

**Richlawn City Commission
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
June 16, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Richlawn City Council was held on Monday, June 16, 2014, at the Old National Bank on Shelbyville Road & Hubbards Lane. Present were Mayor Pat Coomes, Commissioners Dirk Gowin, Roger Rymarz, Henry Thoben and Rae Taylor, along with Clerk/Treasurer Jeff Barrick and Richlawn Attorney Steve Porter. Also in attendance was Richlawn residents Joie Kaufman, Alicia Normann, Pamela Sheehan, and Susan Bell.

Mayor Coomes called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

A. Mr. Barrick presented the bills to be paid in June:

Rumpke	ACH	2716.35
LG&E	ACH	429.53
Extra Space Storage	VISA	115.00
Louisville Water Company	ACH	25.55
Albert Rae Taylor	2000	270.45
Dirk Gowin	2001	270.45
Henry Thoben	2002	270.45
Jeff P Barrick	2003	1081.80
Patrick Coomes	2004	676.13
Roger Rymarz	2005	270.45
FedEx Kinko's	2006	25.20
J-Town Contractor's Inc	2007	15,403.75
Jefferson County League of Cities	2008	100.00
Kentucky League of Cities	2009	3655.00
Neighborhood Security & Asset Protection	2010	490.00
Senior Care Experts	2011	600.00
St. Matthews Area Ministries	1971	1000.00
St. Matthews Library	2013	600.00
Stephen T. Porter	2014	1200.00
US Postal Service	2015	146.00
Valley Crest	2016	2650.00
Nicholas DeVore	1972	30.00

- Commissioner Taylor made a motion to pay the bills, Commissioner Rymarz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

B. Minutes from May Meeting

- Commissioner Rymarz stated Commissioner Thoben had asked about a survey at the last meeting. Commissioner Gowin stated there was an online survey for the Hubbards Lane project but it is not up any longer. 48 total responses to the survey, Richlawn residents made up 16 of those. Results can be found on www.hubbardslane.info
- Commissioner Rymarz made a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

C. Infrastructure (Hubbards Lane/Sidewalks)

Hubbards Lane

- Joie Kaufman asked if the bike lanes were being pushed by Lou Metro – YES.
- She asked if there had been any accidents on the city's current bike lanes.
- Commissioner Gowin & Taylor said there is a change in the pavement for the current bike lanes
- Commissioner Gowin said there have been 17 bicycle deaths in recent years and over half have been a result of being rear-ended.
- Commissioner Taylor said he has the most fear when crossing streets on his bike.

Sidewalks

- Mayor Coomes asked if were all squared away with J-Town Contractors. Mr. Barrick said yes, he received the approved invoice from Louisville Metro via email. Commissioner Rymarz asked if that was the final invoice. No, the project is not complete; there will be one more invoice for approximately \$20,600. This was added to the 2014-2015 budget amounts.

D. St. Matthews City Merger

- Alicia Nordmann asked why the proposed merger with St. Matthews is an option.
- Commissioner Taylor said one reason is because of snow removal – our current contractor is slow to respond
- Commissioner Gowin stated St. Matthews clears all its own roads, Louisville Metro only clears the main roads
- Commissioner Gowin also stated the taxes are higher for St. Matthews but if you pay with the discount, they are lower. Other reasons include, St. Matthews has an occupational tax that Richlawn cannot impose, they have more resources, there is no representation for neighborhoods.
- Police protection is one of the largest concerns and St. Matthews police would be a benefit to Richlawn residents. Joie Kaufman said when her car was stolen, she called St. Matthews first and then got switched to Lou Metro. Susan Bell stated she has called Louisville Metro twice and they have come right out because she tells them what district she is in. St. Matthews Police were the ones who made the marijuana arrest on Don Allen.
- Joie Kaufman also said St. Matthews offers the leaf pick-up. Ms. Nordmann stated her friend who lives in St. Matthews had her leaves picked up mid-season, so there were still lots of leaves to be bagged, and St. Matthews only comes once.
- Pam Sheehan mentioned you can take your leaves to the recycling center.
- Susan Bell asked what Richlawn would lose if we merged. Commissioner Taylor mentioned Lang field is a concern.

- Commissioner Gowin said storm debris is picked up by St. Matthews, Richlawn residents must bundle it. Mr. Barrick stated Richlawn residents can also place it in a container and Rumpke will pick it up.
- Commissioner Gowin said St. Matthews has junk pickup; Richlawn residents must call Rumpke for junk pickup. Mr. Barrick stated during their home renovation, junk was placed at the street every week and Rumpke took every bit of it.
- Alicia Nordmann asked for a apples to apples comparison to be done. Commissioner Gowin asked what Ms. Nordmann feels is inaccurate about the comparison that was attached to the April 2014 minutes. She said Richlawn will lose control of the funds, street signs, and the Fall Festival. Mr. Barrick stated that of the four people at the meeting that have voiced an opinion, 2 feel the comparison is fair and 2 do not. Commissioner Gowin said we can drop the items listed on the comparison that are equal. Ms. Nordmann feels those should stay so there is a total comparison. Mr. Barrick suggested putting a comparison together that shows exactly what you get from both cities, for example, how much you would pay in taxes for both cities, how you would get a tree, what the trash/recycling pickup would be.
- Commissioner Gowin asked about a deed restriction on Lang Field so it could never be built on.

E. Resident Concerns

- Joie Kaufman asked what procedure was followed when the garage on Gibson was built. Mayor Coomes said Commissioner Rymarz approved the plans. Commissioner Rymarz said no, he did not approve them, that was before he took over the policy. Mrs. Kaufman said she is worried the wooden steps will not be maintained and that the side of the garage is not finished. The front of the garage is gorgeous. She also stated she takes great pride in her home. She is concerned the plans that were approved by Richlawn are not what was actually built. She asked if Richlawn could do anything about the privacy. She is asking Richlawn to support her request to put trees along her driveway for privacy. She said the homeowner planted some trees, but they won't provide any privacy and they have no plans to plant more. She wants Richlawn to support her request for more trees.
- Commissioner Rymarz said Richlawn has no power. Louisville Metro gives permits to anything that meets code. He said the plans that were presented are not what was built. Mr. Porter said if they did not build what Richlawn approved, we can go after them.
- Joie Kaufman said Richlawn has no teeth to enforce our ordinances, so there is no sense in putting them in the Gazette.
- Commissioner Thoben said he never saw the plans. Metro approves the plans without Richlawn's approval. Ms. Nordmann asked if there was a commissioner who was responsible for overseeing this. Mayor Coomes said yes and stated we should discuss it another time. Joie asked if Richlawn could send a letter asking them to plant trees because they built something other than what was approved.
- Pam Sheehan stated she has gone to the two public meetings on the Hubbards Lane project and wants to know if Richlawn is going to support the residents. Ms. Bell said people are upset and don't want the expansion, but that only 11 Richlawn residents completed the online survey. She asked if Richlawn has a stated position. Commissioner Rymarz said Richlawn has communicated the residents' concerns to the engineering firm. Pam Sheehan is concerned with the bike lanes and safety with people pulling out of their driveways. She asked if she builds a berm, would she be restricted. Mr. Porter said as long as it is not in the rite-of-way, there would be no restrictions.
- Commissioner Gowin made the comparison to the sidewalks along Rudy Lane and asked if you saw people walking before the sidewalks were built.
- Ms. Bell thinks by going from 2 to 3 lanes, you are changing the character of the street and feels it would lead to commercial development.

F. Summer Gazette

- Commissioner Gowin presented the Gazette. Mayor Coomes asked everyone to review the Gazette and let Commissioner Gowin of any changes that need to be made.

G. St. Matthews Annexation Ordinance

- Mr. Porter presented Ordinance 2014-04, an ordinance relating to seeking annexation by the City of St. Matthews of the City of Richlawn for its first reading.
- The deadline to get this on the November ballot is August 12, 2014. Commissioner Gowin asked to have a public forum at the next meeting and move the meeting to the St. Matthews firehouse.
- A straw vote was held to see who was in favor of annexation. Commissioners voted 4-0 in favor of annexation.
- Mr. Porter recommended having a public forum before the vote at the next meeting. Mayor Coomes will organize a special meeting of the Richlawn Commission on July 7 at 7:00 PM at the St. Matthews fire station. The backup date will be July 8.
- Mayor Coomes will put a flyer together and notify the Courier Journal. We will also mail the flyer to all Richlawn property owners notifying them of the meeting.

H. 2014-2015 Ordinances

- The 2014 ordinances were presented and approved
 - Ordinance 2014-01 – Operating Budget, Commissioner Gowin made a motion to approve, Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, All approved.
 - Ordinance 2014-02 - Property Tax Rate of fifteen cents per \$100 of assessed value, Commissioner Gowin made a motion to approve, Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, All approved.
 - Ordinance 2014-03 – Franchise tax on financial institutions, Commissioner Gowin made a motion to approve, Commissioner Rymarz seconded the motion, All approved.

I. Other, Open discussion

- Commissioner Gowin stated he and Commissioner Rymarz met with MSD to discuss sink holes. He said MSD can address the sink holes in the rite-of-way. MSD will fix the issue on Blenheim. He also presented a map and asked the commissioners to report any known sink holes.
- Commissioner Gowin stated Ledyard homes are on septic. He is going to ask for Richlawn to help convert those homes to sewers.
- Commissioner Gowin stated Sally Porter has asked about the fence that borders her property and the commercial property on Shelbyville Road. Mayor Coomes sent letters to the residents stating their trees are causing a lot of the damage and it is the residents responsibility to maintain them.
- Commissioner Taylor stated the contract with Rumpke runs through the end of August. Commissioner Rymarz suggested extending the contract through the end of the year to wait and see what happens with St. Matthews.

J. Adjourn

1. Mayor Coomes stated the next meeting will be held on Monday July 21, 2014 at 7:30 PM at Old National Bank on Hubbards Lane

2. Commissioner Gowin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 PM; it was seconded by Commissioner Taylor and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeff Barrick
Clerk/Treasurer

Patrick Coomes
Mayor

APPROVED