

City of Wilmington
Regular Council Meeting
October 12, 2022

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

Council Present: Gene Bertrand, Travis Halbur, Isaac Joens, Steve Brake & Carolyn Penning.

Guests and Staff: Amber Bertrand, Steve Joens, Deputy Sheriff Walker

Absent:

Agenda: Steve Brake moved to accept the agenda seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Minutes: Carolyn Penning made a motion to approve the minutes from September 13, 2022 seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried. Carolyn Penning made motion to approve the amended minutes from the May 10, 2022 meeting, seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

Time Sheets: Travis Halbur made a motion to approve Steve Joens, Joel Joens and Amber Bertrand's time sheets, seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor, Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Amber Bertrand presented the treasurers report – nothing new other than the normal bills. Travis Halbur 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: Deputy Walker was present and said that he hasn't heard of anything going on in Wilmington. It was brought up about a truck parked on 3rd Ave right by the Church parking lot and it hasn't been moved in quite a while and is causing visual issues when people are trying to leave the lot. Deputy Walker will see if he can track down the owner and see if they can move the truck to the other side of the road. Deputy Walker left and then came back stating he talked to the owner of the truck and the battery is dead but once they get a working one it will be moved. Deputy Walker did let them know that when it snows the vehicle can't be on the road and they stated they understood. Travis Halbur made motion to approve the Sheriffs report and was seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

Maintenance Report: Steve Joens gave the maintenance report – New Vision asked if they could put a 2nd meter hookup to the elevator for filling tanks to spray. Would not be running a new water line just connecting to the existing one. Council was fine with that so Steve will let them know – nothing will get done until spring time. Alarm is hooked-up on the water tower and it is working – Steve will get the first call, Amber is set up for the 2nd call and then Tim would get the 3rd/final call if no one has answered. Duane gave some estimates for the yard lights at the parks which came in at \$396.22 & he got a bid from Duane on an Electrical Heater for the water tower which came in at \$312.72. Council was fine with the cost on both of those so Steve will let Duane know. It was brought up that trucks are going down 3rd Ave even though there is a no truck sign but with the sign being on the light pole it may be getting missed – Steve will need to move the sign so it can be more visible before the trucks even start trying to turn. Steve Joens asked if he could remove the tire sandbox at the park as it is getting older and stray cats are using it as a litter box – Council was fine with it getting removed. Brian Remakel asked to have the water shut off on his building since he isn't going to have electricity so Steve tried but the one out front must not be hooked up into that as it still had water. Steve will check with Tim to see if he knows if there is another shut off to the building. Steve Joens said he is working with the alarm company for the sewer lift station to see if they can adjust the time so it doesn't go off with every little flicker of power outage. The Correctional people did come and helped with trimming the ponds and also cleaning up the gravel from the curbs & drains. Steve Brake 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 Fire Department report – Pickup has a few things left to finish up but they have had to use it and it works great – gets out to the fire quicker. Will be getting side lights for when on calls and also getting the radio part done. Steve Joens said at the last Fire meeting they had elections for the Fire Chief position and Logan Neyens was voted in to replace Steve. Travis Halbur made motion to approve Resolution 2022-07 to appoint Logan Neyens as the new Fire Chief and was seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor, motion carried. 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 – Dave Bertrand called and said that he is running a sewer line from his outhouse but the line will connect to his main sewer line so nothing needs to be done by the city he just wanted to let us know that Henning Construction may be seen doing some digging on his yard. Amber did some more checking on the Street Assessments for the interest portion (do we charge interest and if so what percent) but since the City didn't have to borrow any money to pay for the full street project no interest fee was accrued. The Council discussed and was fine not charging interest on this project but only because the City didn't get charged interest – Council stressed that if the City would have been charged interest then the residents getting assessed would have been charged interest as well. Travis Halbur made motion to approve assessing the principal portion and no interest for this project and was seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor, motion carried. PEIP Health Insurance rates came out and it looks like it increased 50% over last year – PEIP changed the rating module so a lot of cities did see a large increase. Currently the City covers the Single Advantage Value option and the monthly cost is \$796.82 but will increase to \$1,195.23 starting in 2023 which will cost the city \$398.41 more a month or \$4,780.92 a year. Amber asked if she should check around to see if a better option is available or if PEIP rate is still the best. – Council said to do some checking to just see what is out there. Amber did ask Andrew Titus to bill for the past items that he has worked on so we can try to get most of it into the 2022 year end which he did send some bills. Some of the more recent ones he hasn't billed out yet. Travis Halbur made motion to approve the Clerks Report and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mike Slater had asked if the windmill company could use the property where the old bins were at for a temporary lay yard for the windmill pods. The area is commercial zoned and is owned by Mike Slater so the council didn't see any issues. Travis Halbur made motion to approve the windmill company may use the old bin area as a **temporary** lay yard and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

Isaac Joens made motion to approve the liquor license for Wilmont Saloon, VFW and Wilmont Recreation and was seconded by Travis Halbur. All in favor. Motion carried.

Carolyn Penning made motion to approve Resolution 2022-05 Authorizing Charitable Gambling within the City for OLGC – they are doing a raffle for their fall dinner.

Al Fuerstenberg applied for a permit for a portable shed that will be placed on Leroy Fuerstenberg's property. It is a 13x20 hoop canvas portable shed. Isaac Joens made motion to approve the permit for the portable shed and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Carolyn Penning and seconded by Isaac Joens to approve Resolution 2022-06 Lismore/Wilmont share of Clerk Position. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business: Repairs to the Community Center – Isaac had tried reaching out to Brian to see if he was still interested in doing the window project but wasn't able to touch base so he will keep trying to get a hold of him. Carolyn was able to talk with Scott at K&H Construction about the gutter and he said he should be getting it on before winter.

Water issues by Vaskes house – Steve got maps from the county for their tile and he is mapping out the cities storm drains to see if he can figure out where they are all at and then will have someone come in with a camera to see if they can find anything causing the water to back up like it has been during a hard rain. Steve said he will continue to work on it.

Brian Loosbrock – Amber did get a chance to talk with Andrew Titus and he stated that he feels the City should do an appraisal on the piece of land and sell it at fair market value. Council said that it really isn't worth that much so they feel that if Brian takes care of all the legal fees and has his attorney do the paperwork than they would be willing to sell it to him – this was approved in the past so Amber will reach out to Brian to remind him of what was previously approved and that he is the one that needs to take care of it all.

Nobles County ARPA Funds – Steve said that the quote we got from Southwest K Fence was only to put in fence not tear down the old one. Steve had asked if that was something they could do since they have the wire-wrap equipment & they said they could but Steve is still waiting on estimate for that. We did get another bid from Acreage Fence but it only was with woven and barbed wire no high tinsel which is better quality – quote came in at \$10,200. With the difference in quotes not being much and the City getting the ARPA funds from the County the council felt the better wire would be the best option. Carolyn Penning made motion to go with Southwest K Fencing at the \$13,877 for fencing materials and 2 gates and was seconded by Travis Halbur. All in favor, motion carried. Steve said that the company wants to come and meet with 2-3 Council Members to go over exactly what they will be doing and do the walkthrough at the ponds with them. Fencing will not get done this fall but Steve will set up a time to have them come and meet with the council. Steve is having Al's Plumbing & Heating get him an estimate for a hanging gas furnace, hot dog furnace or for one that heats & cools (this one would be close to \$4,000) for out at the water tower.

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

City Attorney – stay with Titus or switch to someone who deals with City issues more often. Amber had spoken to Kayla Johnson from Smith & Johnson out of Slayton and they are willing to take on the City of Wilmont. They charged \$175/hour where Titus is \$200/hr. Kayla is also more familiar with the MN Basic Code and seems to know more on the real estate side of things as well. The other nice thing is this is the same attorney that Lismore uses so then Amber will only need to deal with 1 attorney. Isaac Joens made motion to appoint Kayla Johnson from Smith & Johnson as the City Attorney starting effective January 1st, 2023 and was seconded by Travis Halbur. All in favor. Motion carried.

Steve Joens had his 3 month review – Council is pleased with how the town is looking & discussed a few things with the water/sewer portion of his job. Steve Joens said that everything is going good. Steve Brake made motion to approve Vacation accrual and VEBA starting effective November 1st and was seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Travis Halbur made a motion to adjourn, Steve Brake seconded.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Bertrand, City Clerk

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