

City of Wilmont
Regular Council Meeting
February 15, 2022

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, Carolyn Penning and Travis Halbur.

Guests and Staff: Amber Bertrand, Deputy Sheriff, Deb Vaske, Eric Joens & Jerry from Schaap Sanitation

Absent: Isaac Joens, Steve Brake & Tim Bertrand

Agenda: Carolyn Penning moved to accept the agenda with additions, seconded by Travis Halbur. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Minutes: Travis Halbur made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried.

Time Sheets: Travis Halbur made a motion to approve Tim Bertrand and Amber Bertrand's time sheets for January, seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor, Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Amber Bertrand presented the treasurers report for January. Travis Halbur 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 Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried.

Deb Vaske was present to request a donation/funds from the City of Wilmont to help with remodel of the Fire Hall – bathrooms, ceilings, walls, doors, kitchen, flooring, etc. Needs to be rewired and more outlets along with a decontamination area for hazardous materials. Amber will need to check on the total amount of donations received so far but the council is wanting an estimate of what the cost would be for the remodeling before deciding on the amount of funds to be donated/used from the city. Deb also stated that she had 2 people to be added to the Fire Department – Mel Penning and Josh Balster.

Eric Joens from Schaap Sanitation was present to discuss the new contract that is good for 5 years – 3/1/22-12/31/26. They had a 3% price increase so recycling went from \$3.82 to \$3.95, 65gal garbage from \$11.83 to \$12.18 and the 95gal from \$17.36 to \$17.88. The contract also states for the next 5 years that the rates can never go above 5% for the year. Motion was made by Travis Halbur to approve the new contract with the rate increase and seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor, Motion carried.

Linda Reasonover stopped to discuss opening up a craft shop at her home and selling out of her garage. Wants to make it like a Wilmont Crafters shop. Linda did talk to insurance and has talked with the state to get her business name – Highway 266 Mercantile. Council did mention that they don't want cars parked up and down the street since the hill where she lives is horrible so she asked if it would be fine to have them park at the park and come over. Council stated it should be fine as long as no event at the park is going on. Since it is running right out of her home the city is not liable so no motion needed.

Nobles County Sheriff Report: Deputy Sheriff stated that they haven't had anything come up from last meeting. Carolyn did bring up that a semi was parked across from the bar on main street taking up the parking area as some citizens did complain to her since at the time it was bad weather and icy and all the people that were going to the bar to eat/drink had to park far away. The deputy said if they happen to see it they will talk to the truck owner or if we happen to see if still happening to give them a call as the semi shouldn't be parked in the business area.

Maintenance Report: Tim was absent but Gene did discuss that the City purchased a new playset for the ballfield – once paid it will be delivered and installed. Council was wondering how much funds were available for the ballfield restoration which Amber said she will look and get them the total. No motion needed since it was approved at prior meeting.

Fire Department Report: No one was present to give the Fire Department report but Amber did bring up that she is getting the title for the truck that was purchased in December transferred into the City name now that she knows how to get it titled.

On a motion by Travis Halbur and seconded by Carolyn Penning it was duly passed to adopt Resolution 2022-01 designating appointments for the 2022 calendar year. Official check signers – Amber Bertrand City Clerk, Gene Bertrand Mayor, Travis Halbur and Carolyn Penning Council Members. Official depository is United Prairie Bank, Wilmont location. Official Newspaper is the Wilmont Shopper. Official City Attorney – Andrew Titus, Titus Law Office. City Assessor is Nobles County and Acting Mayor is Travis Halbur.

On a motion by Carolyn Penning and seconded by Travis Halbur it was duly passed to adopt Resolution 2022-02 Fee Schedule with the updated rates for Schaap Sanitation.

Clerk Report: Amber gave the Clerk report – stated we got a bill from Titus Law Office and Council asked Amber to call to see why exactly there was a bill. Amber reported that she did get signed up for the conference and will go to St Cloud on March 21st-25th. Cost for conference and room totaled around \$1,000 but will split with Lismore since they also want Amber to go. Wilmont will pay and then bill Lismore for half. Received the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization letter stating that it will be held in Wilmont on Tuesday April 19th at 2:30pm. Amber asked to purchase a tape recorder so minutes can be recorded. Amber also requested to change the pay period from the 1st & 15th to every 2 weeks Monday-Sunday and paid on Weds so she is in office to do payroll. It was also brought up to post the minutes somewhere so the public has visual access – shopper, bulletin board, etc. Council said to place on bulletin board. Amber also brought up that Harlan Unger asked on the ordinance for dogs since his neighbors dog keeps coming in to his yard to go to the bathroom. Council stated that this can be brought up to the Sheriff and they are the ones to discuss with dog owner, etc. Motion was made by Travis Halbur to approve the clerks report seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor, Motion Carried.

Old Business: Security Cameras – Gene is set to discuss with the person this week about installation. The repairs to the Community Center are waiting on an estimate for the rain gutters/down spouts but can't get a hold of Scott so Amber is going to reach out to ABC Seamless to see if they can at least give us an estimate.

New Business: Motion was made by Carolyn Penning to change the Council meeting back to the 2nd Tuesday of the month since Lismore is now on Monday nights – this will start for the April meeting, Travis Halbur seconded. All in favor, Motion carried.

There being no further business, Carolyn Penning made a motion to adjourn, Travis Halbur seconded.

Next meeting will be held on March 15th, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Bertrand, City Clerk

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