

**TOWN OF ROCKY RIPPLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF 14-APR-2015**

Town Council Members/Support personnel in attendance were:

Carla Gaff-Clark
Robert Tomey
Mandy Redmond
Mike Kiefer
Ben Hudelson (appointed secretary/treasurer)

***NOTE:** Meeting minutes were recorded by Mandy Redmond, as new secretary/treasurer Ben Hudelson informed town councilors Carla and Mandy on 29-Apr-2015 that he would be unable to continue with the clerk/treasurer duties due to increased workload at his job. Thus, the town's clerk/treasurer position remains open.*

Councilor Carla Gaff-Clark called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Carla stated that first order of business would be to appoint Ben Hudelson as new Rocky Ripple clerk/treasurer. Councilor Mandy Redmond asked Ben to introduce himself to everyone present. Ben stated that he is a software developer, has worked on a couple large projects, has a degree in mathematics and wants to take a stab at “our mess,” help organize things and see what we can automate to make it easier for future clerks. Motion made by Mandy to appoint Ben; seconded by Councilor Robert Tomey. Motion unanimously approved.

Mandy asked for feedback from other town councilors on the draft minutes for last month's Town Council meeting minutes. Robert stated he was ok with the minutes because they had been transcribed. Mandy stated that some discussions were consolidated in the minutes since redundant information was discussed. Robert voiced concern that he wanted to make a resolution that we not allow the city to perform the drilling and stated this was not contained in the minutes. Mandy showed him the passage in the minutes where this was discussed.

Citizens Concerns: Resident Margaret Brabant stated she sent an email to members of the board to ask if there is a concerted effort to send a message to the city regarding Rocky Ripple's position on the levee/proposed Westbank floodwall. Carla stated that Brad Barcom had already sent a resolution to the city opposing the Westbank floodwall project. Carla stated we had discussed this with the town's attorney, who stated it was not a town issue because the town did not own the affected properties and that it would have to be addressed with each affected property owner individually.

Robert stated that Citizens Energy attorneys deemed Canal Blvd. is the property of the town of Rocky Ripple because he had received a letter from their attorney stating that Rocky Ripple was responsible for road maintenance of Canal Blvd. Robert had wanted to close the road at one point due to lack of maintenance and received negative feedback from citizens so did not pursue this. Carla stated there is nothing we can do to stop the Westbank floodwall feasibility study at this point. Robert stated that we can. Carla stated that we did not give the city permission to do it. Mandy added that the letters from the Indianapolis DPW to affected residents living along the canal stated that the city did not need permission but was sending the letters as a courtesy.

Resident Mike Mooney stated that we need to have an information meeting that provides info to community as to what is going on. Many people don't get email. Mandy stated that informational letters were distributed to all town residents and there is not much new information yet. Since the city has not yet proposed a plan, there is nothing to challenge yet. Mike wants to rally people so that town board has community support and stated we should not wait for completion of the feasibility study to strongly voice our opposition to this idea with various city, state and national elected representatives. Robert stated that we had not shown any challenge to the Westbank project to the city. Mike requested that we determine and agree as citizens what our main issues are and make our voices heard with the city. Mike stated we also need people to agree to be town board members and have others volunteer to support those that are on town board. We need an inclusive solution.

Carla stated that Rocky Ripple town council has clearly and consistently stated over time that we are opposed to the Westbank project. Mike stated that we last had a voice when we had the sit in on the bridge when the east side canal floodwall was proposed. Robert stated that we offered up several alternative options to the city but Carla asked Paul Redmond to come to town board meeting and challenge Robert on this path. Carla stated that this was not true. Robert stated that he has no avenue to stop this and that he is resigning from the town board. Mandy suggested it is time for a kinder gentler town board meeting. Robert restated he is resigning and left the meeting, turning his keys in to Marshal Mike Kiefer. Resident Mike Mooney stated we cannot have these types of discussions and episodes. It scares people.

Remaining town councilors agreed to have a separate Westbank floodwall/levee repair information exchange/brainstorming session on Saturday, May 2nd at 11 am. Town Councilor Mandy Redmond will coordinate the meeting and distribute notice of it in the Rocky Ripple ENews and on other social media sites. Mike Mooney agreed to get the word out to residents that do not have email or access to social media sites about the meeting.

Resident Adam Garvey stated we need to continually hit the city representatives with our concerns. Mandy stated that we need to get word out to our supporters outside of Rocky Ripple, such as other neighborhood associations, Butler University board of directors, etc., to assist in supporting us on this. Another resident stated that we need an attorney to contest this for us. Carla stated that we need to start a legal fund in order to do this. Mandy suggested that if anyone knows an attorney familiar with this type of issue, to please let Town Council know. It is a specialty area that we currently do not have town money allocated to fund.

Mandy stated we need to treat this as a project and hold a series of meetings with interested individuals to map out the plan for addressing the Westbank floodwall proposal and repair of the river levee with the city and speaking as one voice. Carla stated that money should be spent on repairing the levee along the river and this has been a consistent message. Various residents voiced their support of taking on repair of our existing levee as a project, separate from the initiative to oppose the Westbank project. Carla stated that we will set up two committees in order to move forward with these initiatives. Resolutions for these initiatives will be presented at the next Town Council meeting.

Carla thanked everyone for being at the meeting at 8:41 pm. Motion made by Mandy to end meeting; seconded by Carla. Meeting adjourned. Next Rocky Ripple Town Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Mandy Redmond