pro Tem Cromwell be placed on the account to replace Mr. Willis as a co-signer, in the event that Council President is unable to sign. Councilman Sherman made a motion that as senior councilman, Councilman Cromwell be placed on the investment account and the motion was seconded by Councilman Youmans. Motion carried unanimously.

- **FUNDING FROM AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN:**

Funds are being provided to the municipalities from the American Rescue Plan. Our portion is estimated to be \$195,000. There will be accountability in the form of reports and limitations on how the money is used. We are currently working with Florida League of Cities as to how we can use these funds. These are funds are to be used to offset the impact of the COVID pandemic. We have until April 30 to send a plan to the State. We are hoping to use the funds for the health and welfare of the community youth and families. If we get the legal go ahead, we will have seed money for projects like the recreation area. Mr. Franks said that if we get that go ahead, he would donate some land he owns adjacent to proposed park area for a community center. Council President Rogers stated we have to wait until we get the interpretation as to how the monies can be used. If we get legal go ahead, Mr. Franks would like us to approach Wells Fargo for a dollar-to-dollar match to finance the recreation project. Council President Rogers restated that we do not know at this time if any of the money can be used for the recreation area. We will need to wait and see the legalities.

- **TERRY TABOR - JUNGLE GARDEN:**

Terry Tabor, owner Jungle Garden Inn, in an effort to generate more revenue, would like Council to consider allowing him to serve beer at his restaurant with a limit of three beers, and inside the restaurant only. The current ordinance does address open containers on public property, but it does not specifically address restaurant open containers. It was recommended that we table this until next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Marjorie Stroup, Town Clerk

James R. Stroup

Date: