

Meeting of the Vilonia City Council July 19, 2016

The Vilonia City Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor James Firestone.

Members present – Clay Heslep, Sherry Clements, Skip Cates, Joe Maxwell, Jim King and Kathy French. A quorum was declared.

Approval of minutes from meetings in June-(Special Called Meeting June 6th and Regular Meeting June 21st) Councilman King made a motion to approve, Councilwoman Clements 2nd, and the motion carried.

Approval of financial statement for June-Councilman Maxwell made a motion to approve, Councilman King 2nd, Discussion-Councilman Heslep mentioned a lot of Misc. expense was shown totaling \$84,473.73. The Mayor said that was the payment from the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management for the ball parks that went into the park account. Vote was then taken and the motion carried.

Announcements –The Mayor announced if you were running again for City Council or Recorder/ Treasurer you will need to pick up your packets with instructions for filing at Faulkner County Clerk's office located at 801 Locust in Conway. The dates for filing are July 29th--August 19th at 12:00 p.m. Any questions call 501-450-4909.

Fire Department –No report given. K.C Williams had a meeting and could not attend. Councilman Heslep said there's not much going on at this time other than a lot of training is taking place.

Planning Commission – Keith is attending school and couldn't be at the meeting. Marshall Smith reported preliminary plans were approved last month to construct a new building next to the funeral home where the Vine & Branch Ministry used to be. This property is owned by Bill Jones and when completed will house the Vilonia Family Pharmacy and Conway Regional Medical Clinic. Also I understand Arcare Medical Clinic is planning to build a walk in clinic across the street from the Jones property.

Police Department –Chief McNew mentioned we had a driving rodeo this past weekend at the high school sponsored by Children's Hospital. They had about 35 teams that went through it. I asked Steve Austin to go to this event.

I received an email from Children's Hospital that said Steve gave one of the best presentations they have ever seen from law enforcement. The chief also said he had two officers present James Sellers and Lorone Lowe. Steve Carpenter should be here but he is out of town. He stated back on June 26th Steve Carpenter and James Sellers noticed some people go up to our park after hours. The officers blacked out got out of their cars, looked and found out these individuals were stealing stuff out of our concession stand. They waited and then stopped them and got all of the suspects that night. On July 4th when Lorone Lowe was on patrol at the Eagle Mini Storages where we have had thefts, observed some individuals were moving things out and after talking with them realized something was not right. He called the Mini Storage owner and found out these people were stealing everything they could. These two different break-ins within a few days of each other is really unheard of in catching someone in the act of stealing. The Chief wanted to give all three a Letter of Commendation and wanted to recognize them for the deeds they have done. He then read the Commendation Letters. Chief McNew also stated that in the council packets was the annual report from the Vilonia Police Department dated March 17, 2016 through June 30, 2016. involving use of force. This is part of the ALEAP standards. He said every 9 ½ days we are having to use force on people. Even though we are a small and quiet community we still have to use force. We will have to do this report every year along with a pursuit manual. All these things have to do with new ALEAP regulations.

Parks & Rec-VSA –Allin Crawford read from written agenda given to the council.

- 1. Currently playing our adult coed season and the feedback is good and will most likely continue this program from here on out. Adult Coed cost the Parks Department money to host but I believe it boosts our city's morale. It also keeps our tax dollars at home on those nights, and it helps to bring together our older and younger generations.**
- 2. Our youth Fall Ball season is now open for registration and will close the second week of August. I am planning to start playing the first week of September and end in October before basketball starts.**
- 3. Asking for approval to resurface and maintain fields for post season of 2016, spending \$7,000 to \$10,000 to resurface fields.**

I am currently resurfacing soccer fields. After completion of the soccer fields we will move to fill in holes at softball fields and then resurface the infields at the baseball complex. We are planning on the completion of this project to be by the end of November so that way we can let everything rest for spring season. This cost is just for the material. I have the equipment donated by Reeds so that way we can complete the project. I asked for estimates on this project by several companies and it ranged from \$ 30,000 to \$45,000 to resurface fields.

- 4. Allin mentioned he had a proposition on the second page of his report to be looked at for possible approval by the council about City Ordinance 2002-1. This ordinance only allows certain operating hours normally end by 10:00 p.m. On weekends this proposition would allow the parks to have extended hours for hosting events and tournaments when deemed necessary. The Mayor said this would require amending the ordinance. He felt no one would complain if the parks remained open an hour or two after 10:00 p.m. for said tournaments etc.**
- 5. Planning on keeping Kira Livingston on as contract labor for the parks department so that way she can help manage the online portion of the Parks and Recreation.**

Chamber of Commerce – No report given. Councilwoman French said some people had asked her if the chamber could take on projects such as building new welcome signs to Vilonia. The Mayor said he understood the chamber had some money set aside to do this and he would contact the chamber for an update. Councilman King said the chamber was shooting for a set amount of money to do the project and probably are not there yet.

Code Enforcement –No report given.

Senior Citizens –No report given.

Sewer Department – The report was given in written form dated May 17, 2016 and June 21, 2016. Financial statement 5-1-16 thru 5-31-16 and June 21, 2016.

Old Business – None. Councilwoman French mentioned Ruth McKennon who was at the council meeting last month said her street (Whispering Wind) had

not been fixed. I think we told her we would fix that street. It hasn't been fixed. Can it be fixed? The Mayor said I'm sure it can be, at one time when we were working on it there was a problem with the drainage and the street was remaining wet. I think somehow it got off the radar. I will contact Matt in the morning and get this project back on his top priorities. Marshall Smith also said last council meeting she talked about barking dogs. The Chief at that time said the Prosecutor couldn't do anything unless a picture was taken of the dog. The Mayor said we have an ordinance dealing with procedures to go through etc. to file a complaint. The Mayor mentioned survey lines down Hwy 64. I understand their going to try to get it paved before school starts.

New Business –

(A) IT Proposal – The Mayor said we have been doing business with Business Network Solutions on our computers. Currently we pay an hourly fee when we have a problem. Last year we spent \$8,250.97. At the midpoint this year we have spent \$4,025.56. If that trend continues we will spend another \$8 thousand this year. We have talked to Business Network Solutions and they offered a proposal where they would do all our computers (13) @ \$40.00 each for 12 months which would total \$6,240.00. All updates, firewall, service calls, on-site visits & support is included in this price. The Mayor recommended we go with this proposal. Motion made by Councilman Maxwell to approve \$6,240.00 with Business Network Solutions, Councilman King 2nd. Discussion: Councilwoman French asked when would this start. The Mayor said today as he will be signing the contract after the meeting. The Mayor called for a vote. The motion carried.

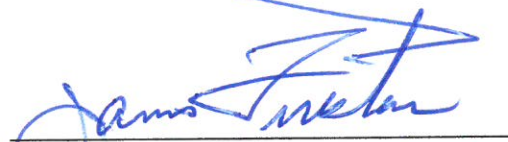
(B) Address Speeding Issues -The Mayor said he and the Chief have had complaints on speeding in Quail Hollow. One person who complained to me said he felt it wasn't outsiders but people living in the subdivision. One thing they suggested was doing a portable pole mounted radar that flashes your speed. The expense totals about \$3,600.00 which includes two battery packs, they also have a permanent solar pole which is about \$2,900.00. I think on the front end we need to determine how many people are speeding, how fast are they exceeding the speed limit. The Chief said he had a system he can set up that

will tell the speed of people traveling in that area. This will tell if we're really having a problem and would it justify money and manpower or equipment needed. He said his system needs to be updated to Windows 7. The person who complained says people are running stop signs. The Mayor said we could go to speed bumps but that is something we want to resist. Councilman Heslep said that is where he lives and he didn't think we have a speeding problem due to the stop signs. The Mayor said a lot of children and parents go walking in the evening and if we have a problem we need to correct it. The Mayor asked the Chief to check with his men out patrolling to see if the stop signs are visible from trees, scrubs. Also make sure speed signs show 20 miles per hour. The Chief will report back to the council on his findings.

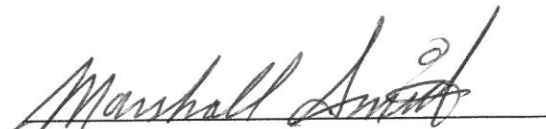
(C Bid on Concession Stand – The Mayor stated low bid on block building came back \$212 thousand dollars. The first bid for a metal building was approx.\$196 thousand. Trey went back and talked to Dayco Construction. They suggested changing lights under the soffit from 8 inch to 6 inch which would give us 8 fixtures. In the storage room changing 6 light fixtures to 4 light fixtures. Relocating the electric panel on the inside of building close to door 4 which would cut the distance down for electric wires. Cutting the roof to 4:12 pitch, changing soffit from 24 inch overhang to 16, changing brand of the windows. In making those changes the price would be \$206,319.00. Councilwoman French asked about local builders bidding. The Mayor said no local builders bid. Councilman Maxwell made a motion to approve \$206,319.00 block building from Dayco Construction, Councilman King 2nd Discussion: Councilman Heslep said we are still \$20 thousand short. The Mayor mentioned we would be approx. \$28 thousand short after some bills we owe are paid. We could cash in a small CD which is approx. \$25 thousand. Vote was then taken. There were 5 yes votes, 1 no vote Councilman Heslep voted no. Motion carried.

(C)Ruth McKennon -Windstream Issues---Was not present to discuss the issue. No action was taken by the council.

Adjournment -There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.



Mayor



Recorder/Treasurer

Date 8-16-2016