

City of Wilmont  
Regular Council Meeting  
October 11, 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, Isaac Joens & Alicia Entinger.

**Guests and Staff:** Amber Bertrand & Steve Joens.

**Absent:** Steve Brake

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

**Minutes:** Josh Balster made a motion to approve the minutes from September 12, 2023 seconded by Alicia Entinger. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

**Treasurers Report:** Amber Bertrand presented the treasurers report – nothing new other than the normal bills. Josh Balster 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:** No one present. Amber did have some info from Deputy Simpson on a couple things. First he had talked with John Ross in regards to R&L Auto Sales due to the vehicles that are sitting in the lot and John stated that he still has his dealer license until February 2024 so the vehicles cannot be towed at this time due to how the ordinance reads. John did mention that he is looking at selling the place to Kevin Spartz before the end of the year and Kevin had asked Steve Joens about the past due balance which would need to be paid current or the Council could waive the fees but nothing will get decided until the property is sold. Deputy Simpson had also talked with Albertson's about the junk vehicles and was told they would get rid of them and it looks like as of today they did start removing some of them. Last month we brought up the dog ordinance so Deputy Simpson did stop by the Woods' place and talked to them again and told them that the City will be pressing the overlimit issue. Deputy Simpson had mentioned to Amber that the City may want to mail them a letter to explain what is going on but before Amber could she got a phone call from Brittany Wood. Brittany stated that her kids needed all these dogs for their emotional support and that she isn't going to get rid of any of them and will involve her lawyer if need be. Amber explained the ordinance and how they are in violation and that the City is still going to pursue the violation. Deputy Simpson was also able to reach Lowell Scholtes in regards to the hazardous building on main street that has open spots into the basement and is a danger to people walking by. Lowell told Simpson that he plans to cover up the open spots and is waiting on Mike Slater to help him with the tear down of the building and that Mike will then purchase the lot from Lowell but he doesn't have a timeframe of when this will happen.

**Maintenance Report:** Steve Joens gave the report – Steve passed his test for Sewer Operator. Brad Gillingham from the State came and did his 3 year inspection on the sewer side of things. He had a couple small warnings about some missed samples and the overflow of the lift station (this was due to too much water/snow melt so nothing really that the City could have avoided). Brad will just be typing up a letter of warning but no action will be needed from the city and stated that Tim did an excellent job as 3 warnings is pretty good over a 3 year period. It was brought up that some people may be draining their sump pump directly into the sewer system which isn't allowed and eventually could cause an issue so probably around March Amber will put something in the Shopper stating that doing this is in direct violation of the ordinance. We may also need to look at enforcing an inspection of a homeowners sewer lines when a house is purchased/sold. Brad from the State also mentioned that the City may want to look into a shut off/slide valve for out at the ponds. New heater was hung in the water tower. Steve hasn't heard back from Al about installing the toilets/pipes in the baseball bathrooms but he is still hoping to get it done yet this year. Steve plans to flush hydrants hopefully next week. It was brought up to see if we can remove some of the ash from the burn pile so Steve will work on that as well. Alicia Entinger made motion to approve the maintenance report and was seconded by Josh Balster. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Fire Department Report:** Steve Joens gave the report – said that they are in the process of getting bids on some equipment that was approved by the FEMA grants. Remodel is so close to being done so the Council said that maybe at the next meeting they can go down and see it. Steve had purchased sensors for the garage doors and they need to get those on as OSHA has been going around auditing small towns. Josh Balster made motion to approve the Fire Department Report and was seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Clerk Report:** Amber gave the Clerk report – Amber talked to Russ Penning and asked about the Volleyball court and what his plans were for it – he stated he will be taking the net down but would like to leave the poles in if possible and plans to leave the sand their and

understands that we do pile our snow so he will need to clean it up this Spring. Steve Joens didn't think there would be an issue in leaving the poles and the Council was fine with that as well. Amber received the PEIP insurance renewal and it will be increasing \$55.37 a month starting in 2024 so on a motion by Alicia Entinger and seconded by Isaac Joens it was duly passed to accept the health insurance renewal and to keep paying for the single Advantage Plan coverage as they currently are. All in favor, motion carried. Phil Willardson had called and wanted to know if he could purchase the small parcel of land that the City owns by 707 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave as he wants to gift it to the owners and would even pay to have it surveyed. Amber has asked about this parcel when the house sold last year and at the time the Council didn't see an issue with it but Steve Joens has found out that a main water line. Council discussed and decided that the City better hand onto that parcel so Amber will let Phil know but Council stated that they wouldn't have an issue if the current owners wanted to put some gravel down so they don't have to keep parking in the street or use the land for a garden – they would just have to understand that if the line were to break that area would need to be dug up. Josh Balster made motion to approve the Clerks Report and was seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

On a motion by Josh Balster and seconded by Alicia Entinger it was duly passed to approve the permit for Roger Huisman to do an addition onto his existing shed. All in favor, motion carried.

On a motion by Josh Balster and seconded by Isaac Joens it was duly passed to approve the permit for Mike Slater to add and addition onto existing house located at 411 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. All in favor, motion carried.

On a motion by Josh Balster and seconded by Alicia Entinger it was duly passed to approve the liquor license renewal for the Wilmont Saloon, Wilmont Recreation and the VFW. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Nobles County ARPA Funds – Amber sent in all the estimates and bills to Nobles County so is just waiting for the funds.

There being no further business, Josh Balster made a motion to adjourn.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Bertrand, City Clerk

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