

The Regular Meeting of the Kirklin Town Council was held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Kirklin Town Hall.

The meeting was opened by Tara Walker, Clerk-Treasurer. On the call of the roll, the following Town Council Members were present: Brent Stetler, Jerry Faucett, Walt Minnick, Melinda Jobe and Craig Hudzinski.

Also present were: Billy Walker, Brendon Bright, Lewis Wheeler, Hope Wheeler, Nick Light, Tammy Danner, Jeff Danner, Brandon McCann, Mary King, Jay Hawley, Jay Moore and Kim Deck.

The Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer were led by Melinda Jobe.

**MINUTES** – The Minutes from the Town Council Meeting held on February 12, 2024 were approved as written.

**KIRKLIN MARSHAL** – Brendon Bright provided the council with three quotes from Axon Enterprise for new tasers, car cameras, and body cameras. The current equipment they have is several years old. Each quote was for a 5-year contract and includes everything needed plus installation and warranty. It also includes a more secure connection and wireless cloud upload capability among many other benefits. He stated that the Clinton County Prosecutor, Anthony Sommer, has agreed to pay for the entire first year for Kirklin at a cost of \$8,168.26. There is no guarantee that the prosecutor's office will be able to contribute for the remaining contract years, however there is a good possibility. Jerry Faucett made a motion to approve and have all three contracts signed for the five-year agreements. The motion was supported by Brent Stetler and it passed with a unanimous vote.

**MARY KING** – As part of the current Clinton County Council, Mary King introduced herself to those in attendance and highlighted her experience as the Kirklin Clerk-Treasurer for 32 years. She is a candidate for the Clinton County Council At-Large in the upcoming May election to continue serving Clinton County. She stated that she has gravitated towards the small communities in Clinton County as part of the county council as she has a strong background in local government. She was part of the development of the current Kirklin Main Street and is familiar with funding sources for projects, among other things. She wanted the council to know that she and the county council are there to reach out to if they can possibly be of assistance.

**TAMMY DANNER** – Tammy Danner introduced herself to the council and those in attendance as a candidate for the Clinton County Council At-Large. She stated that she is a lifelong resident of Clinton County and was raised in the Kirklin area. She gave a brief overview of her family and extended the offer to ask her any questions about her they may have. She stated that she is not afraid to use her voice, ask questions, or to really dig into issues. In closing, she provided the council with a pamphlet for her candidacy explaining what she is advocating for and some of her accomplishments.

**BRANDON'S BURGERS** – Brandon McCann introduced himself as the owner of Brandon's Burgers and gave a brief background of himself and his business. He was in attendance to ask that he be permitted to set his food truck up in Kirklin two Sundays per month from 4:00pm to 7:00pm in front of the fire department on Main Street. He stated that his goal is to provide high quality food and good service and that he gives back to the various communities he sells in. He pointed to several examples of how he has done that. He stated that his mission is not to interfere with other local food businesses. Jay Moore informed the council of what is required by our ordinance for him to sell in town as a non-resident, including the payment of a \$25.00 non-refundable license fee issued by the town plus \$3 for each additional person(s). Craig Hudzinski, who owns Rise and Brew Coffee in Kirklin, expressed concern regarding his coffee shop's lunches being affected. Brandon offered to set up on a temporary basis to see how it may affect them and also offered to change his hours to 5:00pm to 8:00pm if it was preferred. After a brief discussion regarding the inability to clearly see cross-traffic when at the stop sign by the fire department if there are vehicles parked in the first few parking spaces along US 421, it was decided that he would be permitted to set up in the town-owned gravel lot on the northwest corner of US 421 and Hwy

38 where the water tower is located. Melinda Jobe made a motion to approve Brandon McCann to provide his certificates to Tara Walker, Clerk-Treasurer, the information required by our ordinance on an application she will provide, pay the non-refundable license fee of \$25.00 plus \$3.00 for additional employees, and to set up in Kirklin on a temporary basis for two months at which time it can be re-visited and possibly be changed to a longer-term approval. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it carried with a unanimous vote.

**WASTEWATER PROJECT** – Commonwealth Engineering provided an e-mailed update prior to the meeting regarding our sewer project. He stated that they are still in the early stages of the Sewer Rehab design and are going through the CCTV videos/logs and data from Fluid Waste Services to finalize a prioritization of sewer line rehabilitation work. They are also going through prior manhole and smoke testing results and remain on schedule. They have assisted with a letter response to IDEM regarding their most recent inspection report associated with our collection system, recapping the progress made to date to combat our wet weather inflow and infiltration issues. Letters have been sent out from Jay's office to private property owners to correct their sewer deficiencies. Billy Walker stated that he has been very busy the past couple of weeks fielding calls from residents who received a letter and meeting with them to discuss what their report means, informs them of why the town has to do this project, how it benefits the residents when they repair their issues, and going over any options they may have to rectify their situation. Residents must call him when they're issues are fixed for an inspection. After 45 days, any residents that have not made contact will be given to Jay for him to proceed to the next step. Billy stated that most residents have been very cooperative thus far.

**PARK BOARD** – Kim Deck stated that the bathroom door lock damaged last year will be replaced at a cost of around \$700.00 and believes that there is a need for cameras at the park. Craig Hudzinski suggested Blink cameras as they are inexpensive. Kim replied that the park board does not want to monitor them. She reported that Tonia Asher will be hosting an Easter egg hunt on March 30<sup>th</sup> and the bathrooms will be open but will not officially open for the season until April 1<sup>st</sup>. She said that the cost of the pavilion and building rentals will remain at \$50.00 and \$75.00, respectively, and that Jennifer Dunn will be responsible for the park rental scheduling through e-mail. Melinda Jobe recommended the park have a five-year plan before doing any other projects like they wanted previously. With a grant, Melinda said that the budget they have now can be spent other ways to make their funds stretch further. Tara Walker asked if the park board plans to put in any new playground equipment. Kim stated that those are too costly but they may be able to do small things. She reported that the park board wants to make things nice but that they do not have the time for that type of venture needed for a larger project. Walt Minnick questioned where the walking path stands. Kim replied that they have received one quote but need a couple more and that it will be 8' wide and ¾ mile long. Kim thanked Billy for building the picnic tables for the park and for removing the fence.

**DRAINAGE ISSUES** – There were no new storm drain issues for the Town of Kirklin to report at this time.

**UTILITY SUPERINTENDENT** – Billy Walker provided the Town Council with a written report prior to the meeting. He reported that there were no customer complaints or leaks for this reporting period and that they will be flushing hydrants later this month. He reported the resident at 402 W. Jefferson St. had a clogged line and that their plumber informed Billy that it must be the Town's line since he could not unclog it. Billy contacted Fluid Waste and they jetted the Town's line twice to ensure our line was not the issue however the customer's line remain clogged. He also reported that Fluid Waste has completed their work in town. Billy informed the council that disinfection season begins April 1<sup>st</sup> and they are making preparations for it. Billy met with Porter Roofing regarding the roof and gutter replacement on the maintenance building and the roof on the park pavilion and they are still dealing with the insurance company on the pricing of the metal roofs.

**DUKE ENERGY** – Billy reported that he has been in contact with Duke Energy regarding replacing our yellow street lights to white LED's. Duke is offering a program that will save the Town money each month as well as

offering a rebate. He stated that there is no cost to the Town and that eventually we will be forced to do this so it makes sense to do it while there are promotions available to save the Town money. Tara Walker pointed out that while she does anticipate some savings with this program, the language Duke provides states there are some variables involved so the exact amount of savings is not yet known. Tara anticipates the new LED lights to last longer than the ones currently used and, since they are typically brighter, should be safer.

**INDIANA BROWNFIELDS CONFERENCE** – Billy attended the conference in Kokomo on March 6<sup>th</sup> which was hosted by North Central Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NCIRPC). The NCIRPC has a grant that can help communities test and remediate blighted and contaminated properties. There is no cost to the town or a property owner to have their property assessed and remediated. Three properties in Kirklin were discussed; the vacant lot across from the fire department, the lot on the corner of S Main St and W Monroe St., and the old Marathon gas station. He stated that the NCIRPC is already dealing with two of them and are awaiting owner permission to enter the property to test and remediate.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT – ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS** - Nick Light reported that currently when they issue an ordinance violation, it goes to Jay and he files a lawsuit. He stated that if we set up an Ordinance Violation Bureau, and enter into interlocal agreements with the City of Frankfort and the Frankfort City Council, violators would be given two options. The first one would be to pay their fine directly in the Kirklin Clerk-Treasurers office. Their other option, should they not want to pay their fine but instead plead not guilty, would be to go through Frankfort's City Court. If they then do not show up or it's declared a mistrial, it would then revert to the original way we do it now in that it would go to Jay Moore and he would file a lawsuit. With these options, it would offer a violator a way to avoid court costs if they simply just wish to pay their fine at Town Hall. In addition, it is a way to keep people aware of our ordinances to keep the town looking nice. He said that infractions would still go through Superior Court. **PIT BULLS** – Jerry Faucett asked Nick about our ordinance banning pit bulls. Nick stated that without some sort of test from a veterinarian proving their breed, the ordinance is difficult to enforce. After further discussion regarding the types of breeds currently banned by our ordinances, Jay Moore stated that we can amend the current ordinance banning specific breeds and add additional language regarding dogs running loose as well as aggressive dogs. Nick Light will work on changes to the ordinance language. Melinda Jobe made a motion to approve Jay Moore to investigate and prepare rough drafts for the council to review regarding the creation of an Ordinance Violation Bureau as well as interlocal agreements with the City of Frankfort and the Frankfort City Council. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and it carried with a unanimous vote.

**CLERK-TREASURER** – Tara Walker provided the following reports to the Town Council prior to the meeting for month ending February 29, 2024: Revenue, Appropriations, Payroll Allowance Docket, Adjustment Register, the Accounts Payable Register and Fund with Monthly Bank Statement of Reconciled Accounts. There were no questions concerning the reports. The Town Council signed the Payroll Allowance Docket, the Adjustment Register, and the Accounts Payable Register. Melinda Jobe reviewed and signed the bank statements as well as the Monthly Statement of Reconciled Accounts. Tara presented the council with additional claims that arrived after the Accounts Payable Register was already closed and printed. Melinda Jobe made a motion to approve the following invoices: Duke Energy, \$819.86; Fluid Waste Services, \$881.25; IDEXX, \$794.46; IN State Dept of Health, \$126.50; Marion Chronicle Tribune, \$222.73; Minute Print It, \$82.22; and, Smith Trash Service, \$3040.00. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it passed with a unanimous vote. **LEAK ADJUSTMENTS** – Three leak adjustments were presented. Brent Stetler made a motion to approve the following adjustments: Jim Thatcher, \$74.04; Keeleigh Bessler, \$129.87; and Janet Baber, \$167.84. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and it passed with the following votes: Brent Stetler, yes; Walt Minnick, yes; Melinda Jobe, yes; and Craig Hudzinski, yes; Jerry Faucett, abstained. **MISC** – Tara Walker informed the council that a credit card has been issued in the town's name by The Farmer's Bank. She also informed the members that the cost of our worker's comp has risen. Tara has hired a Utility Clerk who will be starting on April 1. She said that Town Hall will once again be a

Voting Center and that early voting is May 4 and Election Day is May 7. She will be contacting Smith Trash Service to request quotes and available dates for a townwide clean up day in June. Tara asked Jay what she can do about some older computer hardware. Craig Hudzinski stated that Document Mountain may shred it for us for free and he will check with the owner. Melinda Jobe stated that her employer may shred it for us for free as well.

**WALT MINNICK** – Walt stated that he believes we should increase the cost of our community center rental and Tara agreed. She stated that we have many amenities and that it has only been \$50.00 plus tax for a long time. Tara stated she will be getting quotes for floor cleaning and Melinda Jobe stated that the higher cost will help offset that. A motion was made by Brent Stetler to raise the rental cost of the community center to \$100.00 plus tax. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it carried with a unanimous vote. Tara Walker wanted it known that those who already have a date rented for this year would only be charged the original amount.

**MELINDA JOBE** – Melinda stated that she sent out bid specs and a bid form to landscapers for monthly maintenance but only received one quote back. After a brief discussion, Brent Stetler made a motion to approve the bid from Platinum Landscapes in the amount of \$3,000.00 for monthly landscaping maintenance between April 1 – October 31. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it carried with a unanimous vote.

Seeing no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

  
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Melinda Jobe, Town Council President