

City of Wilmont
Regular Council Meeting
July 12, 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, Steve Brake, Isaac Joens & Carolyn Penning.

Guests and Staff: Amber Bertrand, Deputy Sheriff Nelson, Brian Loosbrock

Absent: Travis Halbur, Tim Bertrand

Agenda: Carolyn Penning moved to accept the agenda with additions/new business, seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Minutes: Steve Brake made a motion to approve the minutes with the only change of Steve Brake being absent at the meeting so Amber will update showing it corrected, seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried. Steve Brake made motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes from 6/28/22 seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Treasurers Report: Amber Bertrand presented the treasurers report for June. Amber said that nothing was out of the ordinary. Isaac Joens did ask about the bill from Duane Burkard Electric for working on the City Generator – wanted to know what generator it was for. Amber called Tim and he said that it is the generator that will run both the City and the Fire Department. Isaac Joens 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 Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

Nobles County Sheriff Report: Sheriff report was given by Deputy Sheriff Nelson which he stated he didn't have anything new. It was brought up by Carolyn that Sharon Hansen called her and told her there was a loud truck that came past her house all the time around 5:00 am and Sharon also mentioned that someone took an item from a grave at the cemetery. Deputy Nelson said without more info to go on there isn't much they can do at this time but will let the others know to be on the lookout. Steve Brake made motion to approve the Sheriff Report and was seconded Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried.

Brian Loosbrock was present to discuss the land that the City owns that goes right through his property – an abandoned alley that is all grass now and has been forever. Brian has been mowing it and asked if he can just purchase it so he doesn't have to worry about putting something on the property that he doesn't own. Brian has asked in the past and was told that he would need to check with his lawyer which he stated he did but was told by his lawyer that the City lawyer is the one that needs to deal with the land sale and paperwork. City will check with their attorney Andrew Titus to see what the process is but believes that they just need to declare the property as excess and then will have the right to sell. Amber will look into it more and once she has some answers will reach out to Brian.

Maintenance Report: No one present to give report & Tim did not have anything new for the Council. The City did receive a call from Steve Joens stating that he will take the position if they give him a dollar higher than what was offered. The Council discussed and was fine with offering \$21 to start since Steve does have an experienced background in a lot of the areas that he will be working in maintenance. Isaac Joens made motion to approve the starting pay of \$21 and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried. Steve will start on the 21st of July and will get together with Tim & Steve Brake to go over the items that needs to be done. Joel Joens has been helping with mowing the ballfield, park and cemetery when it is needed. Weeds have been growing like crazy so they need to get sprayed. Amber will have Steve do that once he starts. Isaac Joens made motion to approve the Maintenance Report and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department Report: Isaac Joens missed the Fire Department meeting so didn't have anything but Steve Joens did give some info to Amber to discuss. Amber said that Jordan Brake came to the last meeting and requested to be on the fire department, Isaac Joens made motion to approve Jordan Brake to be hired and was seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried. Amber also said that Steve Joens is looking into a FEMA grant and would be working with Karin Anderson again for the grant. The cost of the grant whether approved or not is \$1,500.00 but if it is approved the Fire Department would be getting SCBA's valued around \$100,000. FEMA would cover 95% of cost and city would cover 5%. Isaac Joens made motion to go forward with grant application and was seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried. Carolyn Penning made motion to approve the Fire Department report and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

Rich Hoffman was on the agenda but did not show for the meeting and with Tim gone nothing could be discussed about water/sewer for possible new construction. Amber did know that he was asking about hooking up to water but doing his own septic tanks. Discussion will be tabled until Rich comes to meeting or sends in info explaining exactly what he is wanting to do.

It was brought to the City's attention by Chuck & Rita Vaske that the garage/shed that Al Fuerstenberg is wanting to put up is outside the ordinance laws and asked for the permit to be denied. The Council is seeking advice from the City Attorney Andrew Titus and has told Al that he will need to put things on hold until they have an answer. Other sheds/garages have been put up in town that are higher than the 12 feet and larger than the 500 feet without a variance or special use permit. Discussion has been tabled until Titus can look into it more.

Amber talked with the State Bank of Lismore in regards to getting the City credit card with no names – will just say City of Wilmont. This way it isn't tied to just one person so if Amber needs to use or if Steve does then they will be covered and fine to use it. Amber also said that she was told they can get new credit card numbers since the old card that Rita had even though it was cut up on our end it still shows as active so the bank will close those out and issue new ones. Steve Brake made motion to approve the change of the credit cards to just say City of Wilmont and was seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk Report: Amber gave the Clerk report – Jase Pater from SMOC wanted to know if Wilmont wanted to sign up to be a water vendor which mainly means if a resident is on Energy Assistance they can get help through SMOC to have their utility bill paid if they are behind. Starts in October but they are trying to get everyone in their service area signed up & ready to go this summer. Council was fine with signing up to be water vendor as it will help everyone out. Tawn Hall had emailed about possible mitigation funding & wanted to know if the City were to have an emergency is there anything needed to help ease that emergency. City already has a generator for the lift station and also one that will work for the Fire Hall & Community Center but we could always use a backup generator in case one goes out. Amber is not sure if that will count but she will let Tawn know that is what the Council came up with. Rebecca from Kinner & Co will be coming on Thursday to finish up the audit for 2021. Amber has election judge training on the 20th & 27th so will need to leave around 12:15 those 2 days. Carolyn Zemler stopped and asked that since the hardware store is closing if she can bring her farm fresh eggs and keep in the Community Centers fridge – she will have a free will donation bucket & like at the hardware store all donations go directly to the Fire Department. Fridge is not used unless someone rents the hall so Council didn't see issues & Amber can always let Carolyn know when to not bring eggs if hall is in use. John Jueneman was wondering if he needs to be charged sewer at the hardware store if no water is being used. Per city guidelines the only way to not be charged sewer or water is to cap it off at the source which would be an expense to the resident/owner not the city. Amber will let him know this and when she looked at other places that have the same situation they are being charged base rate for water/sewer. The city has received the 2nd half of the ARPA funds. Mosquito Control of IA sent a letter just to inform the City that they are spraying the best they can to handle the different types of hatches due to the dryer weather. Loosbrock sent out letter with burial charges – staying the same unless they have to open/close a grave on a weekend or holiday there will be a \$100 surcharge. Water rates with Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water increased on 7/1 by \$0.07 so billing has been updated to reflect that increase. Filing dates for Affidavit of Candidacy are from August 2nd through August 16th and Amber has posted in Wilmont Shopper and will post at City Hall, bank and post office. Isaac Joens made motion to approve the Clerks Report and was seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried.

Budget Worksheet was given to the Council – nothing was discussed at this meeting. Amber will work on getting some figures plugged in & will get updated worksheets out at next council for review.

Old Business: Repairs to the Community Center – Same: waiting for Scott to put on the gutters. Front windows are in and we are just waiting until the contractor has time to replace. Windows have been paid for a long time ago.

New Business: Randy Byers dropped off a permit for a small decorative fence in the backyard. Size would be 5.4x8x3. Carolyn Penning made motion to allow this and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

Carolyn Penning asked if they could have hotdogs and ice cream at the last T-Ball game on the 25th. Council didn't see any issues with that since it will be free will donation. Gene will see if Monograms will donate the Hot Dogs and Carolyn is going to see if the bank will donate the ice cream. Steve Brake offered to grill the hotdogs.

There being no further business, Carolyn Penning made a motion to adjourn, Steve Brake seconded.

Next meeting will be held on August 10th, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Bertrand, City Clerk

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