

# **Minutes**

## **Camden Town Council**

### **Regular Meeting**

**September 11, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Camden Town Council was called to order by President Peter Wagoner. Present were Members Andy Robison, Michele Everett, Attorney Anne Briggs, Clerk-Treasurer Pat Casserly, and ten citizens. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Wagoner requested a moment of reflection for September 11, 2001.

Mr. Wagoner explained the first meeting for the evening was a public hearing for the CDBG Waste Water Project. Amy Miller of Cornerstone Grants Management stated the public hearing was required as part of the grant to solicit public input and as a means for the citizens to understand the project. Citizens were encouraged to ask questions and express their opinions.

To fund the wastewater project, the town is seeking a CDBG grant for \$500,000 and a loan of \$250,000 from Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs. The grant is due for submission on Friday and awards announced in November. Construction will begin in spring provided funding is secured. Mr. Pat Baker asked what effect this project would have on the sewer rates. Ms. Miller explained the rates would increase from \$18.50 for 4000 gallons of water to about \$22.64 if the full funding of a grant and loan are achieved. Without the help, the cost would be closer to \$41.00, making the project too expensive. It was also explained the income survey taken last year opened the door to allow the town to apply for this loan. Communities must be in the 51% or greater low/moderate income level to qualify for the loan. Camden came in at 54%.

Ms. Miller explained the town had applied for the spring round but was not successful. Indiana is given approximately \$36 Million from the Federal government for distribution locally. This round, the funds are divided between infrastructure projects and other project such as fire trucks. It is anticipated the change will improve the town's chances for funding.

As no further questions were asked, the meeting closed at 7:15 by a motion from Mrs. Everett.

**Regular Council Meeting**

The regular meeting of the town council began with the approval of the minutes from the August 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Jackson Twp. Trustee and Advisory Board. Mr. Wagoner commented the public meeting with the township was the second meeting since January. The joint sessions have proved very helpful in becoming aware of the services both units offer and in opening the lines of communication.

The docket was approved as presented and signed by a motion from Mr. Robison, seconded by Mrs. Everett.

The 2008 Budget was presented for approval. Being as no citizens offered any questions or comments, Mrs. Everett moved to pass the budget as set. Motion seconded by Mr. Robison and passed. The 2008 budget is at just about the same level of spending as 2007. The Council also approved the 2008 Salary Ordinance (2007-3) by a motion from Mrs. Everett, seconded by Mr. Robison. Mr. Wagoner made note the Council salary will remain the same for 2008 while all others will see an increase of 1.5%.

### **Rezoning Request**

A rezoning request for the old Mobil Station on East Main Street was requested by Gary and Kelly Roby. The property was zoned business several years ago but reverted to residential due to the business being closed for so many years. The request was reviewed by the Area Plan Commission, approved and sent to the Town Council for approval. By a motion from Mr. Robison and seconded by Mrs. Everett, the Council agreed to the request to rezone from residential to business with the stipulation that should the property be sold, it will revert back to residential. Mr. Roby was aware of the stipulation and agreed to the terms. Future owners interested in a business zoning for this property would need to reapply. Mrs. Briggs will note the terms on the rezoning request and return it to the Council for signatures.

### **Fall Festival**

Jeff Sieber reported the Fall Festival went well but was cut just a little short due to heavy rain. Mr. Wagoner stated he heard a lot of good comments on the activities. The pie contest drew eleven entries and generated \$89 in the silent auction. Those funds were given to the Cemetery Association to help with the cost of the new entrance. The town presented Mr. Sieber with small tokens of appreciation for the Siebers and Melissa Red Elk in appreciation of their years of work on the activity. Mr. Wagoner read a letter of resignation prepared by Mr. Sieber. The Siebers have worked on the festival for the past nineteen of twenty years and are ready to step down from the festival but intend to continue with the Camden Queen Contest. The Council expressed the desire for volunteers to step forward to continue the community event. Mr. and Mrs. Sieber are willing to chair a committee but are not interested in overseeing the entire event.

Mr. Wagoner expressed the interest in having a horse pull at the same event as the Fall Festival. The Camden Lion's Club has accepted the challenge to host next year's pull however; the date is yet to be determined.

### **Emergency Shelter Update**

Ms. Axley, Tippecanoe County Red Cross, was invited to attend the meeting to discuss how Camden could better serve its citizens during an emergency. A brief overview of the large and small scale services they offer was given. The local chapter in Lafayette serves Carroll, Benton and Tippecanoe Counties. The Red Cross is interested in extending programs more into the outline areas.

The community building could be used as a shelter with the Red Cross serving in a variety of different capacities. The Red Cross's involvement could be complete where they would run the shelter bringing in everything needed or as little as just providing local training. In the event of a major disaster, a National Response team would be summoned to assist. It was noted that should a major event occur, most people who live in the effected area would be busy getting their own affairs in order and would not have the time/energy to assist as much as needed. It would be up to the Council, and the needs of a given disaster, to determine the level of their participation.

Mr. Sieber asked if they provide generators for use during a power outage. If the Red Cross comes, they will provide generators or generators are available through the National Guards. Mr. Wagoner followed with information on the town's investigation on generators and concluded it is not a minor undertaking.

Shelter availability was also discussed during the town's meeting with the township. The fire station could be a small shelter but in the winter the fire trucks should not be set outside to make room for people due to the threat of freezing. It was determined that a shelter location should not be a case of either the community building or the fire station

but both. The trustee hopes to have the station wired to accept a generator so that building will be available.

Mr. Wagoner warned if a disaster strikes, the town needs to be able to take care of itself. As was found out during last year's snow storm, sometimes help just can not reach the community due to the weather. The Council will continue the search for grant funds and asked for Ms. Axley's assistance. The Council is also interested in disaster training and learning more how to be prepared as a community for a crisis. Mrs. Casserly is to contact Ms. Axley to set a date for a building assessment.

### **Miscellaneous Business**

- A first draft of an updated nuisance ordinance was reviewed and questions answered by Mrs. Briggs. Council members and citizens offered recommendations which will be taken under advisement. Mrs. Briggs will make the changes and send a second draft to the Council
- As per Ordinance 2006-2 the trash fees with Waste Management were increased in September. The rate will increased by 25¢ to \$11.00 effective with the utility bills to be mailed October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The town's web page is being updated with the "175<sup>th</sup> Story" and a picture gallery. The link to the former Camden Elementary will be taken down until it can be update to the Early Childhood Center.
- Nine citizens have expressed an interest in sidewalk improvements. Applications for the fall round will be accepted until September 24.
- A few homeowners need reminded to keep their property in order. The marshal is to prepare a list for Mrs. Briggs to send letters.
- Lee Click asked the Council if they would allow a trailer to be set on property he owns behind Pizza King for a limited time should someone be interested in doing so while a new home is built there. Mr. Click stated he was allowed to have a trailer while his home was built knowing a deadline was set for removal of the unit. The Council will work with Mr. Click with the understanding the trailer would be temporary and the likely deadline for removal of the trailer would be one year. Mr. Click is to keep the Council informed of the prospect as the Council offered only their opinion and not a motion. Discussion was also held on

installing a larger than normal water line to the property to allow for more homes in the future. The issue was left open and no final decision was made.

- INDOT will hold a meeting on the Hoosier Heartland September 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 at the DCHS Theater.
- Mr. Robison is working with Jerry's Signs for noise signs and new town entrance signs.
- Mr. Sieber is very pleased with the new Camden Queen and Court. They are very involved in Community events and promoting Camden.
- Council was asked to address the issue of "horse droppings" and how other communities handle the problem.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 by a motion from Mrs. Everett.

Camden Town Council

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Peter F. Wagoner, President

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Andrew Robison, Member

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Michele Everett, Member

ATTEST:

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P.A. Casserly  
Clerk-Treasurer