FLORA TOWN COUNCIL
October 2, 2023

The Flora Town Council met Monday, October 2, 2023 in the Board Room of the Flora Town Hall. Those present were; Susan Scholl (Carroll County Comet), Todd Trent, James Bishop, Trevor Ayres, Atlee Oyler, Breezy Land, Gabrielle Taber (Commonwealth), Jack Begley, Charlotte Moppin, Robyn Flanagan, Kristy Butler, Lucielle Flanagan, Greg Maish (Mulberry), Kevin Clothier, Jill Clothier, Dona Filburn, Linda Klein, Laurie Brower, Rob Kauffman, Darrell Yoder, Vince Seward, and Pam Beck Clerk-Treasurer.

Darrell opened the meeting with welcome. Rob moved the minutes of the previous meetings (September 5th 2023 and September 22nd 2023) be approved as presented; Vince Seconded. Minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Mulberry Telecommunications- Greg Maish- Greg reported telecommunications officially launched as of Monday, October, 2, 2023. Maish said they expect to have 40 customers online by the end of the week (October 6, 2023) and steadily keep adding customers on the drop list. Mulberry began burying lines last spring in Flora, Bringhurst, and a pocket of homes in and around Cutler. The company's new building along SR 75 is complete. Currently, it is being used by technicians as the administrative services will take some time to grow into our Flora building Mash said. The company has made sizeable donations to the buddy bags program in the Carroll Consolidated School Corp. and to the Food Panty in Flora. Also, the company offers $1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors in it's service areas.

B. Chicken Ordinance- No motion. Ordinance 1-A-76 will stay as is. Those that have chickens need to find other accommodations.

C. Ordinance 2023-06- 2nd and 3rd reading of 2024 Budget- Rob made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only for the second and third reading of Ordinance 2023-06. Vince Seconded. Motion caried. Title is read. Vince moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2023-06. Rob Seconded. Motion carried. Title is read. Rob made a motion to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance 2023-06. Vince Seconded. Motion carried.

D. Commonwealth- Gabrielle reported the town has received a State Revolving Fund grant in the amount of $2.5 million for the wastewater improvements project. The interest rate will be 1.375%.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. GoeCache- Linda Klein- GeoCaching is a game using GPS coordinates to find hidden objects. The Council gave permission to place GeoCaches on town property for two mystery caches. Multiple stops will be in center of town and one at the park. The theme of the one in town will be Flora History and Murals. The theme at the park will be Flora and Fauna (animals of a certain area).

B. Carroll County Community Center- Trunk or Treat night at the Park- Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

C. Flora Trick or Treat Night- Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

D. Baker Tilly- 3rd quarter Tracking Factor- On October 1, 2023, IMPA will change its Energy Cost Adjustment rates and its base rates charged to its members. This will decrease costs to the electric utility over the next three months. The Tracking Factor for the fourth quarter will be $0.013908 and shall be charged monthly to all metered rates, This represents a decrease in the overall tracking factor of $0.008008. Vince moved to approve the Fourth Quarter 2023 Wholesale Power Tracking Factor. Rob Seconded. Motion carried.

E. Resolution 2023-06- Appropriations for the 2023 budget- Ordinance 2023-06 regarding appropriations and tax rates to be reduced for the 2024 budget. Rob moved to approve Resolution 2023-06. Vince Seconded. Motion carried.

F. Intersection within the Park- Rob Kauffman said he has been approached with right-of-way and pedestrian safety concerns for the intersection within the park that involves the entrance from Columbia St. Trevor will paint lines for the crosswalks to help with this.

REPORTS:

A. Police Department – Chief James Bishop submitted his report. There were 107 calls for service, 12 arrest/misdemeanors, 4 felony arrests, 13 citations, 49 warnings, 3 accidents, and 1 warrant served. Bishop reminded residents not to leave valuables in their vehicles and keep their vehicles locked as there has been a rash of vehicle break-ins. He also reported Sgt. Mark Thomas and Officer Steve Catron have shown exceptionally good investigatory skills and communication with the public. Their letters of commendation will be placed in their personnel files.

B. Fire Department – Todd Trent reported the department had 5 fire-related calls and 8 EMS runs. For Fire Prevention Week, Trent said the local VFD is providing student tours of the fire station, making presentations at Carroll Elementary, and participating in a safety day at the Event & Education Center. Todd also reported that the fire department will pay for fuel and bus drivers to transport k-2 elementary students at Carroll to a special Fire Prevention Week event at Sunnyside School in Lafayette.

C. Plan Commission- 2 permits were issued for September – Clarissa Burge- fence. Jeremy Collins- fence.

D. Park Department– Atlee reported the new pickleball is getting good use. There is one problem, the gate for the new fence is not wide enough for him to get the mower inside. It was suggested the grassy areas be eliminated. Councilmember Vince Seward said we will leave our options open and lean on the park committee for ideas on what to do with the grassy areas. Atlee also reported the merry-go-round is broke and has been removed. It will be decided on a later date whether this will be repaired or replaced.

E. Airport- Jack Begley, reported for the airport board. Begley said the recent Touch of Truck, Touch of Plane event went well. Several hanger renters had their plans out and gave rides. There is plans in the works to build on this for next year. Hanger Rental Agreements sent out soon for 2024. Begley also reported that their new board member will be announced at the next Council Meeting, Monday, November 6, 2023.

F. Utility Manager/Water Superintendent – Trevor reported that they put in new sidewalks at the Depot, Elizabeth St., & downtown by Cosmos. Water & Electric hooked up at new build located at 506 S. Third St. Trevor spoke with Acculevel about the drain on Walnut St. Trevor, Kevin, & Dustin attended Lineman appreciation event. Dustin Gutierrez passed his class and is now a 3rd year electrical apprentice. Changed lights in the Town Office to LED, pulled 3 poles, & change a transformer. The sweeper will be put on GovDeals to be sold.

G. WWTP Superintendent- Randy Hoffman, Quintin Veach, Rob Buttice, Trevor Ayres, Dustin Gutierrez, and Will Bishop participated in a golf outing sponsored by Commonwealth. They took 2nd place, earning $1,500 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Two quotes were received for hauling sludge and land application: $7,500 from Jones Filburn Farms and $10,000 from Grant Ostler. Rob made a motion to approve the bid for $7,500 from Jones Filburn Farms. Vince Seconded. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

1.None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Town Office will be closed on Monday, October 9, 2023 for Columbus Day.
2. The next Town Council meeting will be Monday, November 6, 2023.

Rob moved to adjourn; Vince seconded; motion carried.

TOWN OF FLORA

Darrell Yoder, President

Robert Kauffman, Vice President

Vincent Seward, Finance Chairman

ATTEST:

Pamela J. Beck, Clerk-Treasurer