

Minutes

Camden Town Council

Regular Meeting

May 8, 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 eight guests.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the call of the meeting to order minutes were approved by motions from Mr. Robison, seconded by Mrs. Everett as follows:

April 10th Regular Council Meeting

April 23rd Tax Rate Meeting

Mr. Wagoner explained the tax rate for the General Fund as allowed by the State was to be \$1.0929. During the April 23rd meeting the Council reduced the amount to \$1.05. Cum Capital Development and Cum Sewer will add .0639¢ for a total of \$1.1139.

The docket was approved as presented and signed.

Summer Activity Update

Jeff Sieber provided the Council with updates on the Fall Festival and 175th Celebration. The Fall Festival is starting to receive donations and letters were sent to the vendors that have attended the event over the past four years.

The 175th Celebration held a general meeting this past Monday evening. The schedule is pretty well set and this should be a busy, fun two day event. The funding is coming in well and there are no outstanding expenses. The officers will meet again May 22nd and

order memorabilia items that will be sold prior to the celebration. The remaining challenge will be to organize a “clean-up” crew. It is hoped a youth group will accept the challenge. Waste Management has been contacted in regards to cardboard trash receptacles for placement throughout town to keep trash under control.

The Youth Day Parade was represented by Barb Rude. The Parade Committee asked the Council to approve the Camden Police Car to lead the parade. This was approved by the Council following a motion by Mr. Robison. Mrs. Rude stated there were several entries for the parade and the “grand stand” will be in front of the Community Building. She asked for the use of the town’s microphone as a backup. The request was also granted by the Council.

Ordinance 2007-1

An Ordinance Prohibiting Junked, Wrecked, Abandoned, Disassemble, or Inoperable and Unlicensed Motor Vehicles to be Stored In or Permitted to Remain In the Open and Providing For Disposal of Said Vehicles

Mrs. Briggs presented Ordinance 2007-1 in the final form for Council signatures. During the past several regular council meetings, the Council has discussed the necessity of on ordinance specifically for “junk” vehicles. Mrs. Briggs incorporated ordinances from other communities along with the specific request of the Council to address the issues particular for Camden. Mr. Robison moved to adopt Ordinance 2007-1, seconded by Mrs. Everett and passed. The ordinance will become effective thirty (30) days following advertising in the local paper.

Capital Improvement Plan

The Capital Improvement Plan for 2007 for revenue received from Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) was adopted by a motion from Mrs. Everett and seconded by Mr. Robison.

During discussion on economic development in Carroll County, Mr. Wagoner shared information recently received on the Hoosier Heartland. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2010 on the west end, at Lafayette. Construction will continue east to Carroll County around 2012 and conclude in Cass County in 2014. There was an

attempt by Cass County to reverse the construction and have construction begin on the east segment but this failed.

Camden Elementary Realignment to Camden Early Childhood Center

Mr. Wagoner gave an update on the school situation stating everyone is aware there is concern about the School Board's decision and there are several questions surrounding their plans. In addition, there are questions as to what the school will actually offer by the time classes resume in the fall. It has been reported Head Start will not move to Camden. The State Legislature did not fund full day kindergarten, nor will the school corporation. The preschool programs are to be funded through grants which were recently applied for and there is no guarantee the programs will be awarded funding. People in the school corporation are concerned about the situation. For these reasons, a petition has been drafted that reads:

We, the undersigned concerned citizens living in the Delphi Community School district, ask the Delphi Community School Corporation, Board of Trustees, to rescind its decision to move all Camden Elementary students in grades 1 through 5 to Hillcrest Elementary and use the Camden facility only as an Early Childhood Center.

We believe this reconfiguration decision was made without adequate deliberation, factual information, public input or financial consideration; will be detrimental to children now attending Camden elementary, and has the potential to adversely affect all children in the Delphi Community school system.

There will be a copy of the petition at the town office for those interested in signing or taking copies to circulate. The petition is not being targeted to just Camden, Jackson Township or Liberty Township but to the entire school district. Copies will also be mailed to persons who have expressed a desire to help gather signatures.

Mr. Wagoner went on to state he was a little apprehensive about becoming involved as he did not want his actions to be perceived as acting in the capacity as Council President.

He is acting as an individual but the Council is in agreement that it is important for the School Board to give this issue further careful consideration. The Camden community is already feeling the negative impact of the School Board's actions in a report of a home sale not going through because the school was changing. Mr. Wagoner stated he did not realize how many families chose to live in Camden because of the school until this situation developed and people expressed to him why they were concerned.

In a related note, Mr. Wagoner further expressed concern of the long term impact if the Early Childhood Center did not work out. A letter was prepared by Mrs. Briggs and will be sent to the School board of Trustees at the attention of Mr. Robert Resler, Board President. It reads:

Dear Sir:

I represent the Town Council of Camden, Indiana. In researching title to the Camden Elementary School property, it appears that the deeds for said property vest title in Jackson Township. Deed Reference: Book 67, Page 117; also Book 107, Page 587.

If the Delphi Community Schools or a consolidation of Delphi and Camden claims ownership of the property on which the Camden Elementary School is located, will you please furnish to this office such a deed.

The Town is very concerned about the future use of the Camden Elementary School properties as well as the violation of the agreement that possession, only, of the Camden property would be given to DCSC on the commitment that DCSC would operate a school for elementary-age children living in the townships served by the Camden School.

Will you please provide documentation as requested herein to the undersigned or to Peter Wagoner, President of the Town council, Camden, Indiana by May 15, 2007.

Yours very truly,

Florence Anne Briggs

A search of the records at the Recorder's Office at the Carroll County Courthouse did not yield a transfer deed of the property to the corporation however, in the 1960/70 when several school consolidations were taking place, there may have been statute that would allow transfer without recording the deed. The letter is also asking for clarification of ownership on property in the area of the Jackson Township Park. When the consolidation took place, the park was used by the school for sporting events and was included in land needed for the school.

Miscellaneous Business

1. A brief update was given on the "trouble properties". Marshal Chapman visited two properties of concern to encourage their continued improvements. Thank you letters were sent to the people who have come into compliance.
2. The sidewalk replacement ordinance is in the final stages of being prepared. Mrs. Briggs will mail copies to the Council for review and input. The Council expects to have a finished document for adoption at the June meeting.
3. The Jackson Township 4-H Club planted flowers to be distributed through the community.
4. Two customers came before the Board to request an adjustment to their water/wastewater bills due to leaks. The problems were repaired in a timely manner but the leak affected two months' bills. Adjustments were granted to account numbers 1201000 and 536000 as allowed per ordinance.
5. The Masonic Lodge will have a free will sausage and pancake breakfast June 2nd, the morning of the Youth Day Parade. All are welcome to attend.

6. Jerry Snavelly requested citizens call the office should they notice mosquitoes so he can spray as needed. Du to the cost, \$125/\$150 per application, Jerry wants to use the chemical wisely.

7. The next regular council meeting will be June 5th, 7:00 at the Community Building.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35.

Camden Town Council

Peter F. Wagoner, President

Andrew Robison, Member

Michele Everett, Member

ATTEST:

P.A. Casserly
Clerk-Treasurer