

## MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 01, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING

**Darlene Steele** called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Council members present:** Doug Eakins, Gene Sidner, Sheila Nelson, Randy Otis, Cory Coburn, Jim King, Darlene Steele. Also attending were, Finance Director Jack Herrel, Parks and Recreation Director Jack McDowell, Public Service Director Harold Walker, and Administrative Assistant Kristina Eitel.

**Prayer** by Pastor Scott Polley

**Pledge of Allegiance** led by Sergeant Howard Wade

**Motion to adopt the agenda** by Jim King and seconded by Sheila Nelson.

*Roll Call-All Yeas*

**Motion to adopt the minutes** of the January 18, 2010 Council meeting by Sheila Nelson and seconded by Gene Sidner.

*Roll Call-All Yeas*

### **Recognition of Guests:**

Sergeant Howard Wade was presented with a certificate of appreciation from Darlene Steele for sending the Village a flag from Iraq flown on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (as well as a certificate with details as to where the flag came from). Darlene expressed her appreciation and stated to Mr. Wade these items will be displayed for residents to view.

Pastor Scott Polley attended the meeting to introduce and explain the pre-annexation plan. Mr. Polley also displayed an architectural drawing of the church and grounds and emphasized the Church's invested amount of \$63,000 that was spent for the new well and sewer system that was put in. Mr. Polley stated the biggest reason for the Church to be annexed is to allow them to be a part of the community.

### **Old Business:**

**Review resident concerns** from last meeting. (None)

**Motion to take Ordinance 09-061** off the table by Randy Otis and seconded by Gene Sidner.

*Roll Call-All Yeas*

**Motion to amend Ordinance 09-061** to add an emergency clause by Randy Otis and seconded by Gene Sidner.

*Roll Call- Yeas; Cory Coburn, Jim King, Darlene Steele, Randy Otis, Gene Sidner Nays; Doug Eakins, Sheila Nelson*

**Second Reading of Ordinance 09-061**, establishing a monthly surcharge fee of \$1.00 for water and \$1.00 for sewer user fees in addition to current water user fees to help offset the rising administrative costs for the billing in the Public Service Department.

*Discussion: Doug Eakins stated this will bring in roughly around \$20,000 but as the water usages increase everything else increases and that this will only correct the problem short term and that we will have to re-evaluate again next year due to not enough money in the fund. Mr. Eakins suggested coming up with a plan that will fix the financial issue long term and also stated he believes the consumers who use more water should pay higher fees. Randy Otis suggested waiting on the money coming from Battelle to see where we stand. Mr. Otis also stated he understands this will not correct the problem but will help residents ease into a rate increase and we can take another look next year to determine how much more money will be needed. Cory Coburn inquired as to when Battelle will be on line and when was the last water study. Harold Walker replied to council that he has a meeting next week with Battelle to*

*discuss dates. Mr. Walker also stated at the last study which was done 3 years ago we needed 16% more to cover cost and today our sewer rates are too low and preventing us from possible grants to help with updates or repairs. Jim King asked how much money will this surcharge fee raise and Mr. Walker explained the total amount will be around \$19,000 per year for sewer and \$19,000 for water. Sheila Nelson asked what is the additional administrative cost and Mr. Walker replied these fees were configured into the budget already and not sure what that is, but he needs the money for operations as well as looking at building a new plant. Mr. Walker suggested possibly having an engineering company come out and get an exact figure as to what is needed and how much everything will cost. Gene Sidner added that we don't want to be in a situation like out by Hubbard Road, they have very high water fees and they don't even include trash and that we need to take care of the Village and come to a comfortable rate increase. Darlene Steele stated she feels we need to do an increase of \$1.00 fee plus a percentage to help offset these fees but as of right now we have to approve Ordinance 09-061 to balance the budget but this issue needs to be revisited in the near future to fix cost needed long term throughout the water and sewer department.*

**Motion to adopt Ordinance 09-061**, by Randy Otis and seconded by Jim King.

*Roll Call- Yeas; Cory Coburn, Jim King, Darlene Steele, Randy Otis, Gene Sidner Nays; Doug Eakins, Sheila Nelson*

**Motion to take Resolution 10-004** off the table by Randy Otis and seconded by Gene Sidner.

*Roll Call- All Yeas*

**First Reading of Resolution 10-004**, appointing Arnie Booth, to the Village Planning and Zoning Commission, to fill the unexpired term ending January 1, 2012. (Council's appointment) *No discussion*

**Motion to adopt Resolution 10-004**, by Randy Otis and seconded by Jim King.

*Roll Call- All yeas*

#### **New Business:**

**Resolution 10-006**, authorizing the Director of Parks and Recreation to advertise for Sealed Bids on the Westwood Park Shelter House. *No Discussion*

**Motion to adopt Resolution 10-006**, by Sheila Nelson and seconded by Randy Otis.

*Roll Call- All Yeas*

**Ordinance 10-007**, authorizing a supplemental appropriation in the Sewer Operating Fund. *No discussion*

**Motion to adopt Ordinance 10-007**, by Gene Sidner and seconded by Doug Eakins.

*Roll Call-All Yeas*

**Resolution 10-008**, a resolution authorizing the Mayor of the Village of West Jefferson to enter into a pre-annexation agreement between the Village of West Jefferson and Life in Christ Fellowship. *Discussion above under recognition of guest.*

**Motion to adopt Resolution 10-008**, by Jim King and seconded by Cory Coburn.

*Roll Call- All Yeas*

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** None

**Police:** None

**Employee Benefits:** None

**Public Service:** Randy Otis stated he will set a meeting once Harold Walker gets back with him to discuss additional monies needed to offset fees in the water and sewer department.

**Development:** Jim King added the strip mall that includes the Subway will be adding a new 5 x 8 sign and he will get council minutes from the next meeting.

**Parks and Recreation:** None

**Special Events:** Cory Coburn stated that he needs to schedule a meeting to bring up a couple of things. Meeting set on Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm downstairs. Mr. Coburn will contact Kathy Allen, Paul Casa, and the Mayor to invite them to attend the meeting.

**Director of Finance Report:** Jack Herrel handed out Preliminary yearend financial reports to Council and Harold Walker. Mr. Herrel discussed items on the report regarding the water fund (money that was deposited and where this money is transferred).

**Director of Public Service Report:** None

**Director of Parks and Recreation Report:** Jack McDowell stated he finished the Bid packets with help from Harold Walker, Paul Casa and Kristina Eitel and appreciated the team effort and help.

**Mayor's Report and Recognition:** Mayor was absent due to a death in the family.

**Recognition of Clerk and Council:** Cory Coburn ask Jack McDowell if he has heard about any acquisitions of Garrett Park due to the community association and the school board still interested in the Village taking over. Mr. Coburn stated most events take place at the park and the Village would be able to get grants to help with repairs or replace equipment. Mr. Coburn also stated this acquisition would not cost the Village anything that he is aware of. Mr. McDowell added that he has not heard anything regarding this matter and in the future would like to be included on any decisions at Garret Park or any of the Village Parks. Doug Eakins wanted to remind everyone of the work session meeting scheduled for Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm; Gene Sidner replied that he will not be able to attend.

**Additional Business:** None

**Motion to pay bills** by Sheila Nelson and seconded by Doug Eakins.  
*Voted by Acclamation of Council*

**Motion to adjourn** at 8:35 p.m. by Doug Eakins and seconded by Gene Sidner.  
*Voted by Acclamation of Council*

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Clerk of Council

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President of Council