

City of Wilmont
Regular Council Meeting
June 13, 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, Sheriff Clarke, & Tim Bertrand

Absent: Steve Brake

Agenda: Alicia Entinger moved to accept the agenda and seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Minutes: Josh Balster made a motion to approve the minutes from May 16, 2023 seconded by Alicia Entinger. All in favor. Motion carried.

Time Sheets: Question was brought up about the overtime that Steve had gotten. He explained it was from checking the pumps since they were doing a discharge which is also why he worked a small amount on Memorial Day. Tim was also checking the pumps so we were technically paying 2 people for the same thing so after talking to Tim and Steve it was decided that Steve & Tim need to communicate better on who is doing what so we can avoid overtime that is not necessary. Council understands that overtime will happen and as long as it isn't constant and there is a good reason behind the overtime. Steve will put more detail in on his time sheets so there aren't these type of misunderstandings in the future. Alicia Entinger 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: Sheriff Jay Clarke gave the report – said nothing really happening in town but they are coming into town at night to check on the laydown yard to make sure all is good there. He did notice on the agenda that we had questions about fireworks in town – does the Sheriffs office require anything or if the City approves & makes sure that the person doing the firework show is licensed and insured they will be fine. Sheriff Clarke said that they don't require permits & Josh asked about a firetruck & he said that is up to the City as well but recommends one there just in case. The other question was for the buildings that are falling down and just a safety hazard, the City is wondering since they are in violation of the ordinance if they could start the process of getting ahold of them and if nothing gets taken care of then the City could start the process of condemning the property and getting it torn down. Josh Balster made motion to approve the Sheriff Report and was seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

Maintenance Report: Steve Joens gave the report – KLM Engineering came to do the water tower tank cleanout inspection & Steve thought he had routed the sludge from the water tower correctly but some of it still got into town which then caused the water to be shut off & boil alert to go in place. Council discussed that if something like this were to come up again that we need to have better procedures in place so we can let the residents know beforehand that they could have low water pressure or possibly no water for a period of time & if Steve isn't sure he needs to reach out and ask for help from the right people. KFence people are wanting to come around the 2nd week in July depending on how dry it is out by the ponds to replace the old fencing – Council discussed again about getting an estimate for removing the fence as well & asked Steve to get the price ASAP. County will be coming through to seal coat the county roads. Alicia Entinger made motion to approve the maintenance report and was seconded by Josh Balster. All in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department Report: Steve gave the report – said they are still working on the remodel at the fire hall but getting closer. They have purchased the Infrared Heat Gun with the Nobles 2 Wind Farm grant money. They have also received notice that the washer/dryer grant with FEMA was approved. Alicia Entinger made motion to approve the Fire Department Report and was seconded by Josh Balster. All in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk Report: Amber gave the Clerk report – Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water will be increasing rates effective 7/1 so Amber will be increasing our water rates to match. Nobles County is putting together an informational meeting about the new Cannabis laws and asked that at least 1 Council member be present and Alicia said that she can go and Amber will also be going as well. Amber talked about a program called Asset Status Tracker by Silversmith which Lismore just got and Amber was impressed by. The system will keep track of all your curb stops, water/sewer lines, fire hydrants, etc. and you can keep a running list of when something was done like flushing the hydrants. Can also use it for work orders so Amber or Steve know that something needs to be done. It pretty much is 1 device that keeps track of the town & would be beneficial for the Fire Department as well as any new hires. ARPA funds could also be used for this and Amber can also check with Lismore to see if we can use the GPS device as well. Council liked the idea but wasn't sure if it was a necessity so will think on it and discuss again next month. Steve Brake had called Amber as he got a call about kids trying to cross the highway to get

to the park so Amber reached out to the County and they are going to put in a crosswalk by the church as it is up on the hill and will put some signs up as well – this won't fix the issue of people coming into town to fast but hopefully it will help some. Alicia Entinger made motion to approve the Clerks Report and was seconded by Isacc Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Wilmont Saloon had asked to put up a volleyball net and the Council thought they meant behind the bar but they actually wanted to place it behind the Community Center in that lot that the City owns which the Council thought was a better area anyways so on a motion by Josh Balster and seconded by Alicia Entinger it was duly passed to allow the bar to use the land with some conditions – a net needs to be put in place to help keep the ball from going into the street but it will need to be removable as in the winter we will still be using that area to dump snow. The City also would like the bar to only use canned beer or plastic cups as the bottles can break and glass could get all over the alleyway. The City also will require the bar to sign a waiver of liability form for when they are hosting a volleyball game or practice which just states that the City isn't liable for anything going on at the time of the events.

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

Nobles County ARPA Funds – Steve talked with AI about getting an estimate for updating the ballfield bathrooms but hasn't gotten the estimate yet so will bring it to next meeting. Gene is still working on getting estimates for some street repairs and looking at some of the curbs that may need to be fixed as well.

Camera's for the Shop and Fire Hall – Scott has started on installation.

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

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Bertrand, City Clerk

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