

City of Wilmont  
Regular Council Meeting  
May 16, 2023

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by Mayor, Gene Bertrand at 6:00 pm in the Wilmont Community Center, 316 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Council Present:** Gene Bertrand, Josh Balster, Steve Brake & Alicia Entinger.

**Guests and Staff:** Amber Bertrand, Steve Joens, Becky Remakel, Judy Christians, John Penning & Deb & Duane Vaske

**Absent:** Isaac Joens

**Agenda:** Josh Balster moved to accept the agenda and seconded by Alicia Entinger. All in favor. Motion Carried.

**Minutes:** Steve Brake made a motion to approve the minutes from April 11, 2023 & the LBAE meeting minutes from April 24, 2023 seconded by Alicia Entinger. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Time Sheets:** 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. Alicia Entinger 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 Josh Balster. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Nobles County Sheriff Report:** No one present. It was brought up that Dennis Gerber was wondering about having Fireworks in town which would be done by a professional – Council didn't have an issue but Amber wanted to check with the Sheriff Department so will reach out to them. It was also brought up about the old buildings that are falling down on Main Street and since in ordinance violation Amber will discuss this with the Sheriff department as well and has reached out to the City Attorney.

**Maintenance Report:** Steve Joens gave the report – LED lights in the Fire Hall and Shop are done and just a couple street lights are left to be replaced. Steve asked the Council what to do with the old lights which are fluorescent and was decided to see if anyone will want them so Amber will get them in the shopper and post on Facebook and if no takers Steve will have to find a place to dispose of them. New Vision meter is ordered but is 2-4 weeks out. Steve has been grading the alleys and trying to fill in the potholes but wanted to know if he should continue with gravel or see about crushed rock. Council discussed and said to stick with the gravel. Steve also asked about the dirt alley on the West side of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave as this winter when he tried to blow it out he had lots of shrubs/bushes/trees growing over and making it hard to pass through so wanted to know who was responsible to keep them trimmed. If on the person's property it is the homeowner's responsibility to keep them trimmed so Amber will post a reminder in the Shopper and on Facebook and if the City needs to do the trimming it will be charged to the resident. Steve mentioned a frost boil in one of the streets and Gene said that there are streets that do need to be repaired so will need to look into that and find a contractor that may be in the area. Josh Balster made motion to approve the maintenance report and was seconded by Alicia Entinger. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Fire Department Report:** Becky Remakel, Deb & Duane Vaske and Judy Christians came to the meeting to thank the City Council for letting them use ARPA funds on the remodel of the Fire Hall as they wouldn't have been able to do as much without it. Josh Balster made motion to approve the Fire Department Report and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Clerk Report:** Amber gave the Clerk report – Wade from UP Insurance quoted adding Equipment Breakdown & Excess liability which would be an extra \$1,707 for the year and the City has never added these in the past but Amber wanted to check again since the policy just renewed. On a motion by Alicia Entinger and seconded by Josh Balster it was duly passed to leave the insurance coverage as it currently is without adding on the extras. All in favor, motion carried. Amber had also got quotes for the ballfield for the items that were removed a few years back and also some of the newer items like the Foodstand/Restroom, fencing, light towers, playground equipment, scoreboard and dugouts since the ballfield is restored and being used more and more. On a motion by Alicia Entinger and seconded by Josh Balster it was duly passed to add the mentioned items onto the insurance. Every year the City needs to waive or not waive the statutory tort limits so Amber went over that again which in the past the City always selects to not waive. Josh Balster made a motion to not waive the tort liability limits and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor, motion carried. Last month it was discussed that Tim would need to pay for half of the cost of the missed insurance premium but after some more discussion with Tim and the Council Steve Brake made motion that the City covers the total cost of missed premium due to it being clerical error on the City and nothing that Tim did wrong and it was seconded by Josh Balster. All in favor, motion carried. Josh Balster made motion to approve the Clerks Report and was seconded by Alicia Entinger. All in favor. Motion carried.

Amber had 2 sealed bids dropped off for the purchase of the old water tower parcel. One was from Travis Halbur for \$700.00 and the other Schuett Auto Body for \$3,000.00. Council awarded bid to the highest bidder which was Schuett Auto Body & since Jim was not

present Amber will reach out to inform him. Alicia Entinger made motion to accept the highest bid from Schutt Auto Body and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor, motion carried.

John Penning was present to discuss some standing water out by the ponds as he feels there is a tile that is hooked up to the ponds that may be plugged which is leading to standing water. Steve Joens will check with Loosbrock to see if they have a map of what tiling they did and will look into the drainage.

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

Nobles County ARPA Funds – Amber put the estimates together for what the Fire Hall is needing for the remodel and came up with \$41,000.00. On a motion by Steve Brake and seconded by Alicia Entinger is was duly passed to let the Fire Dept use up to \$41,000 of the APRA funds. All in favor, motion carried. Gene had asked about using ARPA to help fix some of the roads and Amber said that yes that would be a great project to use the rest of the funds for. Gene will check with the County to see if they have anything going on in this area that we can piggyback off of. If that doesn't work the idea of fixing up the ballfield bathrooms and the park bathrooms or even the concession stand could use some updates. Steve will need to get estimates for updating the plumbing for both bathrooms so we can get an idea of costs.

Camera's for the Shop and Fire Hall – Scott got a hold of Gene and said he will be in next week to start the installation.

Steve ordered the meter for the New Vision water and once it is put in place and Amber receives bill she will bill New Vision.

There being no further business, Steve Brake made a motion to adjourn, Alicia Entinger seconded.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Bertrand, City Clerk

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