

City of Wilmont  
Regular Council Meeting  
September 13, 2022

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, Travis Halbur, Isaac Joens & Carolyn Penning.

**Guests and Staff:** Amber Bertrand, Steve Joens, Al & Shelly Fuerstenberg & Chuck & Rita Vaske

**Absent:** Steve Brake

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

**Minutes:** Travis Halbur made a motion to approve the minutes from August 10, 2022 seconded by Isaac Joens. 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 Isaac Joens. All in favor, Motion carried.

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

**Nobles County Sheriff Report:** No one present to give report.

**Maintenance Report:** Steve Joens gave the maintenance report – said that he got the equipment for the water tower alarm but will need to get a phone line hooked back up there so the alarm can work (the cell phone alarm cost was so much more than using a land line) Motion was made by Isaac Joens and seconded by Carolyn Penning to look into and getting a phone line hooked up for the water tower alarm. All in favor, motion carried. Chandler Coop propane contract is up for renewal and if we prepay 100% we can lock in at \$1.90 otherwise 50% is \$1.99. Motion made by Isaac Joens and seconded by Travis Halbur to contract the same amount as last year with Chandler Coop at 100%. All in favor, motion carried. Steve said that there are quite a few trees that need to either be removed or trimmed so a motion was made by Travis Halbur and seconded by Isaac Joens to remove or trim up trees and can use AJ Tree Service to help with removal/trimming. All in favor, motion carried. Steve said that Andy Wieneke will be removing the tree at the park that broke in the storms & Amber said that the bid was approved by LMC Insurance and a check was cut and on its way – this is for the shelter and removal of dead tree. Steve asked to take Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> off. Steve said he has Duane Burkard Electric looking at the light poles at the park as the lights are not working. 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 – FEMA grants are moving forward. Steve said they are working on the pickup to get the tanks in. Couple firemen will be training in Adrian FF1 classes that are coming up. Fundraiser hasn't been set yet but they thought it would be in March sometime. Travis Halbur made motion to approve the Fire Department report and was seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Clerk Report:** Amber gave the Clerk report – Fall clean-up has been set for Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> and Schaap will be doing the clean-up again. Amber had updated the Zoning/Building permit to match more what Lismore is using and the permits are now good for a year instead of 6 months. On a motion by Isaac Joens and seconded by Travis Halbur it was duly passed to accept the new zoning permit for all new applicants going forward from today. All in favor, motion carried. Amber had reached out to Kayla Johnson who is with Smith & Johnson Law Firm to see if they would be open to being the attorney for the City of Wilmont as she is more familiar with the MN Basic Code and it is also who Lismore uses so would make it easier to use just 1 attorney. Council will think on it and discuss at a later council meeting. Street assessments for the curb & gutters did not get assessed in 2021 due to Nobles County getting the invoice to us too late so Amber will be sending out a new letter reminding them the amount that will be assessed starting for the 2023 taxes. When looking in the past minutes Amber saw that the council approved to set the term at 20 years to be paid back but the interest rate still needs to get set. Amber had received a form from Adrian Coop so the City can get set up with a charge account there as Steve plans to purchase oil and fuel from them. Motion made by Travis Halbur and seconded by Isaac Joens to apply for a charge account with Adrian Coop Oil. All in favor, motion carried. It was brought to attention that the grass/weeds are getting long at R&L Auto Sales so Amber asked if she should just send a reminder letter to them or if she needs to have the Sheriff office send something since it is a violation of the ordinance. Council said to have Amber send a letter & if not done by next meeting we can have the Sheriff office get in touch with them. Travis Halbur made motion to approve the Clerks Report and was seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

Camera's for City Shop and Fire Hall – a bid was received from Living Connected (who did the Community Center cameras) for 2 Cameras at the shop and 1 camera at the Fire Hall. With material cost and labor it was coming in at \$3,993.00. Isaac Joens thought the amount was higher than it should be as he just got cameras for his business and paid quite a bit less and it was with the same company. Isaac also looked online and saw that the cameras were only coming in around \$169 per camera per the model number. With the cost of the bid being higher the council decided that we should get other bids to make sure that they are coming in with a good rate. This will be tabled until next month when we have more bids to compare.

Water issue by Chuck and Rita Vaskes place was discussed. Chuck & Rita stated that they are having water gush up out of the manhole by their house which it never used to so are curious if the city plans to do anything to fix that or find where the storm drain is plugged at as they are getting standing water in the road by them which in turn will eventually wreck the roads. Steve Joens will look into it and see if it is the county tile that is running through there and possibly causing the issue or if it is a city issue. Once the city figures out where the issue may be at the City will either have the county come with their camera or if it isn't county then we will have Loosbrock or someone come in with a camera to see if they can find where it might be plugged at.

Carolyn Penning asked for an extension/renewal of her garage permit as the contractors have not been able to get to it yet. No changes need to be made with the permit parameters so Isaac Joens made motion to approve the renewal of the permit and was seconded by Travis Halbur. All in favor, motion carried.

**Old Business:** Repairs to the Community Center – Same: waiting for Scott to put on the gutters. Isaac hasn't been able to talk with Brian but he did check with Josh Balster and he would be willing to do the windows if Brian doesn't want to do it anymore. Amber will look to see what Brian had bid in case he no longer wants to do the project.

Al Fuerstenberg Permit – Andrew Titus sent a letter to Jim Malters letting him know that Al is building a detached garage not a shed which then would not fall into the 500sq feet or less category so per the city ordinance the Council is in the right with approving the building permit. Rita mentioned that Amber said in the minutes that he was building a shed and she apologized and said it was a typo on her part and she will get those minutes amended as Al never called it a shed – always stated it was a detached garage. Rita then brought up that she believes that the garage would have to be on the same lot as the principal house and this is going on both lots that Al owns. Amber said that Al could combine lots and then wouldn't have that issue. Al has looked into combining lots so will go to the county to get them combined. Isaac Joens made motion to approve the permit for a detached garage as is with the condition that Al combines the lots so he is in compliance with the ordinances and was seconded by Travis Halbur. Al will fill out the new permit so he has the 1 year to complete. All in favor, motion carried.

Brian Loosbrock – Amber hasn't had a chance to look into this yet as she is waiting for Titus to finish up other city work.

Nobles County ARPA Funds – Tim looked into the rip-wrapping but the cost has gone up to more than double when then did the one pond so that will have to be budgeted for so will not be able to use the county ARPA funds for that. Next thing that is needing to get done is the fencing at the ponds so Steve talked with 3 fencing companies and 1 company will not even put a bid together for it and one of the other 2 companies Steve is waiting on the bid showing the breakdown of cost and items but he did have a bid from the 3<sup>rd</sup> company K Fence who would be using high tensile woven wire. That bid came in at \$13,877.00 which included the labor for putting the fence up. Only thing it was missing was cost to remove the old fencing if they even do that so Steve will reach back out and see what they say. If we do the fencing that still leaves \$77,032 of funds available so might look at getting a furnace/air conditioner for the building by the water tower as right now we are running a small space heater and a dehumidifier. Council told Steve to get some figures on the infrastructure projects he might be looking at to see where the total comes to since we have the ARPA funds available to use.

Plowing of Mike Slater's property (the alleyway/area by Joens Woodworking & old elevator) – Last month Mike mentioned that he was fine if the city still wants to plow this section of property as we have in the past but we told him we would discuss at this meeting. At this time the Council told Steve that he could plow it if he has time but if he doesn't he can leave it since it is not city owned.

Amber questioned what the Mayor got paid as when she looked in past minutes and other documents she couldn't figure out the pay as nothing stated exactly what it was. Travis stated he remembers when they gave the raise and said that council was raised to \$100 per meeting (which Amber had notes for so knew that amount) and Mayor was at \$150. Travis Halbur did make a motion to change the mayor pay to \$150 if it already wasn't and was seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by Isaac Joens and seconded by Travis Halbur to set the preliminary levy at \$150,044. All in favor, motion carried.

There being no further business, Carolyn Penning made a motion to adjourn, Isaac Joens seconded.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday October 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Bertrand, City Clerk

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