

TOWN OF REDDICK COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

December 2, 2021

Reddick Town Council met in regular session on Thursday, December 2, 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
Nadine Stokes

GUESTS

Dick Gerard	Pam Gerard	Lt. McQuaig, MCSO	Cindy Rogers
Fondale Evans	Joe Perry	George Stratton	Darius Taylor
Lucy Ward	Eryn Russell, FLC	Alphonso Lamar	Cynthia Davis
Frederick Franks	Patti Sandridge	John Vetter	

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 November 4, 2021, meeting was reviewed . A 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 November was reviewed. All bills for the month have been paid and expense exceeded income for the month by \$ 3524; however, the Discretionary Sales Tax and the 1/2 cent Sales Tax has not yet been received, as well as, the Raymond James Statement has not yet been received. Once they are posted, it is expected that the month and year-to-date will be a positive figure³. A motion was made by Councilman Sherman and seconded by Councilman Youmans. Motion carried unanimously 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.

PRESENTATION BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES:

Eryn Russell, Ambassador for the Florida League of Cities, an organization which serves as a voice to assist in meeting the needs of local governments, presented John Land years of service awards to Mayor James Stroup for 25 years of service and Council President Steven Rogers for 35 years of service. The award is a way of showing the dedication of serving their community with their time and energy.

SHERIFF'S DEPT:

Lt. McQuaig addressed the Council with a report for November showing a total of 87 calls, 38 of which were self-initiated. There were 3 traffic stops resulting in one suspended license, 6 alarm calls, 8 disturbances, 3 suspicious activity and one burglary. There was a shooting on NW 48th which included a stolen car and outstanding warrant. We are experiencing some gang violence in Town and need cooperation from Community to help in making arrests. The Sheriff's Dept. continues to be understaffed. Mayor Stroup asked Lt. McQuaig about traffic control for the upcoming Reindeer Romp on Dec. 18th at the public library. The Reindeer Romp is a drive-thru give away for the community with gifts, food and Santa. We will also need supervision to keep cars on a designated path. Councilman Youmans asked about progress with the

gathering on NW 44th Ave Rd. Cars and motorcycles are racing and blocking traffic and access to resident homes. Residents are becoming more frightened. Lt. McQuaig again stated that when this is occurring someone needs to call the sheriff's office and a deputy will be sent out. He has a large area to cover with very few deputies but one will be sent if they are told when the gathering is occurring. The Lt. brought us up to date on the removal of the modular sheriff's office. It has been removed and there is still some clean up to do.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

The Interlocal Agreement with the County is on hold for the time being. Until then, the current Interlocal Agreement is in force. We will follow procedures in written in agreement.

ROAD WORK:

NW 46th Ave has been opened. Mr. Donnie Cassidy has signs and hopefully they will be put up in the next few days. There is a "Children At Play" sign and street name signs for NW 157th.

STREET LIGHTS:

All street lights seem to be working.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **COMMUNITY CENTER and COVID 19 UPDATE:**

Councilman Sherman recommended that the Community Center will remain closed. New variant of Covid called Omicron which is now appearing in three states. It is better to stay safe.

- **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

Nothing new to report. We need to add Property Rights element. We will start working on it in January. We will need to hold open meeting and advertise.

- **FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH:**

Has been placing leaves and yard trash on city park. They have been asked twice to remove the debris. Will try to contact Pastor of church.

- **WELLS FARGO ATM:**

Received email with proposed ATM. They want to put a free-standing ATM behind the Community Center with access from Gainesville Road looping around and exiting on Gainesville Road. It would close off the area for use by the Community Center previously used for a gathering area for events and for children to play away from traffic. It will be lighted for safety. There is a problem with water pooling in the area during a heavy rain. Councilman Stokes commented on congestion being a problem on Gainesville Road. We have had some concerns voiced by the community. Council President stated that we had two other locations available: 1) across from the Post Office and 2) where the sheriff's substation was removed. If we use the parcel used by the sheriff's, it would derail the plans for a recreational area currently being worked on by Frederick Franks. Councilman Stokes and Councilman Youmans voiced concerns over safety for seniors. The Town's desire is for another bank to purchase the current bank building and put in a full-service facility; however, so far there has been no interest from another bank. The clause about no other bank operating for two years has been rescinded. Councilman Sherman and Councilman Youmans stated that an ATM is needed at this time. Frederick Franks recommended that the Town purchase the bank and lease it to another bank. Council President Rogers stated that the Town is not in the real estate business. The liability, insurance, maintenance, etc. would be added expense. We have a limited income stream. We do not

want to restrict services or pass on more costs to the residents. If we do not provide an alternative location, they can go to private citizens with their proposal or take their proposal out of town. Councilman Cromwell made a motion that we reject the location behind the Community Center and that we offer the alternative location across from the post office. Councilman Stokes seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- **FREDERICK FRANKS - RECREATION AREA:**

Mr. Franks has put together a plan for a recreation area where sheriff's substation is located and he is working on a budget so that we can proceed. A short presentation of his ideas was played for Council and guests. He has been able to get \$50,000 in donation commitments. Still need clarification on American Rescue Funds. We are currently working with County administrators on flexibility of the use of the funds. Right now, we know we could use the funds for broadband infrastructure. Every municipality is trying to find out the legal interpretation about "public health and safety". Once determination is made, we can move forward. We need to be certain of fund use or the money will have to be repaid. Franks would like to contact non-profits to get grant money separate from American Rescue for the Town to partner.

- **TERRY TABOR - JUNGLE GARDEN:**

Terry Tabor, owner Jungle Garden Inn, in an effort to generate more revenue, would like Council to approve his request to serve beer and wine at his restaurant for in dining only. Mr. Tabor misunderstood that he had to complete paperwork for Special Use Permit and will present his application for next meeting.

- **DARIUS TAYLOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT:**

Mr. Taylor is requesting permission to build a house on his parcel that is only .34 acres but is zoned R-1. A Special Use Permit has been completed and notice has been posted. Councilman Stokes made a motion that we approve Mr. Taylor's special use permit and Councilman Youmans seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Taylor stated that he is a real estate agent and would like to seek offers for the purchase of the bank if that is ok with Council. Council had no objection.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **SALE OF TOWN- OWNED LOTS:**

McKinley Baker has requested to purchase two adjacent 50x100 ft. lots currently owned by the Town on NW 46th Terrace. Councilman Cromwell made a motion that we sell the lots for \$1,000 each. Councilman Sherman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Marjorie Stroup, Town Clerk

James R. Stroup

Date: