

Meeting of the Vilonia City Council

August 17, 2021

Members present: Joe Maxwell, Jim King, Kira Livingston, Steven Craig and Chris French, Shawntel Robinson. All members present

Meeting Prayer: Lead by Jim King

Pledge of Allegiance by all.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Preston Scroggin.

Established of quorum.

Approval of July 20, 2021 Minutes: Motion of approval made by Councilman Joe Maxwell, seconded by Jim King, no discussion, motion passed.

Approval of July, 2021 Financial Statements: Motion of approval by Councilman Joe Maxwell, seconded by Jim King, no discussion, motion passed.

Announcements: Coloring contest for Constitution Week for kids in the 6th grade and under. Prizes will be given.

Reports of Boards and Committees:

Emergency Management, planning commission, Fire Department: Code Enforcement: As of now there have been 608 fire runs. The runs are still down slightly this time from last year. The fire department lost one of its members due to a car crash. Please keep the family in your prayers. There were 2 residential permits issued in July and one mobile home and one storage permit issued. The month of August so far there have been 2 residential permits issued for August. Keith stated since lumber prices are coming back down he feels like more permits will come in. The planning commission will meet on August 26, 2021 to do the final plat approval for the new shopping center across from the school.

Police Department: The police department has 2 officers out with COVID. Brad reported no news regarding the new car we ordered in January to date.

Parks and Recreation: Fall ball has begun. The mayor reported that the finances are doing very well for the department. The mayor purchased a new mower for the parks. He traded the old mower in. The mayor wants to look at purchasing a new tractor and trading in the old one for the parks. Joe Maxwell made the motion to allow the mayor to purchase a new tractor for up to \$12,000.00, it was seconded by Jim King, no discussion, the motion passed.

Chamber of Commerce: The chamber nominated the 1st Assembly of God as business of the month. This church does so much for the community. The chamber is looking for new board members. If anyone is interested they can contact LaCosta Beene or Shawntel Robinson. There are 2 new businesses in Vilonia. Sweet Repeat Thrift Shop and Around the table restaurant that will open next week.

Senior Citizens: The Senior Citizens is now open. The numbers are still down at the center.

Sewer Department: The expansion is going well. All 3 lift stations are almost ready and it will be a month before Entergy will get power to them. Joe Maxell reported that in 21 years of sewer Audits the sewer department has had no findings. He thanked Darlene Connor for her hard work. They also hired Greg Barnard for the department to replace the employee who left. He is working out great per Brandon. We also received grant money from the American Rescue Plan and the mayor wants to use some of the money to fix the lift stations at 107 and Janski Lane.

Old Business: The mayor reported that the South Church Street project will begin construction next week. A grant for the expansion from City hall to the South Church street road has been applied for and the mayor is trying to get this project shovel ready if we are awarded the grant. He also stated that most of the grant regulations have changed. The side walk and lighting project will be going out for bids in November and the work to begin in February or March 2022. He also stated he had Trey to do a bid proposal for asphalt. There is a shortage of laborers and materials and the mayor thought this might be an option since the state gets first dibs on asphalt projects and materials then the county and the cities are last. The mayor reported he is meeting with the Saddle Creek Property Association on Wednesday. He will report back to the council next month. The mayor also reported we had all of our bridges inspected and passed. There was only some silt that needed to be cleaned out of one. The mayor reported to date that the city has been awarded 2 million dollars in grant money and we continue to apply for more. He urged ever one to buy local as this helps our state turn back money.

The mayor also stated we needed a new tractor for the street department. The estimated cost would be around \$47,000.00. This tractor would be a backup during inclement weather for cleaning streets. The motion to approve the purchase was made by Joe Maxwell and seconded by Stephen Craig. The motion passed.

New Business: Recognition of the Vilonia Senior Citizen. Shawntel thanked Ms. Nell, Ms. Virginia and Mr. Jackie for all of their hard work they do for the seniors.

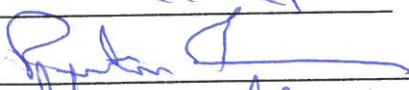
Proclamation for Constitution Week was read. Constitution Week is September 17-23.

Ordinance 2021-1 was read for the first time. An Ordinance amending Ordinance 2001-3 Section 3. Some discussion was held on this ordinance. The second reading will be next month.

Executive Session: The members went into executive session. A motion was made by Shawntel Robinson to hire a part time assistant to Kelly Lawrence and a parks and rec floater for part time that could possibly become full time, Jim King seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The motion was made to adjourn by Jim King seconded by Shawntel Robinson meeting adjourned.

Date: 9-27-21

Mayor: 

Recorder: 