

Minutes

CAMDEN TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

FEBRUARY 14, 2008

The regular meeting of the Camden Town Council was called to order by President Peter Wagoner at 7:05pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Members Andy Kelly, Richard Fite, Clerk-Treasurer Pat Casserly, attorney Anne Briggs and nine citizens.

Minutes from the January 10th regular council meeting and the January 31st work session were approved by motions from Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Kelly. The docket was accepted as presented by a motion also from Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Kelly. The clerk-treasurer asked the council about the payment of a Workman's Compensation Insurance statement for terrorism coverage at \$9.00/year. Council recommended the coverage be accepted and approved payment of the claim.

Emergency Shelter Update

The shelter volunteers met to discuss ideas on what would be needed to have a properly outfitted shelter. During the meeting, Ms. Ellen McCain suggested asking the Lafayette Chapter of the American Red Cross to consider pre-positioning a stocked trailer in the Camden Community Building garage. The trailer has cots, pillows, blankets and ready-to-eat meals. The idea will be taken before the Red Cross board of directors for consideration. The Council approved the plan and if allowed by the Red Cross Board, a garage bay will be made available.

Mr. Wagoner reported the generator was put to a test recently when the power was interrupted during sever winter weather. Mr. Snavelly was instructed to switch on the generator because Duke Energy estimated the outage to last several hours. Once the ice was removed from the panels, the generator was started and worked well. Power was resumed quicker than first reported so no other citizen action was required.

Indiana Housing Grant

Funds are now available for the rehab of certain homes in Camden and property owners will have their work write-ups started in the next few weeks. A class in the safe handling of lead base paint was held in the Community Building; two local contractors attended.

Local Ordinance Issues

A few items of concern involving ordinance violations were brought to the Council's attention. Signs are still needed for "No Engine Brake". Mr. Fite will speak with Signs by Jerry for information on the making of those signs. He will also speak to him about new entrance signs for the town.

A complaint was registered about the property at 546 E. Main. Insulation, shingles, blue tarp scraps, and siding are blowing off the house. Cats and raccoons have been observed living inside the property. The garage has a hole in the roof. Neighbors would like to see the property put back in proper order for the safety of others. Mr. Wagoner stated the issues discussed would be a violation of the nuisance ordinance and needed corrected. Mr. Fite will speak with Deputy Marshal Chapman to start the process for correction.

The condition of the area behind the Camden Emporium was also discussed. Concerns were again expressed about it being trashy and unsightly. Mrs. Briggs stated she informed Mr. King, who maintains the Emporium, to attend tonight's meeting for his issues to be addressed but he failed to attend. Mr. Wagoner stated he would follow-up on the problem and concluded by stating it will not be forgotten. Ordinances are in place and will be followed.

Lack of Animal Control

There has been a sharp increase in the number of animal complaints since the county discontinued animal control on December 31, 2007. Citizens have noticed an increase in the number of stray cats and dogs running loose in the community. The town is starting to see the effects of the county "pulling the plug" on animal control funding. Camden, Delphi and Flora are expected to form some type of collaborative service but no meetings have been held to start the process. Camden does not have the financial ability to have its own animal control service and will have to work with the other communities to activate some type of control.

Fall Festival Volunteers Needed

If Camden is to continue with the Fall Festival, volunteers need to step forward to take over leadership roles. The past leaders resigned in 2007 after giving many years of service to the activity and developing a loyal following of vendors. The Town does not manage the Fall Festival but has given support to the project. Interested person need to contact a council person or attend the next council meeting to volunteer.

SR 75 Extension and Carroll County Economic Development

Mr. Wagoner read Resolution 2008-A, a resolution of support for extending SR 75 north with the understanding Camden would offer to extend municipal utilities to take advantage of an industrial development site. Land in the area of the SR75/HHC area would be expected to be rezoned for future industrial/commercial development. A copy of Resolution 2008-A is attached and part of the minutes. During discussion of the extension, Mr. Wagoner stated the Council supports the extension with the condition the county develops an economic development site. If that is not done, the support will be withdrawn.

Copies of the resolution were sent to INDOT, Carroll County Commissioners, Congressman Donnelly and others.

Mr. Wagoner has been appointed to the Hoosier Heartland Heritage Commission, the entity supporting the highway and the extension, and to the Mayor's Roundtable. His presence on these boards will ensure Camden's voice is heard on future planning projects.

Mr. Daryl Smith, Carroll County Economic Development Director, was present to present the "Strategic Directions" study for the County. He began his comments by stating the extension of water and sewer north to the proposed intersection has people interested in the area. A team of four people attended a meeting in Indianapolis today to discuss the HHC and learned the project is expected to be complete by 2013, three years ahead of the proposed date. The effect of this speed up on the 75 extension is unknown but the support shown is encouraging for securing funding.

The "Strategic Directions", written by The St. Claire Group, is to help get the county "jumped started" with a usable, simple plan. The plan presented three strategic imperatives: (1) Build on leadership Carroll County currently has in agriculture. Carroll

County is currently number one in many agriculture categories. This needs to be used to the County's advantage. Controversies that develop need to be addressed head on working with Purdue University and others to build an alliance. There is power in unity and compromises can be expected. People will need educated on modern agricultural practices in an effort to sort facts from hysteria.

(2) Create a real estate development plan. Although site ready land is not yet available, it is being worked on. Mr. Smith stated businesses want the four lane highway, power, gas, water, sewer and rail access. Areas offering those features will be highly sought and developed. EDC does not have the funding to purchase but is starting to get options on land.

(3) Raise the money. EDC does not have funds but needs revenue to start development of a real estate plan. The county currently has a .1% (the state minimum) EDIT tax. It is hoped to have the tax raised to .25% (one quarter of a percent). He offered the comparison of the increased tax costing taxpayers the equivalent of one cup of McDonald's coffee per week. The "Strategic Directions" study was a joint effort of the EDC and the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce.

Next introduced was Mr. Dick Bradshaw, Carroll County Chamber Vice President. Mr. Bradshaw stated the county now collects about \$300,000 in EDIT tax. Of this, about 60% is retained by the county and the other 40% goes to local units of government. The County Commissioners have control of EDIT revenue at the county level and can use it at their discretion. Local officials have specific uses the tax – streets, sidewalks, etc. The proposal is to allocate funds over the .1% to be used only for economic development. This will require the support and cooperation of the County Commissioners, County Council and local officials. Mr. Bradshaw further stated the county is currently being left behind other counties in this area. They are working with the same tax revenue as received in 2003 due to a lack of growing tax base. The county did have eight years to get ready for the HHC, now it is reduced to five years.

Mr. Wagoner asked Mr. Smith what was needed from Camden. The Council was asked to consider supporting the EDIT change. Mr. Wagoner stated all agree with the general thrust of where the county is headed but wanted clarification on rather the increase would be used for the 75 interchange. Mr. Bradshaw confirmed it would be and other long term project. Some goals for the Chamber are short term and can be achieved relatively quickly but others will take years. The Chamber and EDC will only support the tax increase if it is set aside for specific economic development improvements.

The number one goal for the county is to secure good, new jobs according to Mr. Wagoner. The 75 extension has the potential of being one of the best new industrial sites in this region and in doing so, increasing the county's population. Many of the local financial problems could be solved if there was a growth in citizens. Local governments are struggling due to stagnate or declining populations. The days of bedroom communities are over due to high gas prices. People want to live where they work. If Carroll County does not create jobs in Carroll County, young families will move to where

the jobs are. EDIT tax must be focused on new, better jobs. Mr. Wagoner went on to question the wisdom of the local school corporation to impart on the aggressive renovation plan now being discussed. Two schools are using 60% of the tax dollars in this county. If their project were not done, tax rates could be decreased. All entities will have to take budget cuts due to the circuit breaker. The EDIT tax is necessary but will be a tough sell. The discussion concluded with the Council willing to consider supporting the tax increase.

Meeting adjourned by a motion from Mr. Fite at 8:10.

Camden Town Council

Peter F. Wagoner, President

Richard Fite, Vice-President

Andrew Kelly, Member

ATTEST:

P.A. Casserly
Clerk-Treasurer