

Minutes

Camden Town Council

Regular Meeting

January 9, 2007

The regular meeting of the Camden Town Council was called to order by Vice-President Andy Robison. Present were Members Peter Wagoner, Michele Everett, Clerk-Treasurer Pat Casserly, attorney Anne Briggs and eleven guests.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Vice-President Robison explained that following the death of Mr. Rohrbaugh, the Democratic Chairperson, Dick Roe, was responsible for the filling of the council position. Several citizens expressed an interest in the position and desire to help the town. A review of the qualifications led to the appointment of Mr. Wagoner on January 2nd. Mr. Robison welcomed Mr. Wagoner to the council and thanked him for his willingness to serve.

Mr. Robison called for an election of officers for 2007. The position of Vice President was filled through 2007 and will continue to be held by Mr. Robison. Mr. Robison made the motion to elect Mr. Wagoner Council President. This was seconded by Mrs. Everett and passed.

Mr. Wagoner took control of the meeting and opened with a statement of how he will conduct the town's business. The meeting format will be maintained and all town business will be carried out as efficiently and effectively as possible. The public is welcome to attend, listen and record the meeting. From time to time comments may be solicited on specific issues. Time will be allowed at the end of each meeting for miscellaneous business.

Clerk-Treasurer Casserly read "Resolution 2007-A Memorial Resolution for Ralph J. Rohrbaugh" formally recognizing the years of service rendered and expressing sympathy to his family.

The minutes of the December 27th meeting were approved by Andy, seconded by Michele. The January docket was also approved by a motion from Andy, seconded by Michele.

Outstanding Checks

The Clerk-Treasurer presented a list of checks outstanding and unpaid for a period of two years as of December 31st. Per statute the checks are to be declared void and receipted back into the funds from which they were drawn. General Fund check was for \$613.00, Water Fund check was for \$14.60 and Wastewater Fund checks (3) totaled \$21.25.

TDS Office Closing

The Council approved a draft letter to Mr. Wittwer, President of TDS Telecom, expressing their disappointment at the closing of the business office. The letter will be sent with the packet of citizens' petitions.

Grant Updates

Ken Smith of Municipal Civil Corp reviewed the wastewater project for the Council. The proposal will be submitted on Friday by Amy Miller of Cornerstone Grants Management. Application will be submitted by March 15th and awards announced towards the end of May. The PER has been approved for the loan which will be needed to complete the finance package.

The final inspection for the Indiana Housing Grant recipients will be January 18th. It was reported back to the Council that those who took part in the current program felt the experience was positive. Several parties have expressed an interest in the applying for another round if a successful grant can be obtained. Names are being taken at the town office for those interested in attending a meeting to learn of qualifications. The date for the meeting has not yet been determined but will be arranged once twenty homeowners are registered.

Appointments Announced

The following appointments were announced:

Bob Overman to County EDC Board for one year

Richard Fite to County Emergency Mgmt Commission for one year

Chuck Foreman to County E911 Commission for one year

Diane Wertz to Camden-Jackson Twp. Public Library Board, four years

Other committees will continue with their appointments for the balance of terms:

Pat Baker on County Board of Appeals, one year

Peter Wagoner on Area Plan Commission, one year

The position of Animal Control Board is still vacant.

175th Celebration

New black and gold banners were installed along Main Street announcing Camden's 175th Celebration. Jeff Sieber, Celebration President, stated meetings would be held in

January and then be in March, May and more often in June and July. The question was asked concerning Camden High School's reunion. A reunion will be held in Rockfield for the classes from 1960 – 1965 but a full reunion will not be held. Andy reported the Masonic Lodge will celebrate its 150th Year in 2007 and their rededication may be arranged for the same weekend as the 175th.

Problem Properties

Deputy Marshal John Chapman reported to the Council there are numerous properties within the corporate limits that are in violation of the nuisance ordinances in the trash and junk cars maintained. A list of nineteen addresses was given to the Council for consideration and directions on proceeding. Attorney Briggs stated a letter would be sent to get the process started. Two weeks will be allowed to clean up and a tracking system will be implemented to assure follow up is completed. Citizens in attendance expressed support for cleaning the community and felt it would be a great improvement. Jeff Sieber expressed the opinion that there are properties that could be cleaned up to improve the appearance of the town for the celebrations this summer. Richard Fite stated he would try to get a copy of another town's ordinance for comparison to Camden's ordinance. The general opinion expressed was that people who keep their property well maintained should not have to put up with neighbors who failed to maintain a minimum standard. Andy answered questions posed about a house on Main Street that was destroyed by fire. The owner contacted Anne and the Council this week. She reported the insurance issues are resolved and it will soon be torn down. Pete concluded by stating legal action may be required on some properties.

Miscellaneous Business

1. Financial statements from the water and wastewater departments were distributed to the council members and reviewed.
2. The emergency siren is now remotely controlled by the County's Emergency Management and will be tested the first Saturday of the month. The recent test was too long in most citizens' opinion so a request will be made to find a way to shorten the test to 30 or 60 seconds.
3. A "Home Town Matters" meeting will be conducted January 16th at 7:00 pm at the Flora Senior Center. Randy Strasser arranged the open meeting through IACT.
4. Judy Peters requested a second adjustment to her mother's water bill. Helen Simmerman had two unrelated leaks within twelve months. Being as the leaks have been repaired and lines replaced, the Council approved the request.
5. An inquiry was sent asking if the Council would be interested in meeting with the Jackson Twp. Trustee and Advisory Board to discuss issues of mutual

concern. The Council felt such action would be beneficial and arrangements will be made.

6. An old medicine bottle from the office of “Drs. Kennedy” located in the Masonic Temple was found in a wall of a house being renovated on Indiana Street. The bottle was donated and will be placed in the Camden Museum.
7. Thanks were extended to all the people who volunteered to serve on the various Boards and Commissions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Camden Town Council

Peter F. Wagoner, President

Andrew Robison, Member

Michele Everett, Member

ATTEST:

P.A. Casserly
Clerk-Treasurer