

City of Wilmont
Regular Council Meeting
May 14, 2024

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: Josh Balster, Isaac Joens, & Alicia Entinger.

Guests and Staff: Deputy Sheriff Morke, Amber Bertrand & Steve Joens

Absent: Steve Brake

Agenda: Josh Balster moved to accept the agenda and was seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Minutes: Josh Balster made a motion to approve the minutes from April 9th, 2024 & the minutes from the LBAE meeting April 30th, 2024 and was seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

Time Sheets: Time sheets look good and no questions arose. Josh Balster made a motion to approve time sheets, seconded by Alicia Entinger. All in favor, Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Amber Bertrand presented the treasurers report – nothing out of the ordinary. 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 Alicia Entinger. All in favor. Motion carried.

Nobles County Sheriff Report: Deputy Sheriff Morke gave the report – said Wilmont has been a quiet town so didn't have anything to report. Amber will reach out to Melissa Einck to make sure she has the town celebration down. On a motion by Alicia Entinger and seconded by Josh Balster it was duly passed to approve the Sheriff report.

Maintenance Report: Steve Joens gave the report – Had to purchase a new pump for the ponds as the other one quit working. Steve Brake was able to go and get one from Bierschbach right away. Steve had to get the ponds pumped so is going to hold off on placing the valve which Justin Ahlers agreed on. With all this rain the sump pumps have been running but when looking around town you don't see very many hoses out so Amber will put a reminder on Facebook that sump pump discharge needs to go to the gutters and not down the drain. The lead & copper report is due in August but the State is needing proof of what is coming into the meter in the house so will need to get into everyone's home to take pictures. People are starting to bring items to the dump that don't belong – construction materials, shingles, etc. Amber said that if Steve can figure out the timeline Amber can look at the cameras to see who dumped the items. Spring clean-up will be on Thursday, May 24th with Schaap Sanitation doing the clean-up again this year. Steve said that Pennings who own the land by the ponds were farming and struck our fence. Steve was wondering the protocol for that and Council discussed and told Steve to get a hold of Pennings to let them know and to tell them that the fence company that placed the fence will need to come and fix it but they will be responsible for the cost of repairs. Steve said he will reach out and go from there. There are a couple classes for water/wastewater on May 22nd & 23rd which will give him some CE credits and cost to attend was free – Council was fine with him going. Alicia Entinger made motion to approve the maintenance report and was seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department Report: Steve Joens gave the report – Storm training and grain bin training was done by some FF. Waiting to do a training here in May but will most likely need to be held on a Saturday as they want to train with some of the tools they have gotten from the FEMA grant. Logan is getting Amber some of the bills from Heiman who know it is for FEMA grant so don't need to pay just need to get to our Grant Writer Karin. Steve said that they did end up moving the dirt and LP tank/line in the back of the Fire Hall. Back in September of 2022 the Fire Department hired Rylan Baumhoefner but somehow it got missed in the minutes so on a motion by Josh Balster and seconded by Isaac Joens it was duly passed to notate that the Council approve the hiring of Rylan on 9/12/22. Amber also received an application from Ashley Balster just that day so didn't get the background check sent off yet. The Council discussed and a motion was made by Alicia Entinger and seconded by Isaac Joens to approve the hiring of Ashley Balster onto the Fire Department contingent on her background

check. Josh Balster made motion to approve the Fire Department Report and was seconded by Alicia Entinger. All in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk Report: Amber gave the Clerk report – Cassie from Town Bar & Grill had reached out and wanted to know if it was possible to bring her food truck to Wilmont during the summer. Amber said that there isn't anything in place to have a food truck come into town for permits or regulations and didn't want to look too much into it if the Council decided to say no. Council discussed and were possibly fine with it if they only came on a Monday when the Wilmont Bar was closed. Discussion was tabled and Amber will reach back out to Cassie to see if Monday was even an option and will go from there. Alicia Entinger made motion to approve the Clerks Report and was seconded by Josh Balster. All in favor. Motion carried.

Rebecca Towne from Kinner and Co gave the audit report via phone. Rebecca said that the audit went well and that the City was in good shape. Rebecca did go over a couple things that the City may want to look into and some things that Amber needs to do as well. Rebecca mentioned that the City may want to look at finding some higher interest yielding accounts whether a CD or a 4M or even accounts that offer better rates. Rebecca said she will sit down with Amber to figure out the best course and amounts. Rebecca also mentioned that donations for the Fire Department (unless specifically earmarked) need to go through the Fire Relief as technically the City cannot fundraise – Amber and Isaac talked this over and have a plan going forward. Lastly Amber was unaware that a resolution for donations received was needed so she will implement that right away going forward. On a motion by Issac Joens and seconded by Alicia Entinger it was duly passed to accept the Audit report. All in favor, motion carried.

On a motion by Alicia Entinger and seconded by Isaac Joens it was duly passed to approve the permit for a deck for Roger Hirman. All in favor, motion carried.

On a motion by Alicia Entinger and seconded by Josh Balster it was duly passed to approve the permit for a detached 2 stall garage for Duane Christians. All in favor, motion carried.

On a motion by Josh Balster and seconded by Isaac Joens it was duly passed to approve Resolution 2024-04 Acknowledging Donations. All in favor, motion carried.

Josh Balster has a manhole in his back yard that in the past was buried but he had to dig up to connect and was wondering since there is east access to it do we want to do and extension to bring it up to ground level so in future can find easily. Josh said he will fill it in with dirt he has. On a motion by Isaac Joens and seconded by Alicia Entinger it was duly passed to extend it up to ground level. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Joint Powers Agreement with Nobles County – waiting to hear back from City Attorney on their opinion.

Health Insurance – offer stipend if not taking – Council discussed and stated that they understand what Amber was saying but since nothing was ever in place they are going to leave it at the employee has the option to take Health Insurance or to decline but no stipend will be paid if declined.

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

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Bertrand, City Clerk

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