

City of Wilmont
Regular Council Meeting
May 10, 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 & Tim Bertrand

Absent: Travis Halbur

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

Minutes: Isaac Joens made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried. Isaac Joens made a motion to approve the minutes from the Local Board of Appeals & Equalization meeting that was held on April 19, 2022, seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion Carried.

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

Treasurers Report: Amber Bertrand presented the treasurers report for April. Carolyn did ask about the Lightbar for the FD truck which Amber explained that we got a donation from Lavonne Slater so it was an in/out expense. Steve Brake 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.

Nobles County Sheriff Report: No one present to give report.

Maintenance Report: Tim gave the maintenance report. Tim stated the ballfield is done except for placing the bases but that will get done shortly. Playground equipment was delivered but Tim asked Council about getting mulch/wood/pea rock – just need something other than the hard ground. Council decided to go with the pea rock. Tim also mentioned that the City should maybe start looking at renovating the park bathrooms as they are getting pretty run down. Amber said that there were 2 people who applied for the maintenance position but Tim brought up the possibility of working part-time (he would no longer work at the school). Tim stated that he doesn't feel the position needs to be full time but he would guarantee so many hours a week and would be willing to work more if the situation arose. Since Tim has his license for the water/wastewater we would still need him for that part either way. The Council asked Tim to put together an updated job description and time frames of when things should be done and decided to table the hiring process until next council meeting. Amber will send letters to the two applicants letting them know this. Steve Brake made motion to approve the Maintenance Report and was seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department Report: Isaac Joens gave the Fire Department report – They are still waiting on the motor for the pump on the new truck and also the controller for the lightbar. The remodel got put on hold mainly because the committee is wanting Brian Remakel to do the remodeling and he doesn't have any time to get it done and also the expense is coming in more than what they initially thought so need to rethink on what remodeling they are needing vs wanting to do. Carolyn Penning made motion to approve the Fire Department report and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

Travis Halbur asked the Council if the City would be willing to sell the land that the old water tower was on as he is interested in possibly putting up a shed there. Travis was curious if there was water/sewer hookup and also wanted to make sure that the land would be fit for a shed. Amber will need to look into this more to first see if the city can sell as excess property and the process needed to go about putting it up for sale. No motion made at this time as Council could not make decision until it is researched more.

Amber had received a proposal from GovOffice and the lowest cost package was coming in at \$3,995 per year and the City would need to contract for 4 years. It came with some bells and whistles but the council thought for how much a website may be used in a small town that the cost was way too high. Amber has some other companies to look into and will get a proposal from them by next council meeting. Amber is also going to check with GovOffice to see why they are so high when other cities are paying quite a bit less with them. No motion made.

Clerk Report: Amber gave the Clerk report – Tom Spartz & Ed Herrig both went South for the winter but garbage/recycle was never removed. Amber stated in the past Rita just knew when to take that off for the winter but since she wasn't here when they left it was never removed. Amber did state that the City paid Schaap for the garbage/recycle & that both Tom & Ed were receiving their bills which shows all the charges. Council stated that we would not credit back since they could have told us sooner & since we were paying Schaap for it. Amber said that WEX will be taking over from Further for the VEBA account & that she will be getting more info on that. Amber reviewed the Annual ACH with Katelyn from UPB & all looked good but they did ask if Danielle still needed the token/access to online so it was discussed & since Amber hasn't needed their help with the bank statements Council said she could be removed so Amber will reach out & get the token back. Wade from UP Insurance had the LMCI quote adding Equipment Breakdown (extra \$455 for the year) & Excess Liability of \$1M (extra \$855 for the year). The City has never had either coverage in the past & it was discussed but decided to not add either one at this time – motion was made to deny coverage by Isaac Joens & seconded by Steve Brake, all in favor, motion carried. Amber let the Council know that Computer Lodge has closed the storefront but will still be working out of their home for the service part of things. Michelle Loosbrock works for Moments Hospice & stopped in to visit with Amber to get word out that they should be up & running end of June. They are an in-home hospice care company with a wide range of programs. Amber did order a payment drop box as some people have had issues with the old one blowing their payments out. Carolyn Penning made motion to approve the Clerks Report and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business: Security Cameras – they have been installed at the community center & are up and running. We did need to add a battery backup & shelving which was only an extra \$196.

Repairs to the Community Center –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.

Donation to Fire Hall – remodel has been put on hold at this time so no donation will be given at this time.

New Business: Al Fuerstenberg brought in a permit to put up a 40x60 shed in the back of his property. Al did have it surveyed to make sure it was properly placed. He will be removing the old garages. Water will be coming from the house & he may want to hookup to sewer in the future & Tim didn't see any issues with that. Isaac will let Al know that it was approved. Isaac Joens made motion to allow this and was seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried.

Amber had received a property tax bill for \$413.64 & it had Ditch Benefits & Outlet Benefits and since she didn't see that it was ever paid in the past did some checking. Amber talked to Zach from Nobles County Public Works (Zach also called and explained to Gene). Zach explained that the wastewater from the City is discharging into the County's tiling system & the County is finally charging for that usage since they will be the ones that have to maintain & cover any repair costs to it.

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

Next meeting will be held on June 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Bertrand, City Clerk

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