

The regular meeting of the Kirklin Town Council was held on Monday, May 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at Kirklin Town Hall.

MEETING CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Melinda Jobe. Melinda opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. Melinda noted that going forward, any person who wishes to speak at a Town Council Meeting will need to be placed on the agenda seven days in advance of the Council Meeting, before the Agenda closes.

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

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Brendon Bright, Henry King, Amber Hendrickson, Patty Quick, Darren Wells, Maureen Hayden, Tonya Asher, Billy Walker, Jay Moore, and Mary King.

MINUTES – The Minutes from Town Council Meeting held on April 11, 2022, were approved as written.

WASTEWATER PROJECT – Darren Wells with Commonwealth Engineering gave an update on the development of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the wastewater project. The draft submission date is September 30, 2022, with the final PER submission due on November 9, 2022. He stated that it would be the end of July or into August before they would begin smoke testing and manhole inspections. They have to wait for dry weather. He also reminded the Council that those two items were not included in the PER contract. Commonwealth has hopes of leveraging help from Clinton County ARPA funds which might be able to cover some of the costs in the project. Maureen Hayden and Melinda Jobe has a meeting with the county ARPA Fund Committee tomorrow morning to discuss our project and any help the county might be able to give. Darren Wells estimates that the project will cost two-three million, but that is just a guess at this point.

DOWNTOWN LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE – Two proposals for maintenance of the downtown area were received. The following proposals were received: Dirty Hands Landscaping in the amount of \$1,750.00, and Smith's Lawn Care in the amount of \$8,268.00. There were concerns about the cost difference in the two bids, but everything in the specs appeared to be included in both bids. A motion was made by Brent Stetler to approve the proposal from Dirty Hands landscaping in the amount of \$1,750.00. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and carried with the following vote: Brent Stetler-yes, Jerry Faucett-yes, Walt Minnick-yes, Melinda Jobe-yes, Jennifer Bowman abstained.

BASKETBALL & TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURT IMPROVEMENT GRANT – Kim Deck has reached out to Amber Hendrickson and Mary King concerning the town applying for a grant to refurbish both the basketball and tennis courts. The tennis court would be painted and marked for pickleball as well. Mary King explained that when we had first been approached about applying for a grant, it was just to paint both courts. The project has now grown to a much larger scale to include fencing and possibly extending the tennis/pickleball court and Kim has asked if the town would be willing invest \$8,000.00 in the project from the 2023 Budget. Mary King also explained that if the Council agreed to apply for a grant and move forward with the project, a special fund would need to be set up to accept donations. Brent Stetler made a motion to apply for the grant and to commit \$8,000.00 to the project. Jennifer Bowman supported the motion, and it was carried with a unanimous vote. Mary King read Ordinance #2022-5-2 Establishing a Kirklin Park Court revitalization Fund out loud. A motion was made by Brent Stetler to approve Ordinance #2022-5-2 on first reading. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and carried with a unanimous vote. Brent Stetler made a motion to suspend the rules and approve Ordinance #2022-5-2 on second reading. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and carried with a unanimous vote. Brent Stetler made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2022-5-2 on second reading. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and carried with a unanimous vote.

KIRK'S CROSSING FESTIVAL – Tonia Asher gave the Town Council a flyer with the schedule of events for the Kirk's Crossing Festival. She explained that she is the new president of Kirk's Crossing, so she kept the format similar to last year. Tonia also wanted to be sure that the festival would have police

presence for the festival and blocking streets for the planned activities. Brendon Bright said that his department will provide coverage. The Town Council approved the Events Schedule with no formal vote taken.

PARK/RECREATION BOARD – Patty Quick expressed her apology on behalf of the Park Board for what took place at the previous meeting. Amber Hendrickson spoke about the breakfast that the Park Board has planned as a fundraiser on May 21st at the park. She discussed raffling off a Yeti cooler and cup during Kirk’s Crossing to benefit the park and asked for the best way to handle it. During the meeting it was decided that a local business would like to donate the money to purchase the items. This will alleviate using the park budget for purchasing the items or Amber needing to purchase the items then being reimbursed from raffle ticket sales. Amber reported that she has someone available and willing to move the ag-lime pile behind the ball diamond. The Council prefers to give the Recreation Board a chance to take care of it since they have already committed to removing it. The importance for Park Board Members to attend meetings, and the process of removing a Park Board Member for lack of attendance was discussed. Jay Moore said that the Town Council has the authority to remove a Park Board Member regardless of who the appointed them but can only replace members that have been appointed by the town. Amber questioned where the Monon Trail would be located at the park. Billy said that everything along the fence row along the south edge of the park would need to be moved 12-14 ft in.

WATER RATE STRUCTURE – Mary King informed the Council that the state has repealed the Utility Receipts Tax (URT) effective July 2022. One of the requirements included with the repeal is that the town is required to calculate a new water rate to remove any amount included in the current rate to pay the tax. Since we will need the services of Steve Brock, our Rate Consultant, to calculate the new rate, she feels it is a good time to discuss the request for a declining water rate which was requested last month. This way we are only paying the rate consultant one time. Jerry Faucett is not in favor of a declining rate. He stated that everyone he has spoken with is against it and feels like they should get a break too. Mary King explained that the rate would apply to anyone who uses over 20,000 gallons not just the distillery. Melinda Jobe said that if they were not trying to help themselves, she would not be in favor of it, but they are trying to help themselves. Billy said that they are currently using a tanker trailer as a cooling unit but he doesn’t know how that is going. Jerry also expressed concerns over the minimum bill, especially when people are not home and have to pay a minimum bill. Melinda Jobe asked what other towns do for minimum bills. Mary King did not know since the minimum bill issue wasn’t brought up last month. Billy explained that we can and do regularly shut off water for residents who aren’t going to be home. There is a \$25.00 service fee to turn the water off, but the customer then only has to pay the \$5.00 stormwater fee. Mary King stated that we have a declining rate for wastewater and that she knows that Rossville and Mulberry use a declining rate structure for their water rates as well. A declining rate helps to attract/retain businesses that use large amounts of water. Businesses in turn hire employees and pay additional taxes to the town. Jay explained that if you lose a business, you lose tax dollars from the business, as well as current water & sewer revenue from that business. Jennifer Bowman knows the importance of attracting businesses to the town as well as the investments that have been made in this community and feels changing the rate structure is a small thing to do. In the case of the distillery, Mary King reminded the Council that they have four employees and if they double their capacity, they will need more employees. After discussion, Melinda Jobe made a motion to request that Steve Brock provide information based on a declining rate of \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons for usage over 20,000 gallons, as well as a rate of \$8.00 for the same. Walt Minnick supported the motion, and it was carried with a unanimous vote.

STORMWATER – Billy said that there will be additional charges for the street paving project. Some storm structures had to be replaced because they were so old, they fell apart during the project. E & B Paving replaced them.

UTILITIES – Billy Walker presented the Town Council with an updated version of the Wellhead Protection Plan and a written monthly report was given to the Council prior to the meeting. He asked the Council to review the WHPA document and let him know if they have any questions. He said there were really no changes from the previous version. Brent Stetler made a motion to approve the updated Wellhead Protection Plan. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and carried with a unanimous vote. Billy said

that he and Drew will deliver the Consumer Confidence Report along with a notice for town cleanup day in early June.

MARSHAL DEPARTMENT – Brendon Bright reported that they have been giving out notices about grass in the streets. He has been working on grants for body & car cameras but is waiting to see how happy the county is with their new cameras. The Council discussed areas in town that need cleaned up and properties that have tall grass.

CLERK-TREASURER - Revenue & Appropriation Reports for April 30, 2022, Billing Adjustment Register for month ending April 30, 2022, Current Register of Claims, Statement of Reconciled Accounts for month ending April 30, 2022, w/ Fund Report, given to the Town Council prior to the meeting for review. The Council did not have any questions concerning the reports. The Billing Adjustment Register and Register of Claims was signed by the Town Council. The Statement of Reconciled Accounts was reviewed by the Council and signed by Melinda Jobe.

ARPA RESOLUTION 2022-5-1 – A motion was made by Brent Stetler to adopt ARPA Resolution #2022-5-1 using ARPA funds for revenue loss. Walt Minnick supported the motion, and it was carried with a unanimous vote.

LEAK ADJUSTMENT – A motion was made by Brent Stetler to approve the pool fill adjustment request for David Lafferty in the amount of \$93.74 for sewer only. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it was carried with a unanimous vote.

STREETSCAPE PROJECT WARRANTY – Mary King reminded the Town Council that the one-year warranty on the streetscape project will be up soon and there are many trees that don't appear to have made it. She has reached out the Drew Braley with Browning Day. He recommended that we contact Morphe Construction and schedule a 1-year warranty walk-thru. He requested to be kept in the loop on those communications. They will come make observations and note which trees should be replaced. He said that they will need to find trees that are tall enough for the landscape environment too. Melinda will reach out to Drew, Barth, and Morphe Construction.

HENRY KING/AMBER HENDRICKSON FIREWORKS – Amber Hendrickson provided a letter from the fire department and a certificate of insurance for the fireworks show they will put on at the park. She also gave a rain-date of July 9th. Jay Moore reviewed the insurance and it was in order with the town being named as an additional insured.

ABANDONED MARATHON STATION – Complaints have been received about the condition of the abandoned Marathon station at 117 S. Main Street. Melinda will speak with Kat from the Area Plan Commission tomorrow.

CAR SHOW DONATION REQUEST – A request was made by a local resident to make a donation for the car show to be held at Clinton Central High School for the football program. The town cannot make a donation but will encourage private citizens to make a donation.

Seeing no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Melinda Jobe