



**Meeting Minutes
Vilonia City Council
August 18, 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, Sherry Clements, Joe Maxwell, Jim King and Kathy French. Absent - Skip Cates.

Councilman King moved to approve the July minutes, Councilwoman French 2nd and the motion carried.

Councilwoman Clements moved to approve the July financial statement, Councilman Maxwell 2nd and the motion carried.

Announcements – Mayor Firestone mentioned a “Back to School Bash” will be this coming Saturday August 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at Vilonia City Park on Cemetery Street. He also mentioned that an outstanding band called “Whistlin’ Dixie” will provide the entertainment and welcomed everyone to bring their lawn chairs and enjoy the music.

Fire Department – K.C. Williams stated not a lot has gone on since last month. He reported 47 runs last month technical training is still going on. He also mentioned the volunteers are doing an outstanding job.

Planning Commission – Keith Hillman stated a variance on a sign permit would be on the agenda.

Police Department – Chief Brad McNew said a lot of activity has gone on. They trained about 50 employees on how to protect themselves (active shooter) and will offer smaller groups the opportunity. The PD had a couple of officers to go to defense tactics training. The department has 2 instructors now to aid in said training. Also school traffic is better in some areas and worse in other areas. The intermediate School has bad traffic due to being new; other schools have good traffic flow. The department has spent time in the last few weeks trying to locate Mr. Nix.

Parks & Rec./VSA – Brian Lane reported not a lot going on. We usually do a fall league but this year we will not due to circumstances. We have 3 new officers: Tommy Bates – President, K.C. Williams – Vice President, Brian Lane – Treasurer, Don Bowden – Secretary and Lance Lawrence – In charge of fundraising.

At this time Mayor Firestone said there were 2 items we didn’t get on the agenda.

1. Scoreboards for S. Mt. Olive Complex. 4 companies picked up a bid packet. Only one bid was turned in by Raney Electric for \$28,992.32. Councilman Heslep asked Brian Lane if a certain beverage company was interested in sponsoring the scoreboards. Brian stated they were not at this time. Councilman Maxwell moved to approve Raney bid for \$28,992.32, Councilman King 2nd and the motion carried.

2. We had sodded softball fields and thought we could seed and get grass to grow on soccer field. It has been too dry. We talked to Carden Farms about sodding the south field and should be able to play on it by mid-September. Motion was made by Councilman Maxwell to approve Councilwoman French 2nd and the motion carried. Councilman Heslep stated he thought Carden Farms had already started laying sod today. Mayor stated that the sod had only been brought to the field. Councilman King asked if we can still use existing irrigation. Mayor said yes. Vote was taken. Motion carried.

Chamber of Commerce – No report was given.

Code Enforcement – Keith Hillman reported grass calls are down. 9 certified letters to land owners went out involving grass issues. A lot of land has been cleaned up. There were 2 houses we had no response from the land owners or banks involved, so we mowed the grass and hopefully we will file a lien on the property or fine them. Mayor Firestone completed Keith on the job he was doing as the downtown property is looking better. Keith also said they have been looking at Gov.deals web site, their fees are high. We are asking if it would be alright to have sealed bids for our trucks, everyone agreed.

Senior Citizens – Councilwoman French stated the kitchen remodeling is great, some painting may need to be done in the wash room area. Other than recreation activities, good meals and fellowship, nothing else is going on.

Sewer Department – Report was given in written form dated June 16th 2015 and July 21st 2015.
Financial statements 6-1-15 thru 6-30-15 and July 21, 2015.

Old Business – None.

New Business:

Resolution 2015-6 for land purchase: Mayor Firestone stated this was the first year he was aware there would be grant money available for land purchase. You could apply up to \$150,000.00. This grant is under the GIF County Enhancement Grant Program. Mayor Firestone stated this property would be the entrance to the new town square. The Mayor asked Marshall Smith Rec./Treasurer to read the resolution. Said resolution is for \$130,500.00, to purchase the 1.8 acres on S. College Street/Main St. for the Martin property. This property will be used for the new Farmers Market. Motion made by Councilman Maxwell to approve, Councilman King 2nd and the motion carried.

ITF Task Force – Melissa Jenkins thanked the council for letting various individuals serve on the committee. She stated the next project is to beautify the city. ITF wants to get approval to hold a beautification event on Saturday October 10th construct a park on the Wassom property located in Parkwood Meadows. Mayor talked about having a memorial plaque. He had talked to Suzanne Wassom of the Wassom family who donated the property for the park about this. He said he would get with the ITF Task Force, Wassom family and decide what information should be on the plaque and where to display it.

Jeff Musselman – Cemetery Street/Industrial Drive. Jeff Musselman and wife Vickie who lives at 22 Cemetery Street next to the ball fields states he has a concern about drainage. With the new ball fields being built, Jeff is not clear what direction the water is running. With Industrial Drive being connected to Cemetery Street a lot of water will be directed to me and I'm concerned about flooding. He mentioned the water coming from various businesses was ending up on his property. He also talked about

reclaimed shale (drill) clippings being used on the ball fields, streets, filling pot holes, etc. by the company doing this project it would drain into the creek causing more problems. He stated the material stinks, contains 3% diesel, and has a PH of 11 making it hazardous to the public. Councilman Heslep stated he had discussed all the above with different professionals on this material, drainage, they all said the ditches being built on the south side of the road would help, the design was good. Jeff said the city was making a mistake in accepting this material and also said the tornado had changed the contour of the land. The Mayor stated nothing has changed. The water runs east as always and with the new ditches, the water should drain better. Much discussion went on concerning the flooding. No action was taken by the council. Jeff stated he would be researching his options if it meant stopping work on the ball fields.

Executive Session – Council was dismissed to go into executive session. When council was reassembled the Mayor stated there was a need for part time help in maintenance. Motion made by Councilman Maxwell to hire for part time help in maintenance Vanessa Flores at \$10.00 per hour. Councilman Heslep 2nd and the motion carried.

Mayor stated he missed one item on Parks and Rec. rebuilding of the pavilion. We have a bid from Mallard Homes & Contractors for \$11,650.00 to build the pavilion back like it was. We received money from the Arkansas Community Foundation for \$7,083.00. Mayor further stated he felt like the pavilion should be built back. Motion to approve Mallard in rebuilding the old pavilion for \$11,650.00 by Councilman King, Councilman Maxwell 2nd the motion. In discussion Councilman Heslep asked did we get a couple of more prices. The Mayor stated if we went through the advertising process what it would cost. Amanda Norwood said approximately \$200.00. She also said she had talked to other builders. Mayor said this being a small project some builders might not be interested and we might get someone we hadn't dealt with before. Mayor also said Mallard had done a good job on repairing City Hall. Everyone then voted. Motion carried.

The Mayor asked if any other business should come before the council. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Recorder/Treasurer

Date: _____