

Minutes

Camden Town Council Regular Meeting January 8, 2009

The regular meeting of the Camden Town Council was called to order at 7:00pm by President Peter Wagoner with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Council Members Richard Fite and Andy Kelly, Clerk-Treasurer Pat Casserly, town attorney Anne Briggs and three guests.

The minutes from the December 11th regular council meeting and the December 30th year end meeting were approved by motions from Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Kelly. The December 18th Pre-Construction meeting minutes were available for review by the Council but did not require their action. The January docket was approved by a motion from Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Kelly.

Grants Updated Information

The Housing Grant will be finalized in the next few weeks. Per a conversation with Star Development, Mr. McCarty and a state inspector will review the work completed on the grant homes in the next few weeks. Star Development will then hold a public meeting during a council meeting and finish out the grant.

The Pre-Construction meeting for the wastewater project was held on December 18th with the contractor, engineer and town employees. The contract was signed with the contractor by the town and now equipment is in the process of being ordered for the wastewater project. Construction should begin in April. The wastewater rates were adjusted effective January 1st due to the loan payments which are already being required. Without the grants received, totaling \$525,000, the rates would have increase 120%. Funds were expended from the town's Rainy Day Fund to help with the cost and to keep the rates from increasing even further. Mr. Wagoner stated the town had no choice in rather to do the project or not due to the requirements imposed by IDEM. If the project was not done, IDEM would not have issued the required permit to continue the wastewater operation. Mr. Ken Smith stated the contractor is preparing the bonds and will return the signed contract soon. Due to work expected in the pond's area the gate will be locked at all times. People will not have access to the shooting range and the burn pile while the contractor has equipment in that area and construction is in progress.

Local Ordinance Issues

Although there are no nuisances that require a letter for clean-up action, Mr. Fite expressed concern about a driver in a dark color pick-up truck acting reckless in the street intersections. Mr. Wagoner stated the same type of driving pattern was left in the area of the sewer ponds which is another reason the gates are being locked.

Main Street Improvement Project

The Council would like to move forward with applying for a planning grant for a Main Street Project. Areas of concern will be the replacement of street lights, sidewalk improvements and other enhancements. A "Request for Qualifications" will be prepared and advertised for selection of an engineer to evaluate the existing conditions, identify deficiencies and determine the best plan of action. Dates for scoring and interviewing the applicants were discussed.

Medical Facility

Mr. Wagoner has been in connection with Unity Healthcare since shortly after the death of Dr. Anderson and received a call on Monday with tentative future plans. They would like to arrange a month-to-month lease of the building effective immediately. Unity is striving to secure a nurse practitioner or doctor's assistant to staff the facility full time and a doctor who would see patients at this office on a part time basis. Plans are trying to be made and Mr. Wagoner is expecting to hear completed plans in the near future.

Highway 75 Extension

The Carroll County Commissioners approved hiring Troyer Group as the engineer firm at their year end meeting. This is an encouraging sign according to Mr. Wagoner who went on to state the various entities will need to coordinate their efforts to develop an industrial park at the intersection of 75 north and HHC. The town is interested in extending water and wastewater to that site to encourage economic development which will then bring new jobs into the county. Questions were asked at the Commissioner's meeting about funding but if plans are not in place the county will lose the opportunity to take advantage of any future stimulus package that may develop. The contract signing was encouraging and Mr. Wagoner commended the action taken by the County Commissions. If the county does not have funds for construction, the plans can be put on hold and delayed but reasonable assumptions are required and the first steps must be made.

Mr. Fite asked if the road through Camden would be two or four lanes. This road will be two lanes built to highway specifications. Photo-shop pictures are at the town office for those who would like to see how the road may look at completion.

Mr. K. Smith is researching the options for fiber optic and broadband in the proposed industrial site area.

Miscellaneous Business

1. The Employee Manual went into effect on January 1, 2009. The changes were to ensure the town met state and federal policies. By a motion from Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Kelly, funds will be transferred into the employees' HSA accounts for 2009.

2. There are no updates on animal control per Mr. Kelly. He feels the issue is being dropped and the town may need to develop its own plan for controlling stray pets.
3. Mr. Snavelly was commended on his success in securing road salt for the town at a reasonable price. The last quote he was given was \$191 per ton plus delivery charge. By working with IACT Mr. Snavelly purchased around 25 tones for \$53 per ton from INDOT with no delivery charge.
4. Mr. Kelly will check the alley behind the Lutheran Church for correcting rain water run-off. Mr. Snavelly thought the property owner, Mr. Owens, may want a trench dug to direct the water away from his back yard. Mr. Fite mentioned the need to check utility lines if any trenching is done and Mr. Snavelly expressed concern that a trench may just direct the water to someone else's yard.
5. Stone is still needed in two alleys. This is to be taken care of when the weather permits.
6. Mr. K. Smith asked permission to look at various sources for funding new restrooms in the community building. The Council granted permission for applications to be submitted as best determined by Mr. Smith.
7. Mr. Snavelly stated an incubator will need to be purchased for the wastewater department. The current equipment, bought in 1994, has worn out and is obsolete. New equipment will cost \$2200 plus shipping.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 by a motion from Mr. Fite.

Camden Town Council

Peter F. Wagoner, President

Richard Fite, Vice-President

Andrew Kelly, Member

ATTEST:

P.A. Casserly
Clerk-Treasurer