

Minutes

Camden Town Council

Regular Meeting

April 10, 2007

The regular meeting of the Camden Town Council was called to order by President Peter Wagoner. Present were Members Andy Robison, Michele Everett, Clerk-Treasurer Pat Casserly, attorney Anne Briggs and five guests.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the call of the meeting to order minutes were approved as follows:

March 6th meeting at which goals for 2007 were discussed and set. Motion from Mrs. Everett seconded by Mr. Wagoner

March 13th public hearing on the Low/Moderate Income Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab Grant

March 13th public hearing for the CDBG Wastewater Grant

March 13th regular meeting of the Camden Town Council

The minutes dated March 13th were approved by motions from Mr. Robison, seconded by Mr. Wagoner.

The docket was approved as presented and signed.

Park Drive Agreement

Mr. Wagoner read the “Agreement Regarding Jackson Township Park Drive” an understanding between the Town of Camden and Jackson Township to provide payment of repair, including but not limited to grading, purchasing, and delivery of and spreading of stone on the right of way commonly used as the drive in the park. The cost is to be split between the entities when both agree such repair is necessary. The town uses the drive as access to the well building located in the park and feels it has a responsibility to

help maintain the drive. The Council Members approved the agreement which will be taken by the Clerk-Treasurer to the Trustee for signatures.

Cemetery Dumpster

The dumpster at the cemetery was moved and placed on an area prepared with proper grading and stone. The location is discreet, at the side of the small maintenance shed, and easier for Waste Management to empty. The dumpster is the responsibility of the town since it is provided to the cemetery under the town's contract with Waste Management. The motion to expend funds for labor and material was made by Mr. Robison and seconded by Mrs. Everett. Mr. Ron Wertz thanked the Board for the improvement.

Nuisance Ordinance

A brief report was given by the Clerk-Treasurer on the few remaining troubled properties. One area on the south side of Camden by HWY 75 has made a small effort to remove junk and another on Washington Street made progress and then stalled. The Marshal will send letters to these two. The properties that are in good standing will be sent a letter from the Marshal thanking them for taking action and expressing the expectation for the property to remain in compliance with the nuisance ordinance. Mrs. Everett noted the home on East Main Street that suffered fire damage has been cleared and the lot is looking much better. Some progress can also be noticed on the other lot of concern on East Main Street, the one with the old brick house. It appears some yard work has been completed and it probably is as cleaned up as well as can be expected.

The first "go-around" concentrated on properties with junk vehicles, improperly plated cars and unsightly properties. The second area of concentration will be buildings that are in poor repair. Citizens expressed concerns about various garages/houses that need attention. Mrs. Briggs stated the county does have an ordinance that would address buildings and Camden's current nuisance ordinance mentions fire hazard situations. Mrs. Briggs will review what is on the books and reference state statute to strengthen the ordinance.

Last month, Mrs. Briggs supplied the Council with a packet of information and sample ordinances from other communities on junk/abandoned vehicles. The Council felt Delphi's ordinance could be adapted to suit Camden's needs and directed Mrs. Briggs to prepare an ordinance that would be specific for junk vehicles. In conjunction, the current nuisance ordinance will be amended to remove reference to junk vehicles.

Upcoming Summer Events

Melissa Red Elk informed the Council the Fall Festival Committee would soon be sending out letters to vendors. Volunteers are still needed to help make the event successful.

Jeff Sieber reported the 175th officers met in April and would hold a general meeting in May. The two day event is coming along well and many interesting activities are planned. Mr. Sieber requested Cumberland Street be closed between Water and Armstrong Streets. The committee would like for the bands to set up in front of the Water Treatment building to have access to electricity and the street closing would improve safety. Motion to close the street as stated for July 21st was made by Mr. Robison and seconded by Mrs. Everett. A grant was secured from Duke Energy that will provide for activities from Conner's Prairie to be at the 175th.

Sidewalk Improvement Project

Prior to the evening's meeting, the Clerk-Treasurer had provided the Council with information on how other communities maintain their sidewalks. Some cities had very specific ordinances and others were more general. Most have a 50%/50% match. Generally, homeowners are required to fill out an application, requests are prioritized and once approved, the work is bid out. After a review of the information provided, the Council directed an ordinance be prepared that would allow for a 50%/50% match on sidewalk replacement with the work being bid out. The program will be a one year trial with the town's share to not exceed \$7,500. Homeowners who take advantage of this opportunity will be offered a payment plan of 24 equal monthly payments if their cost exceed \$600 and a 12 month payment option for those whose cost are less than \$600. A \$100 deposit will be required and a lien will be placed on the property to insure payment. The option of the homeowner doing the labor is still available and the town will continue to reimburse \$4.00 per lineal foot in those instances. Participation in the 50/50 program is limited to the homeowner of the property involved; renters will not be eligible. Motion to approve the drafting of the ordinance was made Mr. Robison and seconded by Mrs. Everett.

Camden Elementary School

Mr. Wagoner announced that Camden Elementary School will be changed from grades K-5 to kindergarten and pre-school. Mr. Wagoner's prepared statement included the following thoughts:

The School Board of Trustees took action at their April 10th meeting to approve the re-alignment. On March 12th, 2007, the School Board first addressed the issue of re-

aligning the elementary schools. At that time, four options were presented for reconfiguration. Two additional plans were reviewed at the School Board's work session on April 4th. In addition, the work session resulted in two proposals being struck down. Four options were available when the Board met on April 9th. The Board voted to implement one of the two options presented just five days prior to adoption of the reconfiguration. Two Board members, Mike Shoemaker, Liberty Twp., and Jerry Sparks, Jackson Twp. voted against the action. The school will be used only for kindergarten and a couple of programs that might happen for preschool children. Grades 1 through 5 will be transferred to Hillcrest.

Mr. Wagoner went on to state that the action results in the closing of one of the best schools and the only one meeting federal mandates for elementary schools. Assumptions made in this decision include full day kindergarten will be state mandated and the corporation will be able to obtain grants for the other programs. Several important items are still unclear as to how they will be addressed: transportation, modifications to the building required for kindergarten, funding, and larger class sizes. The extent of the expected savings is also in question. Several people in Camden and the outlining community worked to get information to the School Board for consideration but it was ignored. Thanks were extended to the teachers for their dedication to the students at Camden Elementary School, the citizens who worked diligently to protect the school and the community as a whole for their support. When classes resume in the fall, the school will be called Camden Early Childhood Center.

Mr. Wagoner concluded his statement by stating the matter is now closed.

Miscellaneous Business

1. The damaged countertops were replaced by Wolf's Countertops. The cost was \$1200 of which TAP Enterprises paid \$350. The Council again stated TAP would not be welcome back to use the building for a tool sale.
2. A follow-up letter from the meeting with Duke Energy was received. The company thanked representatives from Camden and Flora for the opportunity to discuss concerns and methods to improve communications. The company has made necessary improvements and completed the follow up items. They are currently undergoing a review of all transmission lines serving Camden and Flora. The letter also stated it was good to include Flora in the conversations making the meeting more meaningful to all parties.
3. Camden Cub Scouts are having a food drive for the Carroll County Food Pantry. Collection boxes will be located through out Camden and door-to-door pick up will also take place.
4. Citizens are reminded Spring Clean-up will be April 26th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Camden Town Council

Peter F. Wagoner, President

Andrew Robison, Member

Michele Everett, Member

ATTEST:

P.A. Casserly
Clerk-Treasurer