

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

September 4, 2014

Palestine Board of Trustees met on September 4, 2014, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were Gene Purcell, George Harrison, Ricky Stork, J.R. Dunlap, Rob Byrley and Larry Miller.

Staff Members present: Police Chief Jeff Besing, Kathy Clark, DPW Superintendent, Margaret Littlejohn, Utility Clerk, and Shirley Adams, Village Clerk.

Visitors present: Peg and Red Waggoner, Pam Rich, and Chris Forde (WTYE).

Meeting called to order by Mayor Patricia Schofield.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes were taken by the Village Clerk.

The Minutes of August 7, 2014, were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Update on lagoon fence-lending sources; Advertise for Estimates. If we go through our local bank, the loan will be tied to our tax base. If we go through USDA, the interest rate would be 2%, probably with a five year pay back. We will be getting bids for residential and commercial grade fencing.

2) Streetscape Project – No update from IHPA or IDOT.

3) Update – Matteson Property – 205 S. Rush St. Sale still pending.

4) Update – Matteson Property – 415 S. Main St. Sent a letter to our attorney last month as there has been no activity on property.

In reference to Mr. Matteson's properties, J.R. said that Matteson has a shed behind the "Brown Dog Antique Store" that is in terrible condition and skunks and other rodents have been seen going in and out of it. Mayor Schofield and Chief Besing will follow up on this.

5) Update – Progress on repair to sidewalk at Verizon Tower. J.R. has spoken with Brian Nethery and Brian said a person from Verizon is coming to town to look at it.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Approve closing W. Grand Prairie St. – Main to Alley – Winter Fling, Saturday, November 1. J.R. Dunlap made a motion to approve closing W. Grand Prairie, from Main to alley, for the Winter Fling. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2) Discussion: Possible solution to Golf Cart Access to Dollar General. Approval of access to Dollar General will come as soon as information is gathered.

3) Approve Rough Draft of Ordinance ref: trash totes. Larry Miller made a motion to approve the rough draft amending Chapter 12, Nuisances, 12:02, Public Nuisances Defined. George Harrison seconded motion. Motion carried with five 'ayes' and one 'nay' vote by J.R. Dunlap.

Due to the fact that the AmVets and their apartments have no alley access, Ricky Stork asked for approval to build an area along the side for their trash containers. George Harrison moved for approval and Larry Miller seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4) Discussion – Vacate alley – see attached plat for exact location. The alley is between the 3 lots of South Main and South Lincoln Streets. Per instructions from our attorney, each of the property owners would need to petition the Village to vacate the lots. If vacated, then half of the lots would go to each property owner. Larry Miller moved to proceed with the vacating of the alley as described in the Grimes Addition. Ricky Stork seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5) Village Wide Fall Clean-Up – Tentatively scheduled for October 22, 23, & 24th. Paid up Customers only.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent. Kathy asked if we could advertise the sale of our old street signs. Mayor is going to put it on our web site. The new gutters are up at the Village Hall. The DPW have been working on repairing curbs to lessen trip hazards. Received the new monitor for Waste Water.

POLICE REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing. The month of August was quite busy with criminal activity reports and traffic and ordinance related citation. We had an increase of 31 cases from this time last year.

Officer Carpenter will be graduating on Sept. 25th in Urbana, IL.

The Chief has almost completed the Leo Herring grant application and if awarded it will be used for additional equipment for the new squad car.

PIONEER ROOM/MAIN STREET PARK – SEPTEMBER – J.R. Dunlap

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. Handed out August financial reports. We received the first property tax disbursement in the amount of \$64,138.62.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman. Gene reported that two trees are going to have to be taken down.

Employee Relations Committee: Patricia Schofield, Chairman.

FOIA Officers: Shirley Adams, Chairman

Ordinance Committee: Larry Miller, Chairman.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: J.R. Dunlap, Chairman. J.R. received a complaint about the alley from Lamotte to Harrison St. Kathy said the DPW got it filled in.

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: Ricky Stork, Chairman. Ricky alerted Kathy that it looked like there was the beginning of a possible sink hole by the flag pole across from Casey's, near the storm sewer. She will follow up.

Other business:

Kathy will be purchasing more barrels for the Village to store the flags in and we will keep them in our storage room

Ricky Stork asked what could be done with folks that try and bring beer out of the tavern during the Wine and Arts Festival. Chief Besing will speak with Rick Callaway concerning this.

Mediacom will be implementing rate increases on or about October 1st. It is considered a 'Regional Sports Surcharge'.

J.R. said that over the rodeo weekend, he noticed a side by side that didn't have a slow moving vehicle sign. He suggested that maybe next year we prepare an informational sheet to give to the Chamber that could be handed out to folks concerning rules and regulations of golf carts and neighborhood vehicles.

J.R. also asked about the status of the sale of the old land fill. We are working on getting an appraisal on the property.

Since we have been losing vendors during the rodeo weekend, Ricky Stork has suggested to the Chamber that we go back to two days on Main Street in the hope it might bring more folks in.

Rob is making a map showing the locations of all the Ash trees in the Village.

With no further business to discuss, Ricky Stork moved to adjourn. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

MAYOR

CLERK

