

TOWN OF REDDICK COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

April 7 2022

Reddick Town Council met in regular session on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 7:00 PM at the Community Building.

PRESENT:

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

COUNCILMEN

Shirley Youmans  
Martha Cromwell, Councilman Pro Tem  
Myra Sherman

ABSENT: Nadine Stokes, Councilman

GUESTS

Pam Gerard	Dick Gerard	Patti Veter	John Veter
Lt. Claude McQuaig	Cynthia Davis	Shannon Kost	Joe Perry
Brandon Richter	Matt White	Cindy Rogers	Fondale Evans
Kathie Bellamy	Bill Bellamy	Carl Sherman	Tonya Johnson

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.

**OATH OF OFFICE OF CANDIDATES:**

Those who qualified for election for 2022 read their Oath of Office and signed the Oath. Those qualifying are Martha Cromwell, Council Group 2; Steven Rogers, Councilman Group 1; and Myra Sherman, Councilman Group 3.

**MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

- Minutes of the March 3, 2022 meeting were reviewed . A motion was made by Councilman Cromwell to approve minutes with no corrections. Councilman Sherman seconded motion and motion carried unanimously, by those present. Councilman Stokes was not present.
- Financial Statement for the month of February, 2022 was presented for review. Income exceeded expense for the month by \$10,511. All bills were paid. Councilman Cromwell made a motion that the February Financial Statement be approved as presented, and Councilman Youmans seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present, pending audit. Financial statement for the month of March was reviewed. All bills for the month have been paid and expense exceeded income for the month by \$205, with a positive figure of \$19,900 for the year. The negative balance for the month resulted from maintenance of the right-of-ways due to numerous storms experienced over the past couple months. A motion was made by Councilman Cromwell and seconded by Councilman Youmans. Motion carried unanimously by those present, pending audit .

**CRIPPEN AND COMPANY:**

Matt White spoke to those present concerning the 2020-2021 FY audit. An audit is done annually as required by law. Each Councilman received a packet of work performed. Packet include auditors reports. Reports and figures submitted to the auditors, in their opinion, were materially accurate. Town has done a great job with their financial reporting. Also included were financial statements as required by law, which reflected that the Town is in stable and solid financial standing with regard to money and investments. Council President Rogers asked that the restricted funds be explained to those new members. They can only be utilized for building new roads, or road repairs. We are building up the reserves so that we could have the money available when needed.

### **SHERIFF'S DEPT:**

Lt. McQuaig addressed the Council with a report for March showing a total of 132 calls, 71 of which were self-initiated. There were 23 traffic stops, 11 alarm calls, 24 security checks, 10 disturbances, 8 suspicious activity. The 132 service calls were way up from last month. Councilman Youmans asked what could be done about the late night noise and activity. Lt. McQuaig stated that the County had an ordinance and its specificity had to be measured. He stated that 732-9111 should be called and have a deputy respond out and caller should ask to speak to a deputy. Lt. McQuaig again stated that he only has a few deputies and that vacancies are not filled. Council President reported that there is some progress on parking on the right-of-way and vehicles are beginning to be moved. He has contacted the Clerk of Court Lisa Spicer and sent her the ordinance making it a \$30 fine and the Sheriff's Dept can green tag and tow if non-compliant. She stated that the Clerk of Court did not have a problem with the Sheriff's Dept. using their citations and the Town setting up an escrow account with Clerk. Also, Dunnellon has a traffic citation form of their own for the Sheriff to use. It did not matter to the clerk. Lt. McQuaig stated the Staff Atty. would prefer we used our own citations and he knew someone in Dunnellon that could give us a copy to look at to make our own. Lt. McQuaig stated that he had no problem using a town citation as long as approved by Staff Atty. Council President Rogers said he would be happy to meet with the Staff Atty. to find out what direction we need to follow. Lt. McQuaig shared that once a vehicle is green-tagged, the owner usually moves the vehicle off the right-of-way.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

The Town is attempting to set up a meeting with the head of County Code Enforcement, as well as their enforcement staff. We earlier had a meeting with the County Admin. and his assistant to discuss Code Enforcement and how to make the system effective. We are asking that a member of Code Enforcement come before the Council and state what they can and cannot do concerning code enforcement regarding regulations and what is required from Council to initiate proceedings. Shannon Kost addressed Council. She stated that since the last Council meeting she has done some research and she finds that according to Town ordinances there are a variety of violations going on at the Kipfer residence concerning junk and litter and zoning. She feels that she has been getting a "run around" when seeking advice on how to deal with the ongoing violations. According to ordinances, Council has authority to enforce the ordinance for these violations. She sees Council dealing with cars parked on side of road and yet is not dealing with much more significant issues at this residence. She has videos of things being buried on the property and the noise and smells are noticed by all in the area. These are against Town and State ordinances. Her other issue is that the property is zoned residential and it is clearly not being used as a residence, but rather a business. She feels that it is not her job to gather evidence of these violations. She has notes going back to 2019 and does not understand why this is not being addressed. She and her neighbors feel let down that even though there are ordinances on the books, nothing is being done. Council President Rogers thanked Mrs. Kost for her comments and stated that this is one of the greatest frustrations we have in Reddick. Our only enforcement arm is legal action against violators. We have tried to meet the criteria of the County and have even had to rewrite our Junk & Litter Ordinance. Mrs. Kost feels that the Council has the power to enforce the ordinance. Council President explained that we cannot walk up and enter someone's property, we have to initiate the action administratively with letters stating that they are in violation and that you have 30 days to correct it before it is turned over to code enforcement. Code Enforcement has been out and that is why we are setting up meeting again. The property owner is in violation of zoning and of junk and litter. After meeting with County Admin. and Code Enforcement Head to be sure of procedure. Letters will be sent out again, then Code Enforcement will be contacted if no response/correction in 30 days, then our next step will be legal action. Mrs. Kost wants to see this problem dealt with. Sooner rather than later. Another guest asked about contacting EPA and was told that they have been out and said there were no violations.

## **ROADWORK:**

County Road 316 potholes have been repaired but speed limit sign by Club Charmant is still missing. Trees have been removed from right-of-way from recent storms. Once tree was on private property and the owners responsibility. Old Dixie Highway right of way trees being trimmed. Councilman Youmans will be attending workshop on April 14th to find out what more the county can do to help us. They would like to address the Council at one of our meetings. The County was contacted about water runoff at 4180 NW Gainesville Road. The County will be grading NW 155th and limerock will be brought in to fill in. Do Not Enter signs at Post Office have been ordered to help with traffic flow. Councilman Youmans asked about trash on right-of-way being picked up. The prison system is not doing that. In the past, we have done an amnesty day and picked up 20 tons of trash. It is not the responsibility of the Town/Council to go up and down the streets to pick up trash that people just throw out. It is sad that they don't have the pride to keep their areas clean and throw trash away properly. When we meet with County Admin. will inquire about setting up another amnesty day.

## **STREET LIGHTS:**

All street lights seem to be working.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

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

New variant on the rise . Councilman Sherman presented a plan for reopening which included sanitizing tables and chairs, temperature checks, hand sanitizing, wearing masks, and social distancing. Because we cannot be sure renters will follow these procedures a motion was made that we hold off opening Community Center by Councilman Youmans and it was seconded by Councilman Sherman. Motion carried unanimously by those present. It will be reviewed at next meeting.

- **PROPOSED RECREATION PLAN:**

We met with Marion County School Board, Marion Co. Parks and Recreation, and Marion Co. Commissioners to discuss recreation area at the Old High School Property and retention area. Idea was warmly received. We would contribute ARAP funds. Area would include a playground, walking trails, parking and restrooms. The School Board will send a letter of intent. We must submit our plan by April 30th. A plan is being developed by parks and recreation with regarding to costs for building this park: \$450,000 total funds broken down as follows: 100M for playground, \$200M for restrooms, and \$150M for walking path. Additionally, there will be maintenance costs per year which will break down as County maintaining playground and the Town taking care of day to day expenses. Councilman Cromwell made a motion that we proceed using our ARPA funds and Councilman Sherman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

- **SPECIAL USE PERMIT - ALPHONSO LAMAR:**

Not present

- **ATM:** No further word

- **PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS OF EVENTS:**

The man who purchased the bank is planning on putting up a large bulletin board. Plans are in the works.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

At this meeting will have the first reading of the amendment to the Reddick Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This is a public meeting and was advertised in the Ocala Star-Banner. The amendment is to add the Property Rights element to our existing plan as required by law. Mayor Stroup read the proposed amendment to those present. After reading the amendment, Councilman Sherman made a motion that we accept the amendment to the Comprehensive Plan as read and Councilman Youmans seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

- **TONYA JOHNSON GROUP HOME CHANGE:**

Mrs. Tonya Johnson addressed Council with a request to change her group home and license to an APD home for the elderly. Everything would remain the same, except that her clientele would be more independent and not inclined to wonder off the property. It would be for five people as before and she would obtain the proper licensing. Councilman Youmans made a motion that we grant this change to Mrs. Johnson and Councilman Cromwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Marjorie Stroup, Town Clerk

James R. Stroup

Date: