

The meeting of the Kirklin Town Council was held on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 7:00 pm at Kirklin Town Hall.

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, Justin Brewer, John Grice, Sherry Stowers, Billy Walker, Jay Moore, and Mary King.

Melinda Jobe opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

MINUTES – Brendon Bright noted one correction to the draft Minutes. Tommy Dillingham’s title is Chief of Police for Rossville School. The Minutes were approved as corrected.

THE BRIDGE YOUTH CENTER PRESENTATION – Sherry Stowers was in attendance to request that the Town Council give the funds the town has received from the OPIOID settlement to the Bridge Youth Center. She requests both the restricted and non-restricted funds. Although they have not decided for sure which permitted use they would use the funds for, they are leaning towards concentrating on vaping. Lorra Archibald with Healthy Communities is the person Sherry has spoken with that suggested the Bridge request the funds from the town. Sherry will check with her to see if any other entities have given another entity their funds, if so what type of agreement etc. was used. Sherry said that a test would be given and reports on the use of funds would be given to the Council. Jay suggested that invoices could also be given to the town to pay directly to the vendors, or the town could reimburse the Bridge for expenses associated with whatever program they chose. Sherry said that possible programs they may consider using are Truth Initiative or Smoke Screened. The Council and Brendon Bright would be in favor of donating the funds as long as details can be worked out. Jerry Faucett asked what had happened with the Bridge using the building at the park as a new location. Sherry said that the new Park Board was not interested in a long-term lease on the building. Walt Minnick thinks that the new Park Board may be concerned about losing control of the park. Jay explained the structure, and that the Park & Recreation Board controls the use of the park. The Park Board may have been concerned about making a commitment since all the Board Members are new. Sherry questioned if the Council/Park Board would consider leasing a section of ground to the Bridge to build a new building at the park like they did Swayzee.

WASTEWATER PROJECT – Mary King printed off the emailed update from Commonwealth for the Town Council. She said that the most important update is that the SRF funding awards will be announced in July. Jay Moore asked where the town was with the Income Survey. Melinda Jobe will check with Amy Miller since we haven’t received any recent information.

PARK/RECREATION BOARD – There weren’t any Park Board Members present. The Council reviewed the letter ending the lease of the ball diamonds as of July 31st when the current lease is up. Brent Stetler made a motion to approve signing the lease termination letter with the Recreation Board. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett, and it was carried with a unanimous vote.

DRAINAGE ISSUES – Jerry Faucett expressed concerns that there still hasn’t been anything done with the issues on 38 West. He’s still concerned that the side-ditch is a hazard.

UTILITIES SUPERINTENDENT – Billy Walker provided the Council with a written report. In addition to the written report, Billy said that the clutch had gone out on the lawn mower and that TGI Equipment had picked it up. It should be repaired and returned Wednesday or Thursday. He also reported that the town will purchase the material and Craig Hudzinski would do the labor to re-build the enclosed entryway at the town barn. We received \$1,489.00 from the insurance company for damages.

MARSHAL – Brendon Bright introduced Justin Brewer, who he would like to bring on as a Reserve Deputy to replace Mike Weingartner. Justin has over five years prior service with the Clinton County Sheriff’s Office. Justin addressed the Council and explained a little bit about himself and his family. He would work mainly evenings and is available 8-10 hours per week. Brendon said that the town will need to purchase some equipment for Justin, but that he has some of his own. Jennifer made a motion to approve bringing Justin Brewer on as a Reserve Deputy (subject to a drug screen and physical). The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and carried with a unanimous vote. Brendon also reported that Nick Light started his first day today. Brendon has mailed out grass/weed violation letters. Brendon gave an update on the Explorer. He drove up to check on the vehicle last Wednesday. The problem currently is with the console which should be in, and the vehicle should be ready within 1-2 weeks. The decals are on and the front-end is ready to go. Melinda thanked Brendon for coming in and eating with the Bridge kids on Saturday night. Brendon has asked all of his Deputies to do the same if they are on duty when the Bridge kids are at the Community Center.

CLERK-TREASURER – Mary King told the Town Council that she was unable to make the depreciation transfers in both the water and sewer funds for March, due to the lack of funds. She had hoped to be able to make a double transfer in April, but there was only enough available funds to make the April transfer. We have been trying to wait until the Rate Consultant comes up with a new rate for the project, but she is not sure how long that will be. Jay has concerns that if we can’t make up the missed transfer, we will be in violation of the Bond Ordinance. Mary stated that she cannot overdraw the operating fund to make the transfer. We could possibly be able to make the extra transfer for water this month. Revenue, Appropriations, Statement of Reconciled Accounts, the current Register of Claims, Adjustments Register, and Payroll Allowance Docket for month ending April 30, 2023, were given to the Council prior to the meeting. There were no questions and the Register of Claims, Adjustments Register, Payroll Allowance Docket were signed by all Council Members. The Bank Statements were presented for review and Melinda Jobe signed the Statement of Reconciled Accounts and the Bank Statements. An invoice from Eco-Infrastructure was received following the creation of the Register of Claims. A motion was made by Brent Stetler to approve the Eco-Infrastructure invoice in the amount of \$1,260.00. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and carried by a unanimous vote.

COUNCIL MEMBERS – Jerry Faucett has received complaints about the burnt house at 309 E. Jefferson Street. Jennifer Bowman will speak with the granddaughter who has control of the property. Jay said that the issue would fall under the town’s unsafe building ordinance if any action had to be taken. Walt asked the status of the Welcome to Kirklin sign for the north end of town. Billy said that he has all the supplies and the sign, he just needs the time and good weather to install the sign. Jennifer complimented the library project and how nice it looks. She also expressed concerns about the lot next to her where the state has placed a temporary trailer. Billy assured her that there wouldn’t be any equipment stored on the lot.

Seeing no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Melinda Jobe