

City of Wilmont
Regular Council Meeting
November 15, 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, Travis Halbur, Steve Brake & Carolyn Penning.

Guests and Staff: Amber Bertrand, Steve Joens, Sheriff Clarke

Absent: Isaac Joens

Agenda: Travis Halbur moved to accept the agenda with additions seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Minutes: Travis Halbur made a motion to approve the minutes from October 12, 2022 seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried.

Time Sheets: Travis Halbur made a motion to approve time sheets, seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor, Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Amber Bertrand presented the treasurers report – nothing new other than the normal bills. Carolyn Penning 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 Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

Nobles County Sheriff Report: Sheriff Clarke said not much is happening or going on in Wilmont. Said to just let the office know if any vehicles don't move off the street when the snow falls. Travis Halbur made motion to approve the Sheriffs report and was seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried.

Maintenance Report: Steve Joens gave the maintenance report – Steve got a bid from Al's Plumbing & Heating for a heater to put in the old water treatment building that had a old burner in there but it needs to be updated. Bid came in at \$2,400.00 which is pretty standard pricing so a motion was made by Travis Halbur and seconded by Steve Brake to purchase the Hot Dog heater & get it installed. All in favor, motion carried. Leased tractor was delivered. Lid on the water tower blew open – looks like it is just the outside lid. Steve said he can crawl up and get it closed but will need someone with him and a 2 way radio for safety so Steve Brake said he would help and to just let him know. Water tower pump in the bottom doesn't seem to have much pressure so Steve looked into getting an estimate to see how much it will cost to get a new one – right now they are 60-90 days out so may take time to receive. Steve asked when the water tower inspection should be done and Amber said it is done every 5 years and it will be done in 2023. Steve asked when Christmas lights should be up by and council told him Thanksgiving. Steve found where the water line for Brian Remakel's goes out of which is at the back of the building so was wondering what he should do since he can't shut off the water with the water shut off at the front of the building as that doesn't work. Council said to leave it as is for now as it is a lost line and will wait and see if something happens before spending a bunch of money trying to find it. Travis Halbur made motion to approve the Maintenance Report and was seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department Report: Steve Joens gave the Fire Department report – Steve was given the title of Captain so if the Chief or Assistant Chief are not at the scene yet Steve can be the main person in charge until one of them arrive. Postcard will be sent out in December for donations and planning a breakfast event on March 26th 2023. Amber put together a new application for any new people hired to fill out but was wondering if they should really have everyone that is currently on the Fire Department fill one out as well since she doesn't really have anything on hand at this time. Council thought this was a good idea so Amber will get some printed and have Steve bring to the next Fire meeting. Travis Halbur 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 – work comp audit came back and it looks like we will be getting a refund for \$910.00. Amber looked into Health Insurance to see if she could find anything at a cheaper rate than PEIP and she asked Wade at UP and he said he will look into it but he doesn't deal directly with the group coverages so will have someone from the main office do some checking. Amber did also check with First State Insurance Agency out of Worthington since they do group insurance – they were able to get some quotes together and some plans came in a little bit less but the deductible was higher. The Council said to just stick with PEIP since it does have pretty good coverage so Amber will get the application into them. The people that bought Jim & Marcia Balsters home thought they were buying an acreage and didn't know they were within city limits and they have more than the 2 dogs that are allowed per ordinance and were planning on running a kennel as they have been in the breeding business for over 10 years and are AKC Certified. Amber asked the Council what they wanted to do with that information – talk was made and the Council decided that they were not going approve them running a kennel or allowing more dogs. Amber will inform them of this decision. Travis Halbur made motion to approve the Clerks Report and was seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried.

Travis Halbur made motion to approve the permit for Schuett Auto Body which was to add an addition onto the shop office and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Travis Halbur and seconded by Carolyn Penning to approve Resolution 2022-07 Special Assessment for past due Utilities. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Travis Halbur and seconded by Carolyn Penning to approve Resolution 2022-08 Special Assessment for Gutter Project. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Council canvassed the election results that were sent by Nobles County. For the Mayor seat it was all by write-ins and Gene Bertrand was re-elected with 42 votes which was the highest as the second person with most votes had a total of 5. Two council seats were being voted on and Josh Balster got one

of those with 107 votes and Alicia Entinger won by write-ins with 7 votes. Motion was made by Travis Halbur and seconded by Steve Brake to approve Resolution 2022-09 Canvassing returns of Mayoral & City Council Election. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Carolyn Penning and seconded by Travis Halbur to approve Resolution 2022-10 VFW Raffle on February 12, 2023. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion was made if the City should purchase a Zoom account just in case someone that wants to be at the meeting isn't able to make it (would need to have an account as the free version doesn't let you go over an hour). Amber is going to look into it more, get some prices and will go from there. The council decided to table discussion.

Old Business: Repairs to the Community Center – Gutters have not been placed on yet but should be done shortly. Isaac was absent from the meeting so not sure if he had a chance to talk to Brian.

Water issues by Vaskes house – Steve figured out how the water drains and flows and was able to map out where the storm drains are at and the County happened to be close by so Steve had them use their camera to see if they could find an obstruction. They were able to check a few lines and possibly found a spot that might have a big boulder but the County camera couldn't get over to see how much it was actually blocking. Steve will have Loosbrock come as they have a camera that can crawl over this type of debris. Council approved to have Loosbrock come and see if we can figure out what it is and get it out of there.

Brian Loosbrock – Alicia Entinger reached out stating that she also has vested interest in this property so thought that it should have been posted publicly – I explained that this was passed/approved years ago but Brian never got anything taken care of and so no new motion was made since it was approved previously and City was just waiting on paperwork from Brian's attorney. Council stated that Brian and Alicia would need to sit down together to figure out who should be getting what and have their attorneys still draw up the paperwork and the City attorney will review to make sure all is valid and good to go. The City does not want to spend any money on this and if nothing can be decided then they will just keep the land as is. Amber will reach out to both of them to explain this and no more discussion will be made on it going forward.

Since the Council was discussing sale of land it was brought up again about the land where the old water tower shed was located and also the small strip of land North of the Community Center by the old Hardware store. The larger piece of land would probably want to be posted for bids and the small piece we can reach out to the owners on each side to see if they would be interested and if not put up for bids or just leave. Council will discuss further but nothing will be done or decided on until next year.

Nobles County ARPA Funds – Still waiting on some estimates for the fence at the ponds. The people we approved are still wanting to come and look it all over but wanted to wait until after the first snowfall so Steve will reach out and try to set up a date to meet with them.

Camera's for the Shop and Fire Hall – no one had a chance to get other estimates so will table until we have more.

There being no further business, Carolyn Penning made a motion to adjourn, Travis Halbur seconded.

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

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Bertrand, City Clerk

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