

Minutes

CAMDEN TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

October 9, 2008

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

Minutes from the October meetings were approved as follows:

September 11th Regular Council Meeting: moved by Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Kelly

September 12th Employee Policy & Procedure Handbook work session: moved by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Fite

September 18th Housing Bid Acceptance Meeting: moved by Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Kelly

September 25th Wastewater Bid Opening: moved by Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Wagoner

The notes taken at the Public Hearing held on September 16th for consideration of applying for a grant from NWISWD for a leaf vacuum did not require Council approval.

The October docket was accepted as presented by a motion from Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Fite.

Lafayette Journal & Courier Delivery Status

Mr. Jerry Danner, District Manager for the Journal & Courier, reported the results of his efforts in soliciting the paper's sixty customers within the town's limits on how they wanted their paper delivered. Mr. Danner stated the route nets about \$65 a week for the carrier and he has difficulty keeping people because of the low pay. If the route could be run quicker, the carrier would make more money and there would be less turn over in deliverers. He reported eleven people wanted no change, sixteen would accept a change and twenty-three messages were left but did not return his call. Mr. Danner asked the Council to decide how the delivery should be done. Mr. Wagoner stated this was a business decision for the paper and not one for the Council. Mr. Danner stated for the time being, the delivery would remain as it is but subject to change. Mr. Wagoner asked for the town office to be informed if a change is made.

Wastewater Grant, Rate Information and Bond Ordinance 2008-4A

Mr. Ken Smith, Municipal Civil Corp, reported he is working on the final permit required for the project. The town should expect a 4-5 page letter from IDEM with items listed to be correct. He is working now on getting those items taken care of. Mr. Smith met with the lowest bid contractor on Tuesday and did an on-site walk-through of the project. Mr. Smith stated he is staying in contact with Steve Brock, financial advisor, Amy Miller, grant writer, and Lisa Lee, bond council, to ensure all the requirements are being met. Closing on the loan is expected to take place in the next two or three weeks. Mr. Smith felt the construction bids were good coming in just over 5% of the expected cost. The project funding quest took eighteen months to secure and during that time many cost have risen considerably.

It was announced by Mr. Wagoner that the apparent low bidder is Robert E. Crosby Construction from Fort Wayne. Mr. Smith and the town's attorney, Anne Briggs, reviewed the documents submitted with the bid and found them all to be in order. The construction contract will be signed once the funding is finalized.

Mr. Wagoner distributed a summary of how the project will affect the customer's utility rates. The project is expected to cost \$820,000 for which the town has secured a grant for \$500,000. This leaves \$320,000 which must be borrowed or paid from local funds. The town has secured funding through the State Revolving Loan Program and feels this loan will be best for the citizens due to the low interest rate and length of term offered. Therber & Brock, rate consultants, determined the wastewater rates will need to be increased 11% just to bring them inline with cost. The current monthly bill for 4,000 gallons will increase from \$18.48 to \$20.51 just to allow for inflation. The project will require the rates to increase 42% to \$28.45 for 4,000 gallons. If the town had not secured the \$500,000 grant, rates would have increased 121% to \$40.86. Mr. Wagoner concluded by stating the town's rates will still be about 40% below the average rate being paid in Indiana towns having less than 1,000 customers. ***Ordinance 2008-6 An Ordinance Amending Rates and Charges for the Use of the Sewage System and Related Services of the Town of Camden*** was introduced. The floor was opened for questions from the citizens and press but there were none expressed.

Mr. Wagoner next explained that Ordinance 2008-4 was passed at the September Council meeting and returned to Ice Miller. They sent the ordinance to the State Revolving Loan office for review and it was returned with a few minor changes. However, these changes do require the ordinance be passed again as 2008-4A. The Council was asked to consider the ordinance for adoption as now drafted.

Mr. Fite: As stated when introducing Ordinance 2008-4, I move that said ordinance be numbered and placed on first reading, and that the same be read by title at this time.

Mr. Kelly: Second

Council passed unanimously.

Mr. Fite: The ordinance having been numbered 2008-4A, and having been read by title, I move the ordinance be read a second time by title and opportunity be given for offering amendments.

Mr. Kelly: Second

Council passed unanimously.

Mr. Fite: Since no amendments were offered, I move that local rules be suspended and unanimous consent be given today for Ordinance 2008-4A, to be introduced for third reading, at this meeting without further consideration.

Mr. Kelly: Second

Council passed unanimously.

Mr. Wagoner: The motion for suspension of the rules for Ordinance 2008-4A having carried by unanimous vote of members present, final action on said ordinance would now be in order.

The Clerk-Treasurer was asked to read the ordinance by title for a third time which she did.

Mr. Fite: Said ordinance having been read a third time by title, I move that the ordinance be adopted as read.

Mr. Kelly: Second

Council passed unanimously.

Mr. Wagoner: Since at least two-thirds of elected members are present and the motion for adoption carried by a unanimous vote of all elected members, Ordinance 2008-4A has been duly passed and adopted.

Employee Policy & Procedure Manual

The Council continues to work on updating of the Employee Policy and Procedure Manual. The Council President has met twice with Mr. Snively and Mr. Mears for discussion on the manual and to gather their input. The Council will meet on October 14th for additional review of the manual and expects to implement the changes effective January 1, 2009.

Animal Control

Mr. Kelly reported there have been no further meetings on the municipalities interested in joining together for animal control. The Council Members have all received various

complaints about dogs and recognized the need for some type of program. *Ordinance 2008-5 Control of Dogs and Cats* was passed at the September meeting. Although the marshals can not house stray or nuisance animals the ordinance will help in returning strays to their owners with the required purchase of pet tags.

Ordinance Violations

Several letters were mailed by Mrs. Briggs to citizens violating the mowing, weed and junk portions of the Nuisance Ordinance. Most citizens have brought their yards into compliance but the property at 587 East Cumberland is still unsightly. A follow up letter was sent to the out-of-town owner stating if he did not comply with the ordinance the town would clean it or take him to small claims. Mr. Fite stated the property owner should be given a couple of weeks to get the yard in shape and then, if not done, the town would get it cleaned up before winter.

Mr. Fite also raised the issue of people speeding in the alley by his house. Several people are using the alley at high rates of speed.

New Signs in Town

New red and white “Welcome” signs are in place at the east and west entrances to Camden. A sign is still to be installed on Highway 75 south of town. Another new sign instructing citizens as to what is and what is not allowed on the town’s burn pile is also ready to be installed by Mr. Snavely. This sign also warns people not to use the shooting range – it is only for use by law enforcement officials and properly supervised 4-H shooting sports participants.

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival was cancelled due to poor weather, lack of volunteers and numerous other activities that were found to be scheduled the same week-end as the rain date. Unfortunately, as of October 9th, vendors are still calling the town office because they have not received their booth space payment refund as promised by the event coordinator.

Mr. Fite spoke with the organizer and was told he would try to pay the vendors when he gets the money.

Mr. Wagoner stated future events will be more closely scrutinized. A performance bond may be required to use the streets and a disclaimer issued that the town is not involved in the event. The use of the name “Town of Camden” may be prohibited since it is not a town sponsored activity and although the town pays for the rental of port-a-potties for the event it has never been funded by the town.

Jeff Sieber, past co-coordinator of the event, was present and stated the event really was not a money maker. Town festivals are not as well attended as they once were due to the economy and price of gas. He stated the 2007 festival was supported in part from funds

raised for the Camden Queen contest and was not self supporting as was evident in the financial accounting given to the Council when the event concluded.

The yard sales were well attended and next year's event may be restricted to town wide yard sales.

Zoning Change Requested

A rezoning application was submitted to the Area Plan Commission by Richard Fite for his property at 485 E. Cumberland for a change from U-1 (Urban Residential) to B-2 (Local Business) and was given a favorable recommendation. This request is now before the Town Council for consideration. Mr. Fite excluded himself from discussion and vote due to conflict of interest. It was noted that although the property is in a residential area there has always been a business on the lot. The formal change is necessary so Mr. Fite can secure a building permit for the construction of storage units on the lot. Mr. Fite has improved other properties in the town and the other two council members are confident this property will also be enhanced. By a motion from Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Wagoner, the change was granted.

Miscellaneous Business

- 📌 The housing project continues with some homes nearing completion.
- 📌 Mr. Wagoner plans to attend the groundbreaking for the HHC October 22nd in Lafayette. INDOT is working on relinquishing the current SR 25 to the counties and purchasing land for the new road. An interchange is being planned for the three mile extension of Highway 75 which will be a county project. The primary focus is to get the HHC started because of its importance to the county's economic growth and development.
- 📌 Halloween will be October 31st from 6:00-8:00 pm. Local businesses, the volunteer firemen, the library and the town will take part in the activities.
- 📌 Marshal Steve Mullin was awarded the Ralph J. Rohrbaugh scholarship for Leadership Carroll County.
- 📌 The Town Office will be closed October 13th for Columbus Day.
- 📌 A fire hydrant by the TDS Office will be replaced next week. Citizens affect will be notified when the water will be shut off and a boil order required. Once water is restored, which isn't expected to be more than a couple of hours, two consecutive tests must be passed before the boil order can be lifted.

■ Mr. Smith mentioned the town was the only applicant for the NWISWD grant for the leaf vacuum; hopefully we will get more than the amount asked for. Mr. Wagoner stated the town has received over \$760,000 in grants this year.

Meeting adjourned by a motion from Mr. Fite at 8:05.

Camden Town Council

Peter F. Wagoner, President

Richard Fite, Vice-President

Andrew Kelly, Member

ATTEST:

P.A. Casserly
Clerk-Treasurer