

Minutes

CAMDEN TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

August 14, 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, Richard Fite, Clerk-Treasurer Pat Casserly, attorney Anne Briggs and eight (8) citizens. Those in attendance were welcomed to the initial council meeting being held in the Camden-Jackson Township Public Library Reading Room. The new location will allow for better acoustics and help the town save heating cost by not using the large community center room.

Mr. Wagoner reminded citizens this meeting was also the public hearing for the 2009 budget and asked if there were any concerns or questions. Mrs. Casserly gave a brief review of the proposed budget explaining the expenditures for 2009 were the same as 2008 for the general fund but the tax rate was advertised much higher due to the recommendation by the DLGF to cut the assessed valuation by 25%. No action was taken on the budget. The adoption of the 2009 budget is scheduled for the September council meeting. In other financial matters, an "Appropriation Reduction Resolution for Local Roads and Streets", reducing the 2008 LRS budget by \$2075, was passed by a motion from Mr. Fite. Mr. Wagoner stated the town's financial situation is solvent but tight. The property tax reform has made the budget process a challenge. Funds are being shifted and it may be harder to do some things that were expected in the past. It was further explained the budget does not include the utilities of water and wastewater. Their rate structures are being examined. By state statute the utilities can not be in the negative financially.

Minutes from the July 10th regular and executive meetings were approved by motion from Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Being as there was no quorum, the executive meeting planned for August 12th was not held. The docket was accepted as presented by a motion from Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Kelly.

Grant Updates

Work has started on the thirteen homes receiving funds for improvements. When this round is finished, approximately thirty homes in Camden will have benefited from this program amounting to an investment of over \$246,600. Seven other families have expressed an interest in applying for funds if a third opportunity is offered. Martin Mummert expressed concern for overbidding in one instance where more material was bought than was necessary. The situation will be looked into.

Ken Smith reported all material has been turned into the state for approval on the wastewater project and the work is on schedule. The pre-bid meeting will be August 28th at 10:00 at the town office. Bids will be accepted up to 7:00pm on September 11th. The surveyors will return to finish the GPS work at the ponds area when the leaves are off the trees - this will allow for more accurate measurement of the town's property lines. Mr. Smith asked the council members if they would be willing to take NIMS training (emergency preparedness training). The training is an eligibility requirement when applying for a particular grant which would help fund restrooms for the community building. A web link will be sent by Mr. Smith so training can take place and the grant process can move forward.

Mr. Smith is also working on securing funds to extend utility lines north to the Hoosier Heartland Corridor and a proposed industrial/small business site.

Mr. Fite asked if there were grants available to install sidewalks. He feels the senior citizens who use the small motorized carts would benefit if they did not have to use the carts on town streets. Mr. Smith stated it is hard to get grants just for sidewalks. Funding is provided in Local Roads and Streets, Motor Vehicle Highway, Riverboat and other areas. There might be funds available in private grants.

Other Reports

Sam Zook, Perfective Web Design, gave a report on the web page's activity. The statistics given indicate good growth in "hits" in many of the areas. Mr. Fite commented that Camden has many activities for a small town. People are interested in the calendar section, Land Use, and the minutes. Links have also been made to the Comet and Lafayette Journal & Courier which have proven popular.

Sana Booker, Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Director, brought flyers and brochures to be shared with the public. Mrs. Booker reported the following:

- The Chamber hosted a legislative dinner August 11th that was attended by 150 people. It was a very positive evening with a lot of good information shared. Senator Brandt Hershman, Congressman Rich McClain and U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly were in attendance and spoke on local issues.
- Although membership is growing, the Chamber is not self-sustaining but doing well for being just two years old. Small business membership fee is \$100 and a new Business Partnership program has been started.
- A Chamber Golf Outing is planned for September 10th and a Men's Celebration is slated for November. The Annual Chamber meeting will be October 23rd.
- The Chamber works closely with Carroll County EDC and is committed to county growth.

Discussion of the Carroll County Economic Development Corporation turned to the increase in EDIT tax and the pooling of additional funds. Mr. Wagoner stated the tax was raised from .1% to .15%. He supports the tax because the county needs to focus on attracting companies that will pay sustainable wages. The downward trend in population and economic growth needs to be reversed if the county is to survive. In the past, development has been poorly funded and the results of low interest are now showing in the condition of the county's funds. Camden is seeing people leave because their jobs are in other counties and the price of gasoline is taking its toll. These people need the opportunity to have decent jobs created locally. EDC provided a list of projects the additional pooled funds were to support. Mr. Wagoner agreed with the original list and the priority given to the projects and would not support any drastic change in ranking. The county's priorities should be consistent with the original plan.

The county recently received a \$1.2 million grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation for a study of the Hwy 75 North extension. The grant award is just a fraction of the funds necessary for the road and there are no guarantees it will be built. The actual road location is unknown but a close assumption has been drawn. The rail connection, four lane road and utilities would make a good location for new companies to locate. The effect of the project on the county will be significant.

Mr. Smith is searching for grant funds for Camden's utilities to be extended and move the town's project forward. Although it may be a few years before the road is built, planning must begin now to be ready when the opportunity is right.

Animal Control

Mr. Kelly reported there were no meetings for animal control. Larry Shives complained about barking dogs, dogs running loose and cats fighting under his window at night. He is also concerned that a child might be seriously injured by an aggressive dog. The need to have some type of animal control in place as soon as possible was stressed. The county has been called for assistance but they do not have the people available to take care of nuisance pets. Mrs. Briggs stated the barking dogs are a violation of the noise section of the nuisance ordinance and can be addressed by the town marshal. She suggested recording the barking to confirm how loud and annoying it is. Mr. Wagoner said the chronically barking dog should be reported to the marshal so he can take care of it. Dogs running loose are just another reason for animal control. There are no funds for county wide animal control so the towns are working together to solve the issue. A man, who has his own van & traps, has expressed an interest in the animal control warden position per Mr. Kelly.

A draft ordinance concerning the control of dogs and cats was given to the council for review. Tags will be required to identify any animal that strays. It is hoped the ordinance can be ready for adoption at the September meeting.

Trash Contract and Fees

A contract for trash service was signed with Waste Management and Ordinance #2008-2 was signed allowing for rate adjustments to reflect the new fees. Motion to accept the contract and fees was made by Mr. Fite and seconded by Mr. Kelly. The new rates will go into effect 30 days after being properly advertised.

Miscellaneous Business

- HR Unlimited is updating the town's employee policy and procedure manual. Job descriptions will also be reviewed.
- Mr. Fite received quotes for new town entrance signs. Vital Signs is asking \$700 per sign and Signs by Jerry asked \$800 each. Three signs will be ordered from Vital Signs after the motion from Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Fite. The sign design will be at the discretion of the Brian Foreman at Vital Signs. The only request was to keep the same slogan "A Great Place to Call Home".

A sign will also be ordered restricting use of the burn pile, compost pile and firearms at the shooting range.

- There have been numerous occasions of vandalism around town but the park is suffering particularly with damage. Citizens were asked to report suspicious behavior to the marshals. Public feedback is needed to put an end to the problems.
- The Lafayette Journal & Courier had a very nice article and video on Camden.
- The Lions Club will have their tractor pull this weekend.
- A new rate schedule was adopted for use of the community building. The fees needed raised to be more in line with the cost to have the building open for use. The new fee and deposit plan will go into effect after being advertised. In addition, a new lease agreement will be prepared requiring the renter to clean after use.
- An open house is planned by the Preservation Society for the Old Camden Garage on Saturday from 2-4.
- Michael Gurnick gave an update on the Fall Festival. He is seeking cash and donor prizes to be given away in a drawing. Duke Energy will be asked to install 220 Volt at the school area for food vendors. Fliers have been distributed as donors and participants are sought. The "Fall Festival" signs at the edge of town are to be painted by Tom & Jerry. Brian Foreman will be asked to make vinyl lettering to promote this year's festival. Set up of vendors will be on Friday night. If a marshal is available, he will be asked to give extra patrol time. Mr. Gurnick will be using his own source for port-a-potties and will not need to have units rented from Mid-West Rental.
- Mr. Gurnick feels the event is coming along fairly well.
- Martin Mummert complained about his water bill being too high. He used 15,000 gallons of water and his bill was \$179 compared to his average bill of \$45. The meter was reread to be sure it was correct and checked again to see if there was a leak. Mr. Mummert did not know where the water was used. The usage has

dropped back to be within his normal range. The Clerk-Treasurer stated the ordinance allows for an adjustment only if there is a verified leak and the leak is fixed. To make an exception in this case could set a dangerous precedent. The council moved forward to allow the bill to be adjusted back to twice his normal usage. Motion made by Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Kelly.

Meeting adjourned by a motion from Mr. Fite at 8:35.

Camden Town Council

Peter F. Wagoner, President

Richard Fite, Vice-President

Andrew Kelly, Member

ATTEST:

P.A. Casserly
Clerk-Treasurer