

The regular meeting of the Kirklin Town Council was held on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Kirklin Town Hall.

On the Call of the Roll, the following Council Members were found to be present: Jennifer Bowman, Jerry Faucett, Melinda Jobe, Walt Minnick, and Brent Stetler.

Physically present at the meeting were Phil McRobert, Tanessa Curry, Kat Bell, Jay Moore, & Mary King. Present by phone for at least a portion of the meeting were Shawnee Metzinger, Brendon Bright, Billy Walker, Tara Walker, & LuAnn Schoen.

ELECT TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT - The meeting was called to order by Mary King, Clerk-Treasurer. She asked if there were nominations for the position of Town Council President. After discussion and the determination that no other members were interested in either the Council President or Vice President, a motion was made by Jerry Faucett to retain Walt Minnick as President and Melinda Jobe as Vice President. The motion was supported by Jennifer Bowman and carried with a unanimous vote.

Walt Minnick then officially called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

MINUTES – Seeing no corrections to the Minutes, they were approved as written.

METZINGER PROPERTY – Shawnee Metzinger stated that she wanted to report that they are cleaning up their property. She asked if the Town Council had anything else they wanted to discuss. Walt Minnick reminded her that, in the Purchase Agreement when the town sold them the Ross Street property, it states that an access easement for the town will be put in along the west boundary of the property. Shawnee asked if the town would be willing to change the location. Walt said that we would not since an easement for a storm line is also included. In reviewing documents that Jay Moore has with him, it appears that there was a separate agreement for the storm sewer line, but the copy he had was not signed by the Metzinger's. Jay said that he would investigate the issue further. Walt Minnick asked if they understood the Burning Ordinance. Shawnee apologized and said that the burning would not happen again. She said that she noticed that there is some residual smoke, but that they have not added anything or relit it.

SEWER CONNECTION – Tanessa (Charles) Curry, 505 E. Pike Street explained that they were one of the only people who have not connected to the town sewer. She presented quotes from McCreary Concrete Products for \$5,445.23 for the grinder station and a quote from White Oak Construction for \$26,620.00 to disconnect the septic system, pump it out and fill with pea gravel. She did not have a written quote but received a verbal quote from On Point in the amount of \$23,960.00 for the same work. She stated that the previous owners did not want to use any realtors when they purchased the property in 2017, and they were only told at the title company when they were getting ready to sign that they would be required to tie on to the town sewer system. They did not think the expense would be that great at the time maybe \$5,000.00, then they found out that there was an elevation issue, and a lift station would be needed. She was very emotional while explaining that her family runs a small business and it has been rough since COVID hit, and there is no way they can afford these expenses. She asked that they grandfather in their septic. Walt Minnick suggested that she check with Mike Henry who has done a lot of work for the town. Jerry recalls hooking people up out there being brought up 30 years ago when Johnny Walker was Town Supt. He had run tests with lasers and said that we needed a lift station to do that and that it was too big of an expense. Jerry said that when the annexations were discussed, he told the Board that they would need a lift station out there to do that last house. He said the reply was if we need one, we need one. Jerry Faucett does not think the resident should be required to pay for the lift station. He said that the annexation was done to qualify for more grants and such and that Randy Weaver, who was the Council President said the town would take care of that (the lift station). Jerry said that the customer needs to hook to the lift station and the town needs to maintain it and she should not have to pay the electricity or anything else for the lift station. Brent Stetler feels that since no other customers have to pay for a lift station, this is unfair to her. Jerry said that the estimates she was given for the rest of the work seem very high, but that everybody is high right now. Melinda Jobe wanted to clarify why the annexation occurred. She said that she was on the Town Council during the annexation process and the reason the property was annexed is because they were already receiving town water service. Annexation had nothing to do with applying for grants. She said that thought process might have been somebody else's but it was not hers. Mary King stated that the annexations do not have any effect on the town getting grants. A brief discussion was had about the possibility of de-annexation if the issue cannot be resolved. Melinda Jobe questioned if this is an issue that could be tabled for now. Billy said that there are a lot more options out there. He said there is going to have to be a lift station put in, but the prices and the companies she received quotes from are totally outrageous in price. He said what would need to be installed is a very small residential type of lift station that holds 200-400 gallons with a small grinder pump and can be installed by one man. It would need to have 1 1/2" line coming out of it and 4" line going out of it. He said some towns, based on topography, require every house to have a grinder pump. He can look into pricing. Jerry has concerns for if the power goes out and does not feel like there is anything good in this for the Curry's. Melinda Jobe made a motion to table the issue until further investigation. Jay should back off any further action with this matter until he receives further direction. Tanessa said that last year her husband had gotten a

quote that was around \$13,000.00 and was a verbal quote but she does not recall the name of the company and was unable to find the quote. She stated that she would not even have \$13,000.00. Jerry Faucett supported the motion, and it was carried with a unanimous vote.

WATER CONNECTION – Phil McRobert, 310 W. Jefferson Street, introduced himself and explained that he has completed the sewer portion of his tap on requirement, but has not completed the water. He explained that the issue is in general a water meter is normally brought to within 10 ft. of a property line. His water meter has been installed on Mike Anderson's property. The first issue he has is just to run the line from where the meter is installed to his property is 160 ft. and he would have to excavate three properties just to get to his. Those properties belong to Mike Anderson, Linda Ward, and the alleyway. He said that he intends to connect this spring and has been in contact with Billy because he intends to do the project himself to cut costs. He had to run the sewer line over 225 ft. He said that the major issue with connecting to the water meter is where the meter is located. Billy said that when they installed that water meter for McRoberts future use, they installed it next to Linda Wards meter by the highway (Jefferson Street). Jay Moore said that he does not have any right to go across someone else's property. Jerry Faucett said that needs to be corrected before it goes any further. We cannot expect Mr. McRobert to be responsible if there were a leak between the meter and his property. Jay said that we need to move the meter on to Mr. McRoberts property in a reasonable location. Mary King would be curious to know why they did not set the meter off of Perry Street since the resident owns all the way to Perry. Billy said that whenever Mr. McRobert is ready to work on his portion, Billy can coordinate with him to do what the town needs to do. Mary King also questioned if a line could be ran from the park. Billy said that there is no water main at the park. Jerry mentioned all that you could run into at the park trying to trench since the old school is buried there. Billy said that they can stay in the alleyway and off of both other properties. He can decide which side of the driveway he would like the meter placed. Jay said that we should discuss how we will continue to bill for sewer since he doesn't have a water meter. We have billed for the past two months at 4,000 gallons since that is what the state considers "average" consumption. Since only Phil and his wife live in the home, a motion was made by Melinda Jobe that we have Phil McRoberts go ahead and pay the \$131.00 presently due, then not invoice again for two months and then start again at the minimum 2,400 gallons. Jennifer Bowman supported the motion and it was carried with a unanimous vote.

AREA PLAN COMMISSION – Kat said that she felt like anything that she had to discuss about the Metzinger property had already been addressed. She said that Liz had wanted to be sure to note that if the Curry's septic system fails, the Health Department will require that they tap on to the town sewer because they are within 300 ft. of a sewer. Also, if they come in for any type of building permit that requires a septic review, until they are hooked up to the sewer, that will come in as a factor, i.e. adding a bathroom or more bedrooms. Kat said that they had sent a letter concerning the unsafe structure. Jerry Faucett said that they have started but with little progress. He showed a current photo of the structure. He said that it could be cleaned up within a couple of hours. The North end is coming away from the plates. Jerry thinks that a local scrap dealer would come in and clean it up for the metal and beams. Jay said that he would call and talk to Randy. Walt Minnick expressed concerns about the number of vehicles parked at John Roberts (505 E. Jefferson Street). Mary King said that he operates a business with a Home Occupation permit. Kat will take a look at the property in question.

STREETSCAPE PROJECT – Drew Braley with Browning Day provided an updated schedule for the downtown streetscape project which details the start date and when each aspect of the project is estimated to begin. The estimated start date is March 15th, and the plan is to begin on the east side of the highway first. There were no current invoices to approve.

UTILITY SUPERINTENDENT – Billy Walker provided the Council with a monthly report prior to the meeting. Billy said that the Water Plant is operating smoothly, but that he is trying to keep things thawed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The 4" water main running to the WWTP busted and was repaired on December 28th. Peerless Midwest has performed flow tests and calibrations on the wells and high service pumps at the water plant as part of our free warranty services. Graves Plumbing repaired two valves on the filter system at the water plant, also covered under warranty work. Billy reported that following the TTHM/HAA5 3rd qtr. violation discussed last month, he submitted another water sample for the 4th qtr. in December. Those results were significantly lower, but still higher than IDEM wants, but the locational running annual average, which is what the violation was, those results were significantly lower. IDEM was notified and no further action is needed at this time. The next round of tests is due in March. The analysis done by Water Solutions Unlimited found that the feed system at the Water Treatment Plant was doing well and responding to water treatment as needed. Billy has given Darren Wells with GRW Engineering all sampling results and chlorine residual results for the past 3 years to analyze and determine alternative disinfection processes if needed. The only other option is to use chloramines to kill the ammonia in our raw water, but this treatment comes with other issues. IDEM will have the final say for any and all changes.

SAFETY GRANT - We should receive the funds from the IPEP safety grant soon. **COMMUNITY CROSSINGS GRANT** - The grant agreement was signed by Walt Minnick for the Community Crossings Grant on Dec. 28th and submitted to INDOT for processing on Dec. 29th. It could take up to six weeks for processing.

TOWN MARSHAL – Brendon Bright reported that he has ordered a body cam. They will all share one body cam until he can see if there are any grants available to purchase additional. He is getting ready to advertise for the position of a new Deputy. He and Brandon Garber assisted with the Santa parade put on by the Kirklin Volunteer Fire Dept. and it went very well.

LEAK ADJUSTMENTS – After review of the leak adjustment requests, a motion was made to accept and approve the following leak adjustment requests: Rebecca Bryant \$174.21, Cheryl McFarland \$169.38, and Burl Tharp carry-over leak in the amount of \$87.31. Jerry Faucett supported the motion, and it was carried with a unanimous vote. Tara Walker said that although the leak had stopped, she had to notify the Tharp's that she received another leak alert for them.

SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #2021-1-1 - Mary King explained that there was an error on the Salary Ordinance adopted last month and it was brought to her attention by Billy. The correct amount should be \$23.50, not \$24.00. Melinda Jobe made a motion to adopt the amendment to the 2021 Salary Ordinance to correct Billy Walker's pay to \$23.50 per hour. Brent Stetler supported the motion, and it was carried with a unanimous vote.

ENCUMBRANCE RESOLUTION # 2021-1-2 – Melinda Jobe made a motion to approve Encumbrance Resolution #2021-1-2 for the Kirklin Police Department. The motion was supported by Jennifer Bowman and carried with a unanimous vote.

CONTINUED COVID PAY FOR EMPLOYEES – The Council discussed the continuation of providing COVID pay for town employees, even though the federal mandate ended Dec. 31, 2020. Melinda Jobe made a motion to extend paying employees under the same guidelines as was provided in the CARES Act. This extension will expire sixty (60) days from January 1, 2021. Jerry Faucett supported the motion, and it was carried with a unanimous vote.

CLERK-TREASURER – Fund, Revenue, Appropriation Reports through December 31, 2020, Billing adjustment Register for month ending December 31, 2020 & the current Register of Claims were given to the Town Council for review prior to the meeting. There were no questions concerning the reports. The Register of Claims and the Billing Adjustment Register were signed by all Council Members.

BURNING ORDINANCE INFORMATION – Mary King had provided the Town Council with a link to the City of Frankfort's Burning Ordinance earlier in the day. The section of their ordinance that applies to fire pits state the following: physical dimensions of the fire cannot exceed three (3) ft. across and two (2) feet high. They also have a stipulation that you cannot burn within 50 ft. of a structure. No action was taken by the Council.

Seeing no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Walt Minnick 