

City of Wilmont
Regular Council Meeting
September 12, 2023

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, Josh Balster, Alicia Entinger & Steve Brake.

Guests and Staff: Amber Bertrand, Steve Joens & Logan Neyens

Absent: Isaac Joens

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

Minutes: Josh Balster made a motion to approve the minutes from August 8, 2023 seconded by Steve Brake. 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 Steve Brake. All in favor, Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Amber Bertrand presented the treasurers report – nothing new other than the normal bills. Steve Brake 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: No one present. Amber did have a call about the dog ordinance as there is a resident who is over the limit and the Council said that they want to enforce the ordinance so Amber will talk with the Sheriff Department and let them know to proceed with enforcing this ordinance.

Maintenance Report: Steve Joens gave the report – SW K Fence is finishing up the fence at the ponds and Steve got the gates and thought the fence looked really good. Steve asked about the Ballpark Cement and so he had gotten an estimate from Mike Slater for \$14,000 to do what Steve was wanting. Amber mentioned that we only got \$3,400 from Nobles 2 grant and it was only to do the area where the bleachers sit. Council discussed and said that we should just stick with doing the bleacher area since that is what we got the grant for and we can always add on at a later date. Steve mentioned about the trees still hanging into the alleyway – we did send out 2 letters and one house did trim some and the other didn't touch the trees yet so he will try reaching out to the owners and see if they plan to finish it or we will and charge it to them. Steve will be going to St Cloud Sept 20-22 for wastewater training and the test to become an operator. Alicia Entinger made motion to approve the maintenance report and was seconded by Steve Brake. All in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department Report: Logan Neyens gave the report – Judy got a couple quotes for the washer/dryer grant one from Alex Air Apparatus for \$17,082.00 and the other from Jefferson Fire & Safety for \$17,377.00. Alex Air will work with Wilmont & Lismore to help save on shipping so on a motion by Josh Balster & seconded by Alicia Entinger it was duly passed to approve the estimate from Alex Air Apparatus. All in favor, motion carried. 15 people went to training and got certified for the Adrian Ambulance. FEMA Grant was officially awarded so they put a group together to work on getting the items and Amber said to make sure when getting quotes to get 2-3 quotes. Logan stated that they are still having some issues with Tyler Brunk as he showed up to an accident wearing the Adrian Ambulance shirt but they weren't called to the scene. Also Tyler ended up driving the Worthington Ambulance which is fine since he is certified but he had asked Judy Christians to bring his vehicle home and when she got into Tyler's truck she noticed a radio that was owned by Wilmont Fire Department which he should have never had in the first place as he wasn't given permission to take it and it for sure should have been returned once he resigned. Logan brought this up as he wanted to see what he should do if Tyler shows up at a different accident and Council stated that since he resigned and is no longer a part of the Fire Department we just need to treat him like any bystander and just ask that he step away from the scene. The City shouldn't be held liable as we have the signed resignation letter & minutes accepting the resignation. The Council at this time doesn't want to press charges for theft of equipment since we did get the radio back. Alicia Entinger 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 – Joyce Jacob from the County Auditor/Treasurer office had sent an email in regards to a couple properties that were now owned by the State due to Tax Forfeiture. Joyce was needing to know if the City was wanting to purchase the 2 parcels and if not did we want to keep the assessments on the parcels? The 1 parcel was just a small strip of land by 266 & a few residents home which the Council didn't see a point of purchasing and didn't have any assessments and the other was a Residential home that is on 3rd Ave which again the Council didn't think the City would want as that home needs to be torn down. This property did have assessments already on the property as follows: 2018 for \$567.44, 2019 for \$972.28, 2020 for \$695.86, 2021 for \$698.70, 2022 for \$755.10 & 2023 for \$696.33 totaling \$4,385.71 assessed. Council discussed and Steve Brake made motion to leave assessments on property and was seconded by Josh Balster. All in favor, motion carried. Alicia Entinger made motion to approve the Clerks Report and was seconded by Josh Balster. All in favor. Motion carried.

On a motion by Steve Brake and seconded by Josh Balster it was duly passed to approve Resolution 2023-08 for OLGC Raffle on 10/8/23. 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 Duane Christians for a portable storage shed. All in favor, motion carried.

Budget – Council went through the Budget worksheet and after getting the figures for Revenue and for Expenditures the Council decided to go with an 8% increase over last years Levy. This will still leave the City a little short but Amber will just make sure to notate in the Resolution that the City will use available funds within the Savings and/or Checking to cover any expenses over the revenues (Amber had discussed this with the Auditor last year for Lismore so knows that this will be ok if the revenues and expenditures don't match). On a motion by Steve Brake and seconded by Josh Balster it was duly passed to approve the Levy amount at \$162,044 which is the 8% increase over last years levy amount. All in favor, motion carried.

Alicia brought up that the Wilmont Saloon is thinking of doing a mobile beer cart (not driving around selling but more parked in different areas where the activities are taking place) at the Wilmont Celebration next year but Alicia wasn't sure what the City would require or if it would be allowed. Amber said that Russ will for sure want to check with Alcohol & Gambling Enforcement for the Liquor License side of things to make sure that he can do that and probably double check with his insurance company. Amber will look into seeing if the City needs to do anything. Alicia also asked if they could use the Wilmont sign at the park to put a big sign letting people know about the celebration a couple month before or do they need to find a different place – Council was fine with using the Welcome to Wilmont sign as the base & wrapping a Wilmont Celebration sign around it.

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

Nobles County ARPA Funds – Amber send 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 Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Bertrand, City Clerk

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