

July 9, 2015

Be it remembered that the Versailles Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on July 9, 2015. All council members and attorney Larry Eaton were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Jim Busteed was in attendance regarding several unsafe building notices that he received. Mr. Busteed claimed that his properties are not in bad enough shape to warrant the notices. Attorney Larry Eaton stated that the buildings are in violation of the law of the Town of Versailles, and if they are not properly maintained, they could be subject to condemnation and demolition. The properties are currently vacant, and are being used as storage. Mr. Busteed stated that there are various other properties in town that are as bad or worse than his, and that he feels that he is being targeted. Larry stated that the current discussion pertains to Mr. Busteed's properties and no one else's. Mr. Busteed presented photographs of his properties to show that some improvements have been made. Larry informed Mr. Busteed that the issue is set for a hearing in August, and the properties will be reviewed at that time. If the necessary improvements have been made, the town will reevaluate the situation. John Holzer stated that other letters had been sent out, and that no one was being singled out. Jim and Kitty Busteed were in attendance to support Mr. Busteed.

Several residents of the Harvest Ridge subdivision were in attendance to discuss the proposed street lights. Roxanne Meyer served as the spokesperson for the group. Mrs. Meyer thanked the council for addressing the issue of the lack of lighting in the subdivision. The residents are concerned about safety, as well as crime. The residents had assumed that the lighting to be installed would match the decorative poles in phase 1 of the subdivision. They ask that the council consider installing the decorative poles, instead of the wooden telephone poles, as it would be more visually appealing. The residents are willing to hold off on the lighting if in the near future funding is available for the cost difference in the wooden and decorative poles. Steve Mathes thanked everyone for coming, and stated that this issue has been touched on before. The builders of the subdivision, not the town, installed the initial decorative light poles. The town has pledged to install lighting, since the subdivision is now annexed. The cost per pole is not the concern, but the amount of lighting each pole emits. Several more decorative poles would be needed in order to produce as much lighting as the wooden poles. John Holzer expressed concern that if decorative poles are installed in one area, the rest of the town will request them as well. John reinforced the statement that the builders had a responsibility to the residents of the subdivision to install lighting, not the town. Steve recommended that the town discuss the issue with Duke and see if they are willing to hold off on the installation, and get an updated cost estimate for the decorative poles vs. the wooden ones. Larry suggested that the residents speak with the developers and ask that they pay the cost difference.

Shanon Schmaltz spoke on behalf of Judges King and Sharp, in appreciation of the town for supporting the community. Mr. Schmaltz stated that the town has given a big boost to the NA program in this area, noting that heroin is a major issue. The NA program is held at the old firehouse on Thursdays, and attendance has greatly increased since the first meeting.

Allen Beneker from Safe Passage presented information on the program, and requested funding for the 2016 budget year. The council will consider the request and get back to Mr. Beneker.

Fire Chief Ben Sieverding reported 68 calls in the last two months. This winter, an officer training series will begin to train some members of the department. Ben has still not received payment from the Marathon station for the gas spill that occurred one year ago. Ben thanked the RSRF for a grant that helped purchase a new EMR vehicle.

Marshal Joe Mann would like to install a security light back by the playground equipment. A needle was found near the slide, and the security camera could not pick up an image because it was too dark. Marshal Mann solved a burglary at TAC. Information was presented to the council on a new PD truck. Joe would like to sell the Crown Victoria, and rotate the current truck to the SRO. The council will review the information and discuss.

Superintendent Kevin Hensley spoke with Tad Brinson from the Planning Commission. Tad would like for South Street, next to the former Bovard's Funeral Home to be changed back to a one way street in preparation for the new Dollar Store. The council agreed unanimously. The pump at Graham Creek lift station needs to be repaired. The cost to rebuild the pump is \$15,400, but only \$13,200 to purchase a new pump.

Steve requested that port o lets be placed at the soccer fields by the end of July.

With no further business coming before the council, the meeting adjourned.

Council President – Sue Meisberger

Attest: _____
Kiersten B. Libby, Clerk-Treasurer

Council Member – John Holzer

Council Member – Steve Mathes

