

Meeting of the Vilonia City Council

May 16, 2017

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

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

Approval of minutes from Meeting in April–Councilman Cates made a motion to approve, Councilman Maxwell 2nd, there being no discussion the motion carried.

Approval of financial statement for April -Councilman Cates made a motion to approve, Councilman Maxwell 2nd, there being no discussion the motion carried.

Announcements -The Mayor announced the New ARcare facility had their grand opening yesterday, ribbon cutting. They are open for business and if you have any medical needs they are fully staffed and ready to serve you. Also the Mayor stated this Tuesday May 23rd at 10:00 a.m. the new road behind the Frank Mitchell Intermediate School on S. Mt. Olive that extends out to S. Coker will be dedicated. County Judge Jim Baker called and said he would like to invite council members out for this dedication.

Emergency Management -Keith reported as for as the fire department is concerned we are up to 280 runs this year. Effective June 1st Jack Hancock Sr. will be retiring from the fire department after 17 ½ years. We will be doing a big presentation for him at one of our meetings. Our PT person Amy Polston has resigned due to starting school this semester. We have this vacant spot but we will not be hiring anyone until later on.

Code Enforcement -Keith reported that this month we have had 5 calls on grass. We had a basketball goal in the street. We have a couple of junk cars that are now moved. This year we have a total of 14 building permits (12 houses-2 storage buildings).

Planning Commission – Keith states there is nothing on the agenda but later this month we are going to have a training session. That is something we

have decided to do every other month if we don't have anything on the agenda. We have a meeting a week from this coming Thursday.

Police Department – Chief McNew reported that we had our inspection from ALEAP. It looks favorable. The committee acted like there wasn't any major problems. The committee will forward their report to the ALEAP board which will have their meeting the next week and then vote to see if we will receive accreditation. Still doing fire arms training. The Chief introduced Michael Jensen. We want to place him in the empty slot left by Jordan. He's had his interview, physical test, written tests, other various tests, he is the top candidate for this replacement. He is certified and came from UCA. Councilman Maxwell made a motion to hire Michael, Councilman King 2nd, there being no discussion the motion carried.

Parks & Rec -No report given.

Chamber of Commerce -Keith said we have already talked about the ARcare grand opening. We have a few changes coming up and when we meet this Thursday with the Executive Board of the chamber I will follow up and report later to you. On June 9th we will have a chamber luncheon at Big Bens. We will have a couple of guest speakers. We will have the lady in charge of marketing at ARcare, the other speaker will be Jody Lawrence at the J & D supply store. A lot of people do not know what all he sells so he will discuss this. Hopefully the second Thursday of each month we will be having a luncheon with invited guests to speak. Marshall Smith mentioned he wasn't getting some invites on things going on in town and wasn't sure if any of the council gets information like the ARcare grand opening. Keith apologized and said he would get with Kelly on this and get this corrected.

Senior Citizens -Kathy reported that attendance has been down the last couple of months due to the weather, lawn care, gardening etc. they usually have a good crowd at lunch time. If anyone knows of any seniors that you could encourage to come daily they have table games that can be played. Exercise programs are available for women on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:00 a.m. A pool table is available, exercise equipment for individuals is there. The lunches are good even Skip is kind of picky at times. Skip said sometimes he's not very hungry. Councilman King bought up when people move here that are seniors who find out way later we have a good senior center how would you let them know? The Mayor said it's on our web site. Councilman Maxwell said the Sewer Department has a welcoming

package they send out. He didn't know if the Senior Center was in it. The Mayor said we need to check this out.

Sewer Department – No report given.

Old Business

(A) Ordinance 2017-1 Building Permit Fes

The Mayor mentioned this ordinance we have had on the agenda since January. Keith has put together this ordinance and it is now ready to read. Marshall Smith read said ordinance which amended Ordinance 2004 and established a new fee schedule for building permits.

Manufactured Homes \$200.00

Addition to existing structures \$100.00

(garage, room addition, carport, etc.)

Residential \$150.00 starting July 1st 2017, \$200.00 January 1st 2018, \$250.00 January 1st 2019, and \$300.00 January 1st 2020.

Commercial \$500.00

(Additional fee of 50 cents per thousand dollars of construction cost will also be added to this fee)

Industrial \$500.00

(Additional fee of .50 cents per thousand dollars of construction cost will also be added to this fee)

Also the following was added:

A copy of all Electrical, Plumbing, HVAC licenses must be submitted with building permit application and kept on file at Vilonia City Hall.

The Mayor asked the council what they would like to do.

Councilwoman Clements made a motion to suspend 2nd and 3rd reading.

Councilman King 2nd, there being no discussion the Mayor called for a voice vote. All 5 council members voted yes. Councilman King

made a motion to approve, Councilman Maxwell 2nd, Discussion:

Councilwoman French asked what is Manufactured Homes? The Mayor replied this includes Mobile Homes, Modular Homes. Councilwoman

French stated she didn't think you could put these types of homes in

Vilonia. The Mayor stated there are certain areas where they are

allowed by zoning. Councilman Cates asked a person building his own home what if he didn't know who will be the plumber, electrical,

air, etc. Keith said we will have to deal with this on a case by case. He stated he will follow up and make sure before they start to build.

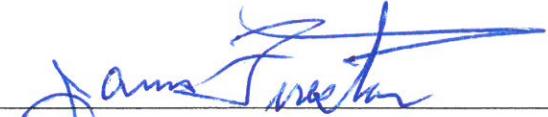
Councilman Maxwell asked if the General Contractor had to be on file? Keith said yes and he has most of them on file now. The Mayor called for a voice vote. All 5 council members voted yes. The ordinance is approved.

New Business

(A) Clint Tucker—Park Rental-Clint was not in attendance so there is no report.

The Mayor said there was a request from a citizen that wanted to address the council that being Preston Scroggins. Preston stated several of us business leaders have been meeting over the past 4 or 5 months as well as the schools to discuss ways to help our city. Our schools had a meeting last night and I believe it is UALR that is going to be offering the associates degree program. This will be a giant step for our school district. The attendance was tremendous. We're also looking in forming The Vilonia Development Corporation to assist in developing the area. We met with Keith and Kathy Riggins from the school as well as others from the country and state in trying to change our image on the web site showing our city and strengths without bringing up the subject of the tornado's all the time. Other things have been brought up and I know you are working on this. There needs to be more cleanup of Vilonia. What should we do about the slabs left in the Parkwood Meadows Subdivision? Getting the downtown looking more presentable. Appointing Fred Fowlkes to the planning commission brings more consistency. Kathy Riggins has been working with the LRAFB as they are planning to bring in 2-4 thousand more people in the next 2 years due to a new training school coming on base. Preston mentioned other things going on such as new pamphlets etc. The Mayor mention we have everything going for us such as water, location, utilities, school system. etc. Councilman King brought up that he knows when an air force family comes to the base and is looking where to live, the base looks favorable on Vilonia school system and mentions to them to consider buying a home here.

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



Mayor



Recorder/Treasurer

Date 6-20-2017