

Versailles Town Council Meeting - December 17, 2015

Attending: Council members Steve Mathis, Sue Meisberger, and John Holzer and Attorney Larry Eaton.

Steve called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Steve also read the minutes from the November 2015 meeting. Minutes were approved with the following correction being noted: The Versailles Historical Preservation Society presented the check for the stoplights.

Robin Goodnight and her son, Greg Goodnight, from Gardner Insurance, and Randy Teltoe from HHC/Burnham & Flower Insurance presented the insurance quote. Greg reviewed the coverage quoted and answered questions. Robin noted the Town of Versailles had 3 claims this year. One is still outstanding. Earthquake insurance was not quoted. It was noted that Gardner Insurance has presented quotes in the past, but the Town of Versailles did not accept them. They will quote this coverage if requested. Greg noted the premium is \$1,399 less than last year even with property values increasing.

Randy then explained some new insurance options that he encouraged the Board to consider. These are options that were not available previously. **Randy explained that the cyber liability would include coverage for breaches of personal information from the Town's databases and expenses involved if customer's personal identities are stolen.** Steve asked for clarification of the \$4 million umbrella with regards to Employer's Liability. He will ask Kiersten to call Greg and provide the name of the Town's Worker's Compensation insurance company.

**The Board accepted the insurance package for the upcoming year as it was for 2015.**

Larry recommended the Board take a month or so to review the **additional** coverage options. Steve asked Greg if he could come back to the February 2016 meeting to discuss insurance options with the new board members present. Greg agreed. He will contact Kiersten in January to confirm the date and time of the February meeting.

Carol Holzer was present to voice a concern about the town's Christmas decorations. She noted the Pumpkin Show flags are still up on the town square. Sue explained that the flags belong to the Lion's Club. Carol also questioned why the light posts on the town square were not decorated with lights and garland as in years past. Kevin explained that the brackets for the Lion's Club flags are covering up the electrical access on the poles which is why the poles were not decorated last year and this year. Steve will follow-up with Jerry Gilpin about moving the brackets and also removing the Pumpkin Show flags in a timely manner.

Aimee Cornett from the Tyson Activity Center (TAC) was present to thank the Board for their help in securing the \$352,000 Historic Preservation grant from the Office of Community Rural Affairs (OCRA). She explained that they are working on getting bids and hope to be able to get started on the work to be done in March. She presented the Board members with a certificate from OCRA. Steve noted that Aimee and the rest of the TAC board of directors are doing a fantastic job of building community support for the many programs offered. Aimee noted the basketball league has been very successful with several hundred people attending the weekend games.

Town Marshal Joe Mann reported that Deputy Marshall Lee Matthews is leaving at the first of the year. Joe explained that he wants to revise the Standard Operating Procedures to be more in tune with current issues prior to hiring a replacement.

Street Superintendent Kevin Hensley reviewed ongoing discussions with Homeland Security and their interest in purchasing equipment at the water plant. He noted that they replaced 2 sewer pumps last month. Steve asked Kevin if he could provide a map of the locations of the 9 lift stations and note the age of the pumps at each station. Steve felt that would be helpful to the two new board members. Kevin agreed to provide this. Kevin also explained that they had been working on replacing the rest of the Stop signs and hoped to finish this project in the next week or so. He still needs about 10 more Stop signs. John had a cost estimate of \$3,100 for these additional signs. Possible resources to fund this additional cost were discussed.

Chris and Kari Peck voiced concerns about the cost and quality of the town water supply. Chris reminded the Board that he had attended a meeting a couple months ago to voice the same concerns. Peck explained that the suggested solution to install a water softener was not financially feasible. The Pecks described the large quantity of sediment in their water supply, explaining that they are purchasing bottled water for drinking and cooking. Kari asked if the town would consider a pretreatment for sediment. Larry responded that engineers would need to be consulted to see if that is feasible.

Chris also noted that the water rates are higher than any other town in the area. Steve conceded that the cost of the water is higher, but the sewage and garbage pick-up rates are lower, which makes the combined rates similar to what other towns charge for these services. Steve also reminded everyone that this was the first sewer rate increase since 2001, and the first water increase, except for a \$1.00 increase in 2009, in almost as many years. **John Holzer corrected that the water increase was \$2.00** Peck went on to say that he and his wife are conducting a Facebook survey and the initial response indicates that several residents are concerned about the cost and quality of the water supply. He stated that he will share the results at the January 2016 meeting.

Steve recognized Sue Meisberger for 20 years of service and John Holzer for 12 years of service as Versailles Town Board members. Both will retire at the end of the year. Steve thanked them for their dedication and hard work and shared that he appreciated their many years of service to the Town of Versailles.

John shared that Shannon Schmaltz expressed thanks for having Marshal Joe Mann's help and that the Town of Versailles was fortunate to have such a good police officer.

Sue shared that she had talked to Jeff Hafft and he will have the kitchen sink in the old Firehouse installed Monday or Tuesday of next week.

Larry noted that Kevin and his crew did a great job recently replacing the sewer line along US 421.

Steve offered the gavel to Sue and John and they closed their final meeting as Versailles Town Council members.