

City of Wilmont
Regular Council Meeting
July 11, 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 & Steve Brake.

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

Absent: Alicia Entinger

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

Minutes: Josh Balster made a motion to approve the minutes from June 13, 2023 seconded by Steve Brake. 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 Josh Balster. All in favor, Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Amber Bertrand presented the treasurers report – nothing new other than the normal bills. 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: A Deputy Nelson did stop in and said that he didn't have much to report on and just mentioned if there are any junk vehicles that need to be taken care of. Steve mentioned a vehicle that hasn't moved and has 3 flat tire and outdated tabs so the Deputy will try getting ahold of the individual. Council did ask if Jay Clarke had a chance to check into the building that was discussed last month and he wasn't sure so will talk with Jay. Isaac Joens made motion to approve the Sheriff Report and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

Maintenance Report: Steve Joens gave the report – has been cleaning some storm sewers, busy mowing and spraying weeds. There were some complaints about how the outside of the Community Center looks so it was asked for Steve to get the weeds that were sprayed cleaned up and get the oil stuff he used off of the bricks/cement. Isaac Joens made motion to approve the maintenance report and was seconded by Josh Balster. All in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department Report: Logan Neyens gave the report – said that they received the official notice that they got the Washer/Dryer grant and is working with Lismore to hopefully save on money on shipping as they got the grant as well. Remodel is going good – flooring was more than Logan was thinking so they decided to hold off on doing the cement in the front for now. Amber will get Logan an update of what they have spent so far. Logan did present a resignation letter from Tyler Brunk. On a motion by Isaac Joens and seconded by Steve Brake it was duly passed to accept the resignation from the Wilmont Fire Dept for Tyler Brunk. All in favor, motion carried. 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 – Nobles County Board of Appeal & Equalization sent a letter stating that they did reassess Isaac Joens' house due to the documentation that was brought forth so they lowered the value by almost \$55,000. State Bank of Lismore sent a letter stating that they were purchased by First Western Bank & Trust – personnel is all staying the same and we only have a card with them. Amber had a call from Jeannette Engels about someone placing a mailbox on her property and wondering if they can do that without her permission. At the time Amber was not sure and it was later in the day where the post office was closed. Gene did go down and talk to the resident who was placing the mailbox and was told that the Post Office stated this is where he needed to put it to receive mail (if a house is less than a quarter mile from the post office they are required to have a mailbox at the post office). The resident did up moving it down a little but Amber is still going to check with the Post Office to make sure that this is ok or if it really should have been placed with the cluster mailboxes. Amber is checking with Silver Smith AST to see if we could use Lismore's GPS unit and if so she will get a better pricing and will let the Council know. Steve Brake made motion to approve the Clerks Report and was seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

Amber received a permit for Solar PV on a roof for Adam Wood. The Council doesn't need to approve the permit since one wasn't required but Amber still asked for a motion so she could let the Company know that it was fine as this was something that they needed. On a motion by Josh Balster and seconded by Isaac Joens it was duly passed to approve the permit. All in favor. Motion carried.

On a motion by Josh Balster and seconded by Steve Brake it was duly passed to approve Resolution 2023-06 Establishing process for Hiring/Suspending/Terminating a Volunteer Firefighter. All in favor, motion carried.

Al Fuerstenberg asked Isaac if he needed to apply for a new permit since he is wanting to change the placement of his garage by moving it 5 feet closer to the alley (instead of a 20ft setback it would be a 15ft setback from the alley which is still within the setback requirements). Council had no issues with this and Amber said that he is coming up on his year for the permit so will just have him renew it and can include the change it in at that time – no new fee would need to be charged since he isn't changing anything other than the setback by the alley. No motion made this time as they will wait until the renewal is presented.

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

An estimate was received from The Computer Man for \$2,104.55 which will create the VPN to connect all the camera sites together which is needed. Isaac Joens made a motion and was seconded by Steve Brake to approve the estimate. All in favor, motion carried.

Nobles County ARPA Funds – Steve said he got ahold of the fencing company and they did come down and discussed different options and gave us quotes on those along with the removal of the fence. Council looked at the different options and decided on Plan #2 for \$15,847.00 along with the fence removal which was \$3,800.00. Isaac Joens made motion to approve Plan #2 and the removal of old fence and was seconded by Josh Balster. Amber will get the signed contract back to them and also half the payment which is required and they will reach out to Steve and let him know when they plan to come and do the fencing. Gene asked if we received the estimate for the bathroom plumbing and Steve stated that he hasn't heard anything but thought that Al and Alicia were going to discuss since she was trying to get a grant for the drinking fountain. Another thing the Council is looking at using ARPA funds for is helping with getting the streets fixed up. Amber grabbed a couple quotes from some companies that quoted Lismore for street work – Duininck and Fuller Paving so Amber will reach out and see if they can come and give an estimate on the areas that are needing fixing sooner than later. Amber reminded the Council that estimates for all projects need to be in to the County before the end of the year and projects need to be done by end of 2024.

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

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Bertrand, City Clerk

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