

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

November 5, 2015

Palestine Board of Trustees met on November 5, 2015, at 6:00 PM. Trustees answering the roll call were George Harrison, Rick Stork, J.R. Dunlap, Rob Byrley, Gene Purcell and Tim McDaniel.

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

Visitors present: Carol Holbert, Jim Ellis, Susie Hancock, Pam Rich, Donna Bonham, Brian Nethery, Peg Waggoner and Chris DeWitte (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 October 1, 2015, were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Community Garden Project Request. J.R. moved to have this removed from table. George seconded motion. Motion Carried. After further discussion Rick made a motion that only the Community Garden be allowed to have chickens, and on a one year trial basis. George seconded motion. Motion carried with five yeas and one nay by Gene.

2) Final Golf Cart Ordinance/Amendment. No changes were made to Ordinance 2015-O-06, therefore, the Ordinance can be put in the Ordinance Book.

3) UPDATE – Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collection Day. It was very successful, there were over 500 people who showed up with items. This may become an annual event.

4) UPDATE – Fall Clean-up. The clean-up went well; only a few complaints.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Proposals for Labor Day – Main Street Vendors – Peg Waggoner, Comm. Chairman. Peg is the Chairperson for a committee that has been formed to help the Chamber with Labor Day downtown activities. The committee wants to increase the downtown activities to two days, Saturday and Sunday. They are requesting that the Village close off Main St. on Sunday and part of Harrison St. They are working on new ideas to get more folks coming into town. Next year a bean dinner will be served and they will also have a Miss Pioneer city Pageant. Rick made a motion to approve their request to close Main on Saturday and Sunday for vendors and Harrison St. from the alley to Main St. for the corn hole tournaments. Rob seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2) FY 2014-2015 Audit – Carol Holbert. Carol presented the Board with the audit results. It was a clean audit, comparable to the previous year.

3) Discussion and Approval of ‘Courtesy Burns’ requests during leaf burning season only. After discussing the issue, it was the consensus for the Board to keep the burn ban in effect. The Ordinance states that leaves may be burnt only on Saturday and Sunday from sunrise to sunset.

4) Employees’ Christmas Party. The party will be held on Friday, December 4, 2015, at 6:00 PM. Entrance fee: Bring canned goods for Food Pantry. The meal will be catered.

DPW REPORT: Kathy Clark, Superintendent. No report.

REPORT: Chief of Police, Jeffrey Besing.

The Chief reported on the Department Statistics for October.

The 2015 Wine & Arts Festival was well attended and there were no problems with any visitors to the Wine Fest.

The Red Ribbon campaign activities at the Palestine Grade School, which the High School students attended as well, was a success. Robinson K-9 Officer Dan Strauch and officer Chad Weaver put on a very exciting K-9 demonstration for the kids.

Chief Besing will be leading a ‘Volunteer’ raking of the leaves at Leaverton Park this Saturday to help the park prepare for the upcoming holiday activities after Thanksgiving.

\$6,288 has been raised in private and corporate donations for the ATV project. The Chief has submitted the Mary Heath grant for the remaining amount of \$15,420.37. We will find out the results in December.

The Police Department’s training opportunities are still on hold due to the State’s budget stalemate.

PIONEER ROOM/MAIN STREET PARK – NOVEMBER – TIM McDANIEL

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Shirley Adams, Chairman. Financials for October & November were handed out.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman.

Employee Relations Committee: Patricia Schofield, Chairman.

FOIA Officers: Shirley Adams, Chairman.

Ordinance Committee: Larry Miller, Chairman.

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Rob Byrley, Chairman. There was a fire hydrant leaking at the township and it has been replaced. Kathy told Rob that she is not interested in the DPW doing concrete work on sidewalks.

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: Ricky Stork, Chairman. Everything seems to be running smoothly.

Other Business:

Mayor Schofield urged everyone to call Senator Righter and Representative Phillips and voice their

support of HB 4305. If the bill gets passed, it will insure that cities, villages, and towns will continue to receive funding for important public purposes. If this bill does not get passed, our 911 service will not be available after the first of the year, so it's critical that we support this bill.

Susie Hancock asked what is or has been done concerning the railroad situation. Mayor Schofield has written to Senator Dale Righter, Representative Reggie Phillips and U.S. Representative John Shimkus on this issue and we've not heard anything back. She said we've got to get some help with this, she will follow up.

Donna Bonham said there is a fire hydrant in front of her home that has never been flushed to her knowledge and she is concerned it doesn't work. Gene said he will contact Jason and have him check it out.

A gentleman reported to Gene that the DPW crew were working early one morning with the leaf blower and it was really hard to see them. Gene suggested they start wearing reflector vests at all times when working on streets for their safety. The Board was in complete agreement.

With no further business to discuss, Tim McDaniel moved to adjourn. J.R. Dunlap seconded motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

MAYOR

CLERK