



**Meeting Minutes
Vilonia City Council
September 15, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

Approval of minutes for the August meeting - Councilwoman Clements made a motion to approve, Councilman King 2nd and the motion carried.

Approval of financial statement for August – Councilwoman Clements made a motion to approve, Councilman King 2nd Discussion: Councilwoman French asked about 2 things. (1) The Municipal League expense coming out of Parks General Account. Amanda stated that was the parks cost of the overall expense. (2) The vendor Cousins Furniture for Amanda's new desk coming out of the park account. This was due to bookkeeper placing amount there. Motion carried.

Announcements – Mayor announced the Revive Vilonia playground will have a kick off on Saturday October 10th. They need volunteers early that morning to start building the playground. This will be held in Parkwood Meadows subdivision. The Wassom family donated a lot on behalf of the late Sgt. Daniel Wassom. The kickoff ceremony will be at 8:30 am, ribbon cutting will be at 3:30 pm. The Revive Vilonia committee is asking for volunteers for the entire day. You can volunteer on line by using the hashtag #revivevilonia or @cityofvilonia. Mayor stated the lot has been cleared, grading would be done before the 10th, Councilman King asked if volunteers could help before the 10th, Mayor stated yes.

Councilman Maxwell asked about a political forum coming up. The Mayor stated it will be held Tuesday October 13th at the Senior Citizens Building.

Fire Dept. – Councilman Heslep reported for K.C. Williams. A rope rescue technician class is going on with 4 members. October 3rd there will be a new hiring test. October 24th will be CPR training at City Hall at 8:00 am and spots are limited. Please call. The Storm Shelter between here and Senior Citizens Building is being discussed with Tom Anderson (county) And Judge Jim Baker along with Nabholtz Construction with the possibility of Nabholtz installing the storm shelter and helping fund the project. The Fire Dept. is also waiting on a water table test to come back.

Planning Commission – No report was given.

Police Dept. – Chief McNew talked about standards involving COLEA (natl') which is for larger agencies. There is not a program for smaller agencies, so the Chief's Association came up with ALEAP (state) they have set up 188 standards that we have to prove that we do and will be reviewed and tested upon. We will have 2 years to get things done with said standards. You may notice some small changes at first, but for the most part you will not notice any changes. The chief said he had checked with Municipal League and their going to do something involving agencies that go through these involving liabilities issues. The Mayor stated this should help with security. The chief responded that such things as our generator may have to have a fence around it and be locked up.

Parks & Rec./VSA – Mayor stated he had met with the new officers last night and had a good meeting on the direction we want the parks to go and the hiring of a new parks director. The Mayor read a letter from Clint Tucker asking we respectfully consider the city hosting an annual softball tournament that would benefit families in need. Age groups would be 8 and under, 10 and under, 12 and under, 14 and under with this fall being a benefit for the Denton family. The next year the Denton family would pick the next family, etc. The letter stated it would bring the community together and also help families in need.

The Mayor said he would check with the Municipal League to see if the city could put this tournament on and give the money to a needy family. We might have to go to an outside party to fund the tournament and use our lights etc. We may want to wait for our new parks director for input and then move forward, we will check as mentioned above to see if it is legal for our city to host said tournament.

Code Enforcement – Councilman Heslep reported for Keith Hillman. Letters were sent out to Parkwood Meadows landowners concerning grass cutting.

Senior Citizens – Councilwoman French mentioned a fund raiser October the 3rd at 6:00 am. It is a biscuit, sausage, eggs and 3 types if gravy to be served. They are also going to have a flea market and asking the public to donate good items. It can be clothing or can be anything to help bring donations. They also need eggs and orange juice. They will also have a bake sale. Tomorrow they will be having a program on Alzheimer's and Dementia at 10:30 am.

Sewer Dept. – Report was given in written form dated July 21, 2015 and August 18, 2015. Financial statement dated 7-1-15 thru 7-31-15 and August 18, 2015.

Old Business – None

New Business

(A) Eagle Fest we have not received any information or updates from the group at this time.

- (B) Opening of bids for vehicles – Mayor stated we received one bid for the 1993 F350 Ford Truck from David Poston for \$650.00. Being the only bid the Mayor stated no approval is necessary, and Mr. Poston is the proud owner of said truck.
- (C) Bids for Baseball Complex – Mayor said we opened bids on September 10th. Bids came in a little higher than what we hoped. Trey Foster with CEA is in the process of (since said bids are within the 20%) negotiating with bidders hopefully to get the bids down to our budget. We'll have to call a special meeting when we get the bids to get approval.
- (D) Discussion on Park Program – Mayor stated we had met earlier in a workshop meeting to talk about the possibility of hiring a park director in overseeing the facilities. We have a job description in place and with the council's blessing we will place an ad in the paper. Mayor asked for volunteers on the Selection Committee and Clay Heslep, Kathy French and Skip Cates said they would volunteer.

Fireworks – Chief McNew brought up about shooting fireworks when a touchdown is made at the stadium. A discussion brought up the conclusion no one would object to this. A motion was made to approve this procedure for 5 years expiring in 2020 by Councilman King, Councilwoman French 2nd and the motion carried.

Councilman Cates asked about the possibility of applying for a grant to build a sidewalk on the east side of Quail Hollow going to the new school. The Mayor suggested we do this at our own expense since it takes about five years to receive a grant. The Mayor further stated he and Fred Fowlkes discussed if we could get the right a ways, we could do like a chat material that would make a solid pathway to walk and ride bicycles on. Everyone agrees there is a need and we will move forward and get costs. There is so much red tape and requirements involving schools. We may want to look at other funding partners. Councilwoman French brought up the grant involving Naylor Road; there was a discussion on the history of it. There was a recent e-mail from Congressman Hill's office involving outdoor grants. The Mayor stated he would pursue this as our budget is tight.

Adjournment – There being no other business, Councilman King made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Maxwell 2nd and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.