

Meeting of the Vilonia City Council June 21, 2016

The Vilonia City Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Recorder/Treasurer Marshall Smith. He informed the council that Mayor Firestone was on vacation and scheduled to be back June 26th and he would be acting Mayor for this meeting.

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

Approval of minutes from meeting in May–Councilman King made a motion to approve, Councilwoman French 2nd and the motion carried.

Approval of financial statement for May – Councilman Cates made a motion to approve, Councilman Heslep 2nd and the motion carried.

Announcements –Mr. Smith announced the grand opening Thursday and Saturday of the Vilonia Handmade & Homegrown Market. There will be a ribbon cutting by the chamber this Thursday 23rd at 9:00 a.m.

Fire Department –Keith Hillman stated that one of the houses they have burn down on main street was the old (AR Care) house. We have a lot of training going on. We have 8 guys in EMP classes right now. Councilman Cates said he has been asked if there may be a burn ban for the 4th of July which would involve fireworks. Keith said he doubted the Judge would issue a burn ban, he hadn't in the past but he may. If he did you would not be allowed to shoot fireworks.

Planning Commission –Keith reported there would be a meeting next Thursday on the Bill Jones property addition he wants to do. That's the only item he knew of.

Police Department –Chief McNew reported we did some training before the fire department burned the (AR Care) building. More training has been going for ALEAP. Getting more policemen trained so we won't get caught on not being trained adequately.

Parks & Rec-VSA –Mr. Smith read an agenda that Allin had given him on the progress report for the month. Mr. Smith stated that Allin was working at his other job and couldn't be at the meeting.

- 1. We have successfully finished our first season and will have final numbers for the spring season after this month is in and will be able to present those numbers at next city council meeting in July.**
- 2. Currently working on the process to fix the baseball fields. We need to re-grade the field and make sure water does not stand. VSA donated over \$9,000.00 toward the resurface of the baseball fields, so that way we can make them look like the softball fields. Along with making these upgrades to our parks, I will need a few pieces of equipment to help maintain them and as soon as I get final bids in they will be presented. As it stands we are looking at trying to obtaining a field groomer and a light duty mower that will not make ruts on the fields.**
- 3. We are currently working with Arkansas Work Force to train for job readiness skills. They are helping clean our facilities and work in our city. This allows for the teens to learn job skills once they graduate high school and they are covered and paid by the State.**

Chamber of Commerce – No report given.

Code Enforcement –Keith reported grass calls have gone down. People are starting to mow their grass. We are burning another house tomorrow (Lacy property) very early. This house is also located on main street. I sent a letter to people who owned the old barber shop, BBQ shack, that now this structure is gone. We are slowly getting some things cleaned up. George Bishop is cleaning up his lot.

Senior Citizens –Councilwoman French reported that nothing new is going on.

Sewer Department – The report was given in written form dated April 19, 2016 and May 17, 2016. Financial statement 4-1-16 thru 4-30-16 and May 17, 2016.

Old Business – None

New Business –

(A) Resolution 2016 4 GIF-1 For Paving –Mr. Smith mentioned this was the resolution that the Mayor talked about applying for said grant in the amount of \$148,600.00 to overlay a portion of the existing parking lot at the baseball complex as well as extending the parking lot for sufficient parking. Originally the Mayor had tried to get monies from FEMA but said monies was disallowed. Mr. Smith read the resolution. Councilman Cates made a motion to approve, Councilman King 2nd. Discussion-none. Mr. Smith called for a voice vote. This resolution was approved by all council members.

(B) Resolution 2016-5 –Hazard Mitigation Plan –Keith mentioned if the city does not join this we would not be eligible for any funds from FEMA. All this resolution is saying is that we are a part of Faulkner County Emergency Disaster Plan as well as having our own disaster plan. Keith said they started this in 2008 and we approved it in 2008. They did an update in 2015 and we never did an update. Mr. Smith concurred that it is making sure we are eligible for monies from disasters. Mr. Smith read said resolution. Councilman King made a motion to approve, Councilwoman French 2nd. Discussion-none. Mr. Smith called for a voice vote. This resolution was approved by all council members.

(C) Fill in PT worker for Parks & Rec –Mr. Smith reported Vanessa Flores a PT worker was weed-eating around the sidewalk and slipped and fell into a ditch and broke her ankle. Allin needs to hire a PT worker for \$9.00 per hour to work no more than 30 hours per week for 6-8 weeks. This would be a 1099 contract worker, no taxes taken out of pay. Councilman Maxwell made a motion to hire PT worker, Councilman King 2nd and the motion carried.

Adjournment – There being no other business the meeting was adjourned. At this time Ruth McKennon wanted to speak. Mr. Smith stated she wasn't on the agenda and Ruth said they won't put me on and I came to talk and I'm going to talk. Mr. Smith called the meeting back to order. She complained about barking dogs. After much discussion from Ruth, Chief McNew stated the prosecutor won't prosecute unless there was definite proof such as

talking a picture of said animal to submit to the court to get a conviction. Ruth said she wasn't taking any pictures and would still complain. Mr. Smith said we don't have a dog pound so keep calling the police and get some proof so we can prosecute. She then talked about her street (Whispering Wind Circle) not being paved. We had promised her this would be done about 3 years ago. Mr. Smith stated he would pass along everything she talked about to the Mayor when he gets back.

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

Mayor

Recorder/Treasurer

Date_____