

City of Wilmont
Regular Council Meeting
December 12, 2023

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

Council Present: Gene Bertrand, Josh Balster, Isaac Joens & Alicia Entinger.

Guests and Staff: Amber Bertrand, Steve Joens & Logan Neyens

Absent: Steve Brake

Agenda: Josh Balster moved to accept the agenda with additions and was seconded by Alicia Entinger. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Minutes: Josh Balster made a motion to approve the minutes from November 14, 2023 seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

Time Sheets: Time sheets look good and no questions arose. Isaac Joens made a motion to approve time sheets, seconded by Alicia Entinger. All in favor, Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Amber Bertrand presented the treasurers report – Alicia did ask why we were still paying Tim when Steve has his license. Amber explained that Steve is still working on getting his water license and once he has that then Tim will resign from the City as the water/wastewater operator. Josh Balster 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 Sheriff was present but Amber did talk to Mike Slater about Lowell Scholtes' building and Mike is purchasing the building from him but is just waiting for Lowell to remove some of his items and then will tear it down. Alicia said that she see's they have been working on it.

Maintenance Report: Steve Joens gave the report – Steve is wanting to discharge the ponds but is struggling with the samples – they are higher than they need to be to discharge. Steve is going to talk with Brad from the State to see what he recommends but a discharge is needed to be done sooner than later. Pickup will need tires pretty soon so Steve will look into getting those. MN Pump Works got a quote to us to fix both pumps and one to just fix pump 2. Council looked at quotes and discussed and decided to fix both pumps. On a motion by Josh Balster and seconded by Isaac Joens it was duly passed to fix both pumps at the lift station for \$8,156.65, all in favor, motion carried. Slater tiling was digging tile out by the lagoons and they did find the tile that goes into the side of the ponds and Steve went out there and they did cap that tile so that is taken care of. Steve brought up the shutoff valve again and said that we should really look at getting it done this next summer. Alicia Entinger made motion to approve the maintenance report and was seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department Report: Logan Neyens gave the report – Josh and Logan did ask the Council what they thought about reaching out to Mike Slater on the property he is looking to buy from Lowell Scholtes to see if he would be willing to split a portion of that and sell it to the Fire Department. Logan is thinking down the road if the Fire Department ever needs to expand it would be nice to go North instead of behind. Council was fine with them asking Mike and Logan will let us know what he finds out. Logan brought up the truck grant for getting a pumper truck – cost is around \$445,000 with a 5% match. Logan asked if this was something he needs to get approved every year or not. Council said that he should let them know when the FD is applying for grants and the amount that needs to be matched like he has been but he doesn't need to come back and get approval to spend the grant & match money again unless the match changes. Pancake Fundraiser is set for March 24th, 2024 and they will do another fundraiser breakfast during the Wilmont Celebration. Alicia said that the Booster Club will be funding the breakfast so the FD will get the full amount raised. Isaac Joens made motion to approve the Fire Department Report and was seconded by Alicia Entinger. All in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk Report: Amber gave the Clerk report – The State of MN is giving employees ESST (Essential sick & safe time) which means that employees will get 1 hour for every 30 hours worked up to 48hrs within a year. Amber said that the PTO plan that is in place covers the ESST time that is required but asked the Council how they wanted to go about it. Council said that whatever was the easiest for Amber to track they were fine with as long as the total ESST & PTO accrued isn't more than what they are currently getting which is 10 hours per month or 120 hours per year. Amber will figure out the best way to track and did let Logan know that she will most likely need the FD hours on a monthly basis as they are included within the ESST law. Amber said she got notice from Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water that they will be increasing rates again on July 1st, 2024 by \$0.25 – Amber will adjust rates in July to match the increase. Amber said that Casey Hector is trying to get a multi-rummage sale going in January with families from Wilmont area and so Amber said she would ask about possibly waiving the rental fee since it is kind of a City thing and Council said that they are not going to/need to treat like any rental of the Community Center. Reasons being that the hall is being used which means, water, electricity and all the bathroom supplies will be used – Amber will let Casey know. Isaac Joens made motion to approve the Clerks Report and was seconded by Alicia Entinger. All in favor. Motion carried.

On a motion by Isaac and seconded by Josh Balster it was duly passed to approve Resolution 2023-09 Adopting Final Levy and Budget for 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

On a motion by Josh Balster and seconded by Isaac Joens it was duly passed to approve Resolution 2023-10 Certify Special Assessments as listed. Amber did ask about waiving the 2023 accrued charges for the Bradshaw Property as that was sold in an auction held by Nobles County and also for Fuel on 4th (previously R&L Auto Sales). Council discussed and declined to waive so current owners will need to pay or they will get assessed to the taxes. All in favor, motion carried.

On a motion by Josh Balster and seconded by Alicia Entinger it was duly passed to approve Resolution 2023-11 Authorize Charitable Gambling on 2/11/24 for the VFW. All in favor, motioned carried.

On a motion by Alicia Entinger and seconded by Josh Balster it was duly passed to approve Resolution 2023-12 Authorize Charitable Gambling on 1/28/24 for OLG. All in favor, motion carried.

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

There being no further business, Isaac Joens made a motion to adjourn.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Bertrand, City Clerk

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