

The regular meeting of the Kirklin Town Council was held on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 7:00PM at Kirklin Town Hall.

On the call of the roll the following Council Members were present: Jerry Faucett, Melinda Jobe, Walt Minnick, and Brent Stetler. Absent was Jennifer Bowman.

Also present were: Billy Walker, Brendon Bright, Kat Bell, Tara Walker & Jay Moore.

The meeting was called to order by Walt Minnick.

Melinda Jobe led with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

MINUTES – There were no additions or corrections to the December 13th and December 27th Council Meeting Minutes and they were approved as written.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT – A vote was taken to elect officers for 2022. Brent Stetler made a motion to nominate Melinda Jobe for Council President. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett. The votes were as follows: Brent Stetler, yes; Jerry Faucett, yes, Walt Minnick, yes; and Melinda Jobe, abstain. Jerry Faucett then nominated Brent Stetler for Council Vice President. The vote was seconded by Melinda Jobe. The votes were as follows: Jerry Faucett, yes; Melinda Jobe, yes; Walt Minnick, yes; Brent Stetler, abstain.

APC UPDATE – Kat Bell from the Area Plan Commission was in attendance to give a quick update. She stated that the 2021 end of year report will be done next month. She also stated that APC has received a response from all towns except for Rossville regarding the towns meeting together. She understands that Rossville will be where they will meet since they are the largest of the towns but she does not yet know the date. Jay Moore explained that small towns vote for someone to sit on the planning commission. Jerry Faucett asked Kat if anyone had contacted them yet regarding 201 S. Ohio St. about the trash and junk around the house since the owners moved out. Jerry Faucett as well as Melinda Jobe stated that they have both received complaints about it. Kat stated that she will check into it.

SEWER AND TRASH RATES – The council had a discussion regarding raising the current trash rate in the amount of \$1.00 and possibly raising the sewer rate 5 – 10% as well. Tara Walker explained that the current amount showing as of the end of December is a combination of both the operating fund as well as the depreciation amount that we put into it monthly. She stated that it is mostly depreciation in the account and that the operating fund is but a small portion of what is in there. Billy Walker explained that the items on the depreciation list include replacement, repair and maintenance of high value items. He explained that the operational budget portion of the account basically takes care of the mundane day-to-day operations. Melinda Jobe asked Billy what his recommendation is. He stated that he and Mary King had discussed it but recognizes that price increases are not a popular subject but are sometimes needed and we are seeing the effect of Covid on the economy. Tara Walker informed the council that each time we do a rate change we are charged by our software provider, Keystone, to make those changes in our system. Jerry Faucett asked if the increase would be on the minimum usage. Tara Walker stated that our current rate is \$35.85 for the first 2000 gallons of usage. After that, it is a declining rate, and that while the increase would affect everyone, it is the high usage residents and businesses who would feel it the most. Billy stated that the rate study done by Steve Brock a few years ago was based on 5 years and it has now been 4 years since then. Walt Minnick made a motion to increase the trash rate \$1.00 per household and raise the sewer rate 10% but not to have another increase for at least 3 or 4 years. He doesn't want to do a smaller increase now only to come back next year and have to increase it again. Melinda Jobe supported the motion. Jerry Faucett and Brent Stetler did not support it therefore the motion did not carry. Jerry stated that he believes 10% is too much, especially for the ones that are struggling. He is not against the \$1.00 trash rate increase as that is what Smith Trash Service raised it for on our new contract with them. Jay stated that it would be helpful to the council if they could see how much the rate increases would affect the cost based on varying possible percentages. Melinda stated that she would like Mary to bring some amounts for the council to see at February's meeting. Walt Minnick asked if it would be beneficial to get Steve Brock's opinion on it. Billy responded that he believes that Mr. Brock is on the February agenda already but that it is expensive if he were to do another rate study for the town. Ultimately, after all discussion, it was decided that Jay Moore would draft an ordinance for a \$1.00 increase to our trash rate and will leave the percentage blank for the sewer increase so that the amount can be decided on later by the council. Jay stated that at the February meeting they could conduct the first reading and then do the second reading in March.

TOWN CLEAN UP DAY – A small discussion was had regarding town clean up day on that Smith Trash Service has available for June 18th, 2022. Ed Smith has stated that collection will begin at 8:00am due to the landfill closing at noon on Saturday. Their plan is to use 3 trucks that day.

PARK/RECREATION BOARD – There were no board members in attendance to give an update. Billy Walker stated that the Little League needs to clean up the park and that he notified Danielle Richie about it a few weeks ago but that it has been cold outside which may be why nothing has been done.

DONNA WEBER PROPERTY – Billy Walker stated that he is waiting on Hause Surveying to provide him with a corrected survey because on the previous one, they put the east/west portion of the survey in the wrong area. He stated that the guy who did it is in the hospital right now and that the business is trying to get him someone that can send him a corrected one.

UTILITY DEPARTMENT – Water – Billy Walker reported that the 4th quarter TTHM/HAA5 sample that was taken in late December has passed again for the 3rd quarter in a row. His report also stated that the year-end report to the Department of Natural Resources for water withdrawal has been completed and submitted. **Sewer** – Winter cleanup at the sewer plant is complete and included, but was not limited to, the stair aerator, the UV chamber, the tertiary clarifier and the Aero-Mod clarifiers. Some repairs were done on the skimmers in the Aero-Mod plant. The electrical storm that came through in December did some damage. In addition to the Mission Alarm System, a surge suppressor for the auger screen was shorted out, not allowing it to run. And the VFD (Variable Frequency Drive) for Blower #1 was basically melted. BL Anderson came and repaired the Mission Alarm System and the auger screen surge component and also ordered a new VFD for Blower #1, which has not been delivered yet. The repairs, when all completed, will be an insurance claim. TN Technical came on January 6, 2022 to calibrate the influent and effluent flow meters which is required annually by IDEM. **Streets** - Billy Walker stated that the John Deere zero turn mower has been repaired and returned but when Reynolds Farm Equipment got into the repairs, they notice more that needed to be replaced than originally thought in that it also needed the axles replaced that hold the front and deck wheels. The original invoice approved was in the amount of \$2625.93. The new invoice with the additional repairs included is \$2882.66 for a difference of \$256.73. Melinda Jobe made a motion to approve the new invoice amount of \$2882.66 for Reynolds Farm Equipment. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and it carried with a unanimous vote. He also reported that snowplows are ready to be used if needed and will be getting some salt brine when the business he gets it from has time to meet with him. Also, he stated that everything for the Community Crossing Matching Grant has been approved and that we are awaiting the money from INDOT and waiting to hear from E & B Paving as to when we are projected to be on the schedule. One stipulation that was added to the contract was that the job is to be completed by May 31, 2022. **Storm** – Billy met with Commonwealth Engineering to discuss possible avenues to repair and replace storm drains around town. They also discussed smoke testing to possibly identify illegal connections between storm and sanitary drain lines to hopefully help reduce our I & I issue. He has asked Commonwealth to supply him with companies that perform smoke testing so that he can try to get prices to know how much the town is looking at for that. He also asked them to put a preliminary plan of attack together as IDEM needs for us to show a good faith effort and a plan of action to begin eliminating the I & I issue in town. They will also provide him with information regarding the ARP funding and other avenues of funding that may be coming up. Billy stated that we are not yet eligible again for an OCRA grant because we have two active ones already and we won't be eligible again for about 3 more years. Billy would like to ask Commonwealth to attend a future council meeting, provided the council is interested, so that they can give information in more detail. Melinda Jobe stated she would be interested in finding out more information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Brendan Bright stated that he has started to work on getting quotes for some sort of storage for equipment for the truck. He is also going to begin working on a quote for the office computer as it is old and slow. Melinda stated that she was pleased to see an officer on duty in the morning one day.

RESOLUTION #2022-1-1 – A reading of the resolution was performed by Melinda Jobe regarding the encumbrance from the 2021 Budget to be spent in the Budget year 2022 due to an MPH Industries – Speedgun Pro Handheld Radar in the amount of \$1,219.00 being ordered in 2021, but has not yet been delivered. Melinda Jobe made the motion to pass Resolution #2022-1-1. The motion was supported by Brent Stetler and it passed with a unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION #2022-1-2 – A reading of the resolution was performed by Melinda Jobe regarding the authorization of a \$5,000 donation to Kirklin Main Street. Walt Minnick made the motion to pass Resolution #2022-1-2. The motion was supported by Melinda Jobe and it passed with a unanimous vote.

CLERK-TREASURER – Revenue & Appropriation Reports for December 31, 2021, Billing Adjustment Register for month ending December 29, 2021, Current Register of Claims, Statement of Reconciled Accounts for month ending December 31, 2021, W/ Fund Report were given to the Town Council for review. There were no questions or comments concerning the reports. The Billing Adjustment Register and Register of Claims were signed by all Council Members. Walt Minnick and Mary King signed the Statement of Reconciled Accounts Report.

Minutes recorded by Tara Walker. Mary King was absent due to vacation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Melinda Jobe, Council President