

City of Wilmont  
Regular Council Meeting  
August 8, 2023

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by Mayor, Gene Bertrand at 6:00 pm in the Wilmont Community Center, 316 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Council Present:** Gene Bertrand, Josh Balster, Isaac Joens & Steve Brake.

**Guests and Staff:** Amber Bertrand & Steve Joens

**Absent:** Alicia Entinger

**Agenda:** Steve Brake moved to accept the agenda with new additions and seconded by Josh Balster. All in favor. Motion Carried.

**Minutes:** Josh Balster made a motion to approve the minutes from July 11, 2023 seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Time Sheets:** Time sheets look good and no questions arose. Josh Balster made a motion to approve time sheets, seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor, Motion carried.

**Treasurers Report:** Amber Bertrand presented the treasurers report – nothing new other than the normal bills. Steve Brake made a motion to accept the financial report and to pay the remaining bills and also to pay the operating bills that are received after the council meeting including the fire department bills. Motion seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Nobles County Sheriff Report:** No one present.

**Maintenance Report:** Steve Joens gave the report – There are 2 trainings for water & wastewater coming up in August that are free that he plans to attend and then he will attend the Conference in St. Cloud for the wastewater and try taking his exam at that time. Steve plans to grade the alleys again and will get some gravel to fill in the holes. Been cleaning the curb & gutters to try to help the rain run & not stand still. Steve said he was able to fix the basketball hoop/backboard at this time but we may want to look into ordering a new one. Council discussed and said to see if what he did holds up and if not to order one at that time. Amber had someone ask about the alley area behind 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave as there are some big potholes – Council said this is more of a minimum maintenance road so not going to gravel it but Steve mentioned that there are a few bushes and trees that hang into the alley yet that should be cleaned up so Amber will send a letter to those homeowners. Had someone complain about the weeds in the yard at the vacant homes and was asked if they could be sprayed. The Council stated that since it isn't City property we would not spray and will just continue to mow them. Isaac Joens made motion to approve the maintenance report and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Fire Department Report:** Steve Joens gave the report – said that they were possibly receiving some grants from FEMA as they are asking for lots of info which the underwriter said was a good thing. Remodel is close to being finished but still have a few more things to finish up. Josh Balster made motion to approve the Fire Department Report and was seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Clerk Report:** Amber gave the Clerk report – Alicia had asked Amber to look more into the placing of mailboxes and Amber found out that yes the resident can place a box wherever as long as it is in the couriers route and that the Post Office approved of it and it doesn't need to be placed in a cluster. The owner of the box will need to be the one to clear away the snow. Council decided to do fall clean-up so Amber will call Schaap and get a date set up for late September. Amber said that with the cameras the internet has slowed down considerably so asked if she could increase it up to the next level with the Council said was fine. Amber has been asked about the bricks out front – do we keep adding or should we look into doing like a wall instead. Amber will do some checking and see what she finds. Steve asked about Propane contract but Amber hadn't seen anything so Steve will reach out to Chandler Coop. Steve brought up the vehicles parked at R&L Auto Sales so Amber will check on the ordinance and see if there is anything we can do. Steve Brake made motion to approve the Clerks Report and was seconded by Josh Balster. All in favor. Motion carried.

On a motion by Isaac Joens and seconded by Josh Balster it was duly passed to approve the Fence Permit for Val Declue. All in favor, motion carried.

On a motion by Josh Balster and seconded by Isaac Joens it was duly passed to approve the permit renewal for Al Fuerstenberg. All in favor, motion carried.

On a motion by Isaac Joens and seconded by Josh Balster it was duly passed to approve Resolution 2023-07 Amended Fee Schedule. Changes were made due to some questions brought up for water-hookup. The \$150 hook-up fee is a one time charge for a resident who purchases a home within the City. The New Water Line Hookup which is set at actual cost is only if a new line needs to be added from the street to a building. Also updated the water rates due to Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water increasing. All in favor, motion carried.

Employee Reviews – with budget coming up Amber said that they will need to figure out if Steve and Amber are getting a pay raise and if so how much so they can budget for 2024. Gene closed the meeting so the Council could discuss performance reviews. Gene opened meeting back up and on a motion by Josh Balster and seconded by Isaac Joens it was duly passed to give Steve a \$1.00 raise and once he has his wastewater & water license they will discuss another raise. Amber was given a \$1.31 raise and both will be effective starting January 2024. All in favor, motioned carried.

Budget – Amber put this on the agenda so the Council could start thinking about areas that we may need to budget for but nothing needs to be set until next month meeting. Council would like to see a Capital Improvement account set up which would help go towards fixing up the streets and other projects around town.

Ballpark Cement – Steve Brake mentioned that we should get the cement done for the bleachers since we have the money from Nobles 2 Windfarm and Steve Joens had some ideas of other areas at the ballfield that should be cemented or redone so he will map out what he is thinking so we can get an estimate.

Steve Brake had found someone who was getting rid of a ballpark light stand that would possibly match what we currently have. Will need to verify the height but otherwise they look the same as what we currently have. Steve Brake said he was willing to go and look at them and if the right fit will see if he can haul it back here. Council was fine with it.

Scott from Living Connected (camera person) recommended that we get a batter backup for the Sonic Wall and they run around \$100-\$150 so the council said to just get it since the cost wasn't that high.

**Old Business:** Front Windows on Community Center – waiting for Brian to install.

Nobles County ARPA Funds – Steve got the estimate from AI for updating the plumbing at the baseball field bathrooms for \$2,832.00. On a motion by Isaac Joens and seconded by Josh Balster it was duly passed to approve the estimate from AI. All in favor, motion carried. Steve had also gotten a couple quotes for fixing up some areas of the street from Duinick & Fuller Paving. Council discussed and Isaac Joens made motion to go with Fuller Paving estimate at \$38,000 and was seconded by Josh Balster. All in favor, motion carried.

Silversmith AST Tracker – Amber had asked Lismore if Wilmont could share the GPS unit to save on some of the cost and that Wilmont would pay for half of it and Lismore was fine with that. The cost to set up the asset tracker is \$1,071 and then \$571 per year after that. On a motion by Josh Balster and seconded by Isaac Joens it was duly passed to get the Asset Tracker program from Silversmith. All in favor, motion carried.

There being no further business, Josh Balster made a motion to adjourn.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Bertrand, City Clerk

Note: These minutes are proposed and are subject to change.