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**KILKENNY CITY COUNCIL**  
**Halfway to St. Paddy's Day**  
**October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

There was a meeting of the Kilkenny City Council held in Council Chambers starting at 6:30 pm on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.

**Council in attendance:** Tammy Holicky, Terry Ferch, Bob Busta

**Staff in attendance:** Nicole Icaza

**Persons in attendance:** Lacey DeYoung, Danny Knish, Darrell Knish and Lori Stoerling

1. **Call to Order.** Tammy Holicky called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
3. **Approval of agenda:** Motion by Terry Ferch seconded by Bob Busta to approve agenda. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
4. **Staff Announcements:** None at this time.
5. **Discussion on Halfway to St. Paddy's Day:**  
**(Strong Points & Things that we need to address for 2024)**

Tammy Holicky has a list of topics to cover.

**Fun Run:** Tammy said that it went very well this year. The only issue were the shirts. Tom donates a bunch of shirts, which is great, but it still ends up being a hefty bill, with a ton of shirts leftover. Tammy felt as though we paid for 50 shirts, instead of 44. It was around \$500, but we did make our monies back. We also had a bunch a freebies for the Irish. Otherwise, it went very well, the biggest number of attendees (52 runners) it was the biggest year that Tammy has seen. There was talk about how Tom might charge a lot more for the shirts, but Tammy said that he gives us extra, so we sell the extras during the fun run, plus the shirts are of nice material. Tammy said she would rather have Tom donate 2 extra shirts in each size, then to give us 25 extra shirts. The thing that is nice is that Tom donated, so we did save money that way. Also, we had our donation from the Hacketts construction which gave \$250. So, we did not lose money. That is the plus there. Otherwise the fun run was great, it worked out really well.

**The Toilet Bowl Races:** There were some complaints about the kids participating in the activity. There was a group that complained that they did not come to watch the kids, that this was adult entertainment. The question is to figure out if there is something else that we can do for the kids, such as Power Wheels. Terry mentioned that we did not have enough adults to keep it going. Tammy mentioned that kids having fun is okay, it is good to see. The city needs to find a way to broadcast/advertise and obtain more people to participate in the Toilet Bowl Races for next year. The prizes for the races are \$150 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$100 for 2<sup>nd</sup>, and \$50 for 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have no financials for the meeting tonight, as we were still receiving the bills from the different vendors etc. before tonight's meeting. Next year Mark will not be involved because he has another event scheduled.

**Parade:** Lacey believes there were not as many people, but the parade was longer. It was much easier and very well organized. It was the best it has ever been. There was discussion that people did not know where to go, and it was much more spread out.

**City Booth:** Tammy doesn't know much about it. Terry said we need more volunteers. Bob Busta was there the majority of the time. If we continue to do the two-day event, we need to find more volunteers for this.

**Kids Games:** Tammy said we are going to hold off on it. As Marissa did these the past few years, we are thinking next year that we will ask Janice to take over the Kids games. We need more Volunteers. Marissa ran into the issue of not having enough volunteers, so this is something we need to find. Dan Knish voiced that each department should oversee finding their own volunteers. Tammy mentioned that possibly utilizing the Boy Scouts would be a good source of volunteers. The Kids games was a loss. Marissa said she made \$660 in kids' games, but when she turned in her receipts, she paid like \$700. \$225 for facepainting for 3 hours. It shouldn't be that extravagant for next year. The kids buy an all-day wristband. There was discussion that it seemed like the kids' games looked very busy all day. A lot of action going on over there. Tammy asked if they charged for face painting separately. Or was that included with the bands?

**BBQ:** Tammy believes that next year we should sell more tickets to the public to be able to purchase the food from the cook-off so that more people can try the food that is made. A lot of people believed that they would be able to try the food, but this was not the case. Only the judges were allowed to sample the BBQ. Discussion was had about the judging going well. Tammy did a good job getting everything to us. We need to remember things like paper towels, and plates etc. for next year. We had 12 teams, which worked out well. The calculations of the different areas took nearly 2 hours to figure out, so next year we are looking at a different way to figure out the scores for the contest.

**Vendors:** The vendors pulled out early on Sunday, because there were not a lot of people in the area. One main concern was that there was no beer being sold in the Vendor area. Discussion of the City selling beer, or the Toy Box is looking at pulling a license to be able to sell beer in the park area. There were a lot of complaints by people about having to go to the Toybox to be able to buy alcoholic beverages. We will have to investigate what license is needed for us to be able to vendor alcohol over at the park area for next year's celebration. We are unsure if the Knights of Columbus would be interested in selling beer at their stand. Tammy also mentioned that we need to find more vendors for next year. Lacey mentioned that we should start now, and keep in contact with them throughout the year, and ensure that we get them to come. Tammy said that we did not advertise enough. Terry Ferch said that in previous years that we posted banners and ads, that she would post for advertising for vendors and such around Waseca, any public place that she could. We used KCHK, but we also need to put them up on the Montgomery Happenings, Kilkenny Happenings, New Prague Happenings etc, to get the word out that we are looking for vendors.

**Food:** Complaints that Knish had said that Johnny BBQ said it was the worst show he's done all year. The sales were horrible for the vendors we had. Johnny complained that he cant compete with the KOC that have \$5 hamburgers. He is sure that they are not going to come back if the sales are so low. Tammy said that we should be setting up the food trucks/vendors now. We had a gyro stand about 8 years ago that did very well, we should investigate.

**Banners:** Someone cut the zip ties and took the banner from this year. Next years banner should be more direct with just the date and time. Nicole asked how long the Kolacky days is prior to Halfway to St. Paddy's Day – and mentioned maybe we have a float/people walking in the parade to hand out flyers for our celebration to spread the word and get the advertising out there. Darrell Knish mentioned that Lori will take over the parade again for next year.

**Music:** Tom Little wants to know if he will oversee sound for next year. Lacey said that for what Tom brings, she might just book the band and have them bring their own sound equipment/lights etc. Darrell asked if we need to supply the sound system just for Andrew, or for all the music. Tammy will ask Tom what it would cost to supply the equipment just for Andrew, or if it is worth the costs that Tom accrues. If we could find a sound system for cheaper, this would be good. Tammy is not sure what to tell Tom, if he can supply us with something for Andrew around a couple of hundred dollars, otherwise we investigate other options. We would like the Irish Dancers to return. Mayor Cameron Hankins will be in charge of hiring and getting the music for next year, as he did a good job with it for 2023. Talk about the stages for next year, as we found it being a shady situation this year with the prices being upped, and

added \$350 because we asked for his tax information. It ended up being \$2,200 for the stage rental for 2 days. Darrell voiced that there were complaints that nobody liked the music by the bar because it was fenced in, and no one could bring their chairs and coolers to go watch the music. No one wants to pay bar prices for their alcohol, to enjoy the music. Lacy said they pay for the band, and to make any of that money back, they can't have people bringing their own coolers. Darrell said as far as the beer thing, the bar pays taxes, property taxes, the Toybox has brought a lot to the city of Kilkenny and suggests if the Toybox wants to do the beer down at the park, they should.

**Fireworks:** The Fireworks have done an outstanding job the past two years. Terry Ferch has overseen the fireworks. There was one firework that fell over and came out towards the crowd, no injuries. One of the rods was holding up the cylinders, and it came loose, and that is the reason why it came out towards the crowd.

**Dinner:** Thank you, Lacey, the dinner went really well!

**Car Show:** Danny wants to make sure the barricades get put up the night before so that there are no local vehicles in the Car Show. Danny had to get a tow truck to move a vehicle. There were no signs posted and we need to make sure next year that signs are posted and that the locals are informed of where and what time the car show is going to be. 198 cars total in this year's car show. Last year we had 150 parked, a lot of people were parked and not registered. Thank you, Tammy, and Jason, for letting us use your lot for the BBQ and for the Car Show. Danny thinks that the live broadcast is not worth doing next year. Darrell thought that they would walk around and interview, but that didn't happen. Faribault Harley Davidson was supposed to MC the event, but he quit and no one at Faribault HD was aware of the event. They did come, but did not MC. There were 6 classes, and only 10 bikes. Danny didn't advertise quite as much as he did years past. The total cost for the car show was \$1,109.47 will all the advertising and trophies. The year previous they spent \$1,500. Lori said that people really liked that they could walk the car show. Danny said that the sound did not work out having it on the stage. Maybe next year we get Larry back again and have him do it like he did prior years. Darrell said we still have problems with the barricades with people driving out onto the lawn around the barricades. One lady said to Darrell that she couldn't find the place, there are no signs to the event. She said she could not find Kilkenny. She lives in Montgomery. There is only one sign off of Highway 13 that says Kilkenny with an arrow. The judging went well, except that Danny had to call Tom to have him come back from his house to announce the winners. Danny thinks we should do full page flyers for next year, he did 1,500 flyers this year and handed them out at other car shows. The amount of sponsors they had on the flyers and he filled that in an hour just off of SnapChat. They spent \$230 on Flyers. They also had to charge a separate price on the flyers versus the Platinum sponsors because he gets that made in June.

6. **Setting Date for 2024 Halfway to St. Paddy's Day:** Motion by Terry Ferch, seconded by Bob Busta to set September 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 for the next Halfway to St. Paddy's Day Celebration. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
7. **Next Halfway to St. Paddy's Day Meeting:** Motion by Terry Ferch, seconded by Bob Busta to set March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:30 pm for the next meeting. Unanimous vote. Motion Carried.
8. **Citizen Time:** Dogs Barking – Tammy mentioned she walked her dogs and there were dogs hanging out a window barking, and it was scary. Lacey agreed, dogs are barking, and it is all the time at all hours of the day/night. Lori said there is a wiener dog that barks, but her owner lets her in the house. Lori came home at 3:20, dogs were barking, she went to work at 4:45 because the dogs were still barking. Lori begs that something needs to be done about the dogs barking. Tammy stated if anyone has 4 dogs, there needs to be a kennel license. Darrell asked if this was City related, if so there is a light that has been burnt out for years on Vinegar hill. He called Xcel Energy and asked them about it, as he was having other issues with the lights. Engineers from Xcel came through town and could put it into a work order, and possibly what we will have to do around nighttime to find the dark spots around town where we would need them.

**9. Council Discussion:** Bob – Nothing. Terry – Nothing. Tammy – Nothing.

**10. Adjourn.** Motion by Terry Ferch, seconded by Bob Busta to close and adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

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Cameron Hankins, Mayor

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Nicole Icaza, City Clerk