

Meeting of the September 19, 2023

Members present: Jim King, Joe Maxwell, Mike Matos and James Firestone and LaCosta Beene members present. Stephen Craig was absent due to work.

Meeting Prayer: Lead by Jim King

Pledge of Allegiance by all.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Preston Scroggin.

Established of quorum.

Approval August 15, 2023 Minutes: Motion of approval made by Councilman Joe Maxwell, seconded by LaCosta Beene, motion passed

Approval of August 2023 Financial Statements: No financials were available as the bank statements had not been received from the bank to date.

Reports of City Departments:

Fire Department has had 812 runs year to date. Keith reminded everyone about the burn ban being in effect and there will be a blood drive on October 13, 2023. There were 4 residential permits issued this month. There will be a planning commission meeting this month on 9/28/2023.

Police Department: Chief McNew reported a resignation and recommended a new hire named Phillip Rappold. Joe Maxwell made the motion to accept the new hire and LaCosta Beene seconded the motion, motion passed. Chief McNew reminded everyone to lock your car doors as there had been an increase in thefts.

Sewer Department: Joe Maxwell reported that the audit for 2022 had zero findings and this is 23 years in a row of a perfect audit. He thanked Darlene Conner and Alicia Prater for their hard work. Control panels and conduit has been set. Entergy needs to come and hook everything up. Humbard is in town rechecking all of the lines and rehabbing the old lines.

Public Comment: Faith Matos wanted to discuss her concerns over the new ordinance presented to the council tonight for the first reading regarding establishing a commercial zone in the city.

Mrs. Beene wanted to recognize the Vilonia Fire Department for their hard work they do for the citizens of the town, The CPR community training for free, the balloon fights for the kids and the train rides for the kids and especially all of the training the firemen and women do to help lower our fire ratings.

Chamber of Commerce: Jackie Fowlkes gave the report for the chamber. She reported on the upcoming Fall festival on October 7, 2023. She reminded everyone about the monthly luncheon with speakers coming up on September 21, 2023 at Simple Simons. They are looking for new board members if anyone is interested in joining.

The mayor reported that work on Church Street will take about 8-12 weeks. He reported that the Game and Fish stocked the pond with fingerlings and will stock again in the spring and no fishing can be done until April 2024 per the Game and Fish. Trunk or Treat is coming up on October 28, 2023 at the ball park and if anyone wants to donate they can call city hall. Information and details on the Christmas Parade is forth coming. We received a \$350,000.00 grant from the Arkansas State Highway Commission for TAP funds. There will be a county wide clean up on October 20th and 21st at the road department. The community Catalyst program was reported by LaCosta Beene and we were at 28% of our population participating in the survey. There will be a public hearing on October 2, 2023 at the VHS cafeteria.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Proclamation for Go Pink Day October 6th, 2023 was read and adopted by the Mayor.

Resolution 2023-4 Mills for 2024 was read and a motion to adopt was made by James Firestone and seconded by Jim King. It was stated that this is not an increase on our taxes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2023-5 establishing a Commercial zone, Joe Maxwell made a motion to read by title only and Jim King seconded the motion. Motion passed. The ordinance was read by title only. Some discussion was held but Stephen Craig was not there to present as he was the one who worked on this ordinance. It will be read two more times. James Firestone made some comments regarding this same issue that came about in late 2014 and early 2015 but never went anywhere.

Ordinance 2023-6-Amending Ordinance 2018-1 Mobile Food/Business vendors. This was amending section 1 (a) to include Commercial Districts for use by Mobile Food/Business Vendors and not allow them to operate on city right of ways, city parks or other public properties without written permission of the mayor. This was read once. It will be read two more times.

The meeting to adjourn was made by James Firestone and seconded by Jim King. The meeting was adjourned.

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Recorder: _____

City Clerk Kelly Lawrence