

The Regular Meeting of the Kirklin Town Council was held on Monday, November 9, 2020 at Kirklin Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was opened by Walt Minnick.

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 Billy Walker, Brendon Bright, Katrina Bell, and Mary King

Walt Minnick led the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

MINUTES – After review of the Minutes from Council Meeting held on October 12, 2020, the Minutes were approved as written.

AREA PLAN COMMISSION – Katrina (Kat) Bell was in attendance to give an update on cases that the Area Plan Commission have been working on within the Town of Kirklin. She reported that there were two cases where people were living in campers, one on E. Madison Street and one on W. Jefferson Street. Both campers have been removed and the issues have been resolved. The home with the front porch falling off of it on Main Street has been torn down. She stated that the property that she gets the most complaints about is on the corner of W. Monroe and S. Illinois St. She reported that she speaks with the property owner, who is not the person living in the home, and things get cleaned up, then it starts all over again. The last complaint she received was concerning the trash cans not being removed from the side of the street following trash pick-up. Kat will call the owner again. She will also talk to her about the trash can issue and let her know that the town has an ordinance concerning them. Kat explained that when her and Mark Timmons were inspecting the camper issue on E. Madison St., they discovered that the owner of the property was gutting the home. He has obtained the necessary building permits now. There were no current updates on the blue double-wide on the corner of E. Ross St. and N. Ohio St.

FIREWORKS – Jerry Faucett said that he was asked by Amber Hendrickson for permission to set fireworks off at the Town Park next summer. They set them off in the park this year when they found out they were not going to be able to set them off at their original location. Melinda Jobe said that they came to her the day of the fireworks. She did not realize that it was not allowed to set them off in the park. She is now aware of the Ordinance that prohibits it. Mary King said that she would provide Jerry Faucett with the section from the Kirklin Code of Ordinances that relates to fireworks on town-owned property. She also said that she had emailed Amber the link to the Kirklin Code of Ordinances section on fireworks last summer. With the number of fireworks that were set off, and an error which allowed multiple fireworks to go off at one time, it was fortunate that no one was injured.

STREETSCAPE PROJECT – Mary King said that she had contacted those working on the downtown project for an update today but had not received any emails back. The Grant Administrator has been gathering all the preliminary paperwork and we will hopefully be able to pay the most recent claim that was submitted by Browning Day soon. Morphe Construction and their sub-contractors have requested to use the town's tax-exempt number to purchase supplies for the project tax-free. Mary King contacted Jay Moore and he said that it would be appropriate to allow them to use it. A motion was made by Melinda Jobe to allow Morphe Construction as well as their sub-contractors to use the town's tax-exempt status to purchase materials for the streetscape project. The motion was supported by Jennifer Bowman and carried with a unanimous vote. Melinda Jobe reported that Brianna Thomas, one of the downtown businesses, had someone stop in and speak with her about the project starting in their area soon.

TOWN PARK – Billy Walker reported that he has winterized the pavilion. Metzinger Construction plans to start November 12th on the ADA improvements that have been approved for at the park.

DRAINAGE – There were no current issues or updates.

UTILITY SUPERINTENDENT – Billy Walker provided a written report to the Council. Items in the report included dates for being out on vacation and days at French Lick for training. He has purchased a laptop because he had to do virtual training instead of in-person. The expense for the laptop has been submitted for reimbursement using the funds allotted to Kirklin for COVID related items. After reviewing the report, Melinda Jobe asked for more details concerning the issue with a leak at Damian King's. Jerry Faucett said that Damian was convinced that the town had created the problem when they fixed a leak at the meter several months ago. Jerry Faucett eventually took a probe down and they found a wet spot close to the meter. Billy discovered that the wet spot was caused from an old service line and not the source of the leak. Billy said that Damian was very abusive in his language towards him both on the phone and in person and he should not have to take such abuse. He feels that the Council should be looking out for the town and their employees. Billy said that he and Drew went out and dug up around the meter pit area on Sunday (even though Billy had checked on the meter numerous times

in the last few months) because getting to it on Monday or Tuesday was not good enough for the customer. There were no problems found on the town's side. Although the service line from the meter pit to the house was just put in a few years ago, Jerry said that as the line shifts and settles, it could cause a leak. Jerry suggested to Damian that he put a shut-off valve at the house, then shut off all his water. If the meter continues to spin, he will know that it is in the service line from the house to the meter. **HYDRANT FLUSHING** – Town Employees will be flushing fire hydrants this month. There were no other questions or comments concerning the report.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Brendon Bright reported that he had met with Mike Weingartner and he has turned in all his gear. Brendon said that he has put an order in for a plaque that he hopes to present to Mike at either the December or January meeting to thank him for his years of service. The Town Council agreed that Mike should still receive the clothing allowance given to the Reserve Officers for this year. Brendon is still trying to hire another Deputy to replace Terry Bordenet. He has also been going through the process of destroying old evidence the town still has. All three of the remaining officers will be participating in an upcoming training session.

TREE REMOVAL ON MAIN STREET - There was discussion concerning the contractor who cut down a tree and blocked Hwy. #421 on Friday. The contractor was hired by Chris Brooks to remove a tree in his yard. Mary King said that the gentleman planning to do the work came into the office on Thursday inquiring about shutting down a section of the highway on Thursday. He was told at that time that he needed to contact INDOT. He was also given the phone number to the Clinton County Sheriff's Office to find out if someone could direct traffic since we did not have an officer on duty. During the incident on Friday, neither of those agencies were on the scene. The contractor said that he had permission from INDOT, but INDOT was not there. Jerry Faucett reported that Dennis Tillman showed up within minutes of it being reported that a tree was blocking the highway. A bystander reported that the tree almost hit her when it came down. Jerry Faucett said that he helped move some of the debris and clean up some of the mess. Some of the debris still remains in the right-of-way, a section of the sidewalk has been cracked, and Chris Brook's mailbox was broken. Jerry said that the contractor reportedly has insurance so it should not be a problem getting the sidewalk fixed.

LEAK ADJUSTMENT – There was one leak adjustment request this month. After review, a motion was made by Melinda Jobe to approve the leak adjustment for Jennifer Milligan in the amount of \$64.83. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and carried with a unanimous vote.

CLERK-TREASURER – Fund, Revenue, Appropriation Reports, Billing Adjustment Register for month ending September 30, 2020, current Register of Claims, and the Monthly Statement of Reconciled Accounts Report was given to the Town Council for review prior to the meeting. The Register of Claims and Billing Adjustment Register were reviewed and signed by all Council Members. The monthly Statement of Reconciled Accounts for month ending September 30, 2020 was reviewed by the Council and signed by Walt Minnick.

HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN RENEWAL – Mary King explained that IPEP, who the town has Anthem health insurance through, has an annual renewal date of January 1st. IPEP allowed us to enter the program beginning in July but the annual renewal date remained January 1st. Mary King reported that IPEP raised the cost of the Anthem plan we currently have by 9.8%. The Council reviewed the different deductible options and agreed to choose option PPO 10 Rx E5 to keep the monthly cost down. With this plan, there will not be a need to increase the monthly amount the employee contributes. The rates will remain in effect until January 1, 2021.

IPEP SAFETY GRANT – Mary King reported that we had applied for and have been awarded an IPEP Safety Grant. The grant funds will be used to purchase LED mini lights for the town truck, yellow safety fleece lined jackets for the utility workers, and a manhole cover dolly with a powerlift earth magnet. The total amount of the grant is for \$1,591.48 with a town match of \$397.87. Melinda Jobe made a motion to accept the grant and to allow either Walt Minnick or Mary King to be the signatory on the Grant Agreement and documents. The motion was supported by Brent Stetler and carried with a unanimous vote.

WATER/SEWER CONNECTIONS – Mary King questioned how we are supposed to proceed with the owners of property that were annexed in 2014 and still have not connected to the water and/or sewer system. The last letter that was sent in July reminded property owners that the 1-year extension would expire on October 7, 2020. This gave the property owners a total of six (6) years to get tapped onto town services. Billy Walker gave an update on the property owners that he has been in contact with. Some are in the process of gathering funds for tapping on. Jerry Faucett suggested that the Council grant the same extension to all property owners that was given to the property owner on W. Jefferson Street which was until August 2021. After a discussion, Town Council Members feel that if a property owner would like to request an extension, they need to come to a meeting and make the request. Since Jay Moore was not in attendance, the Council agreed to table the issue until next month. Billy will try and make contact with the property owners before the next meeting to get updates on their progress.

PROPERTY AT 709 N. MAIN STREET – Walt Minnick reminded the Council that Bob Thorley is requesting that the town put a sign on the property he is donating that welcomes people to Kirklin, and thanks them as they are leaving. Mary King stated that Bob Thorley called last Monday and would have liked to have had the paperwork to donate the property ready for the Town Council to sign tonight but the paperwork was not ready. He wants to have the property donated to the town before the end of the year and is hoping the paperwork will be ready by the December meeting.

TRICK OR TREATING WITH TOWN MERCHANTS – Melinda Jobe complimented all that were involved in the trick or treating with downtown merchants. She felt that everyone involved had great time.

Seeing no other business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Walt Minnick 