

Meeting of the Vilonia City Council

February 21, 2017

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

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

Approval of minutes from meetings on January 17th & January 20th. Councilman Maxwell made a motion to approve, Councilman Cates 2nd and the motion carried.

Approval of financial statement for January–Councilman Cates made a motion to approve, Councilman King 2nd and the motion carried. Councilwoman French commented on new form of displaying balances in various funds that she liked. Councilman King said he liked the sales tax increase. The Mayor mentioned that from January this year we were up \$26 thousand from January 2016.

Announcements –The Mayor mentioned the Chamber of Commerce Banquet the past week end. The new venue was held at Friendship Baptist Church which had plenty of room, great crowd, good meeting.

Emergency Management –Keith reported the Fire department did their pump test today and all 4 engines passed.

Code Enforcement – has been slow due to rain. It's getting warm and won't be long before the grass will begin to grow.

Building Inspections -We have had 4 residential inspections lately, this is going good.

Councilwoman French said 2 families Bernice Fulmer and Art Pischke families praised the Fire Dept. Rescue Squad for their professional manner, being prompt and helping them in any way they could.

Planning Commission –No report given.

Police Department -Chief McNew stated we don't have a lot to report. We are still training, we had some defense attack training last week. Other trainings

are coming up. We submitted our ALEAP material. In a month or two they will come and do their own site inspection and we will see how we did. The Mayor said when the police talk about training it's not just an hour it's all day. They put in a lot of time training. The Mayor also congratulated Brad on being employee of the year.

Parks and Rec-VSA – Clint Tucker reported on the softball side we have 130 plus kids signed up. I think we are on the mark to match total enrollment from last year if not more. This Saturday we have the draft for softball. We will have 8 years and under and 10 years and under. Baseball will not be doing the draft until March 4th. We have the practice schedule set up already for softball. Clint mentioned that baseball enrollment is up from last year. We have 160 to 170 enrolled so we feel like it will hit 200. We should have over 300 kids enrolled in softball and baseball this year. The Mayor thanked Clint and John Alexander for stepping up and getting the program going since we do not have a park director.

Chamber of Commerce – Keith said we will be announcing new things coming up and we will let you know. Of course as the Mayor has already announced we had our annual chamber banquet at a new place and everything I have heard has been positive. Everyone seemed to like the new location as we were not as crowded as we were in the past at the school.

Senior Citizens -Councilwoman French reported the center is still talking about the Rook, Domino and Skip-Bo Tournament coming up in March. She said this not only effects the people of Vilonia it pulls from El Paso, Mt. Vernon and Enola that come in for this tournament. They have a great time. They serve a meal every night, some come just to fellowship and not play. The center also effects more than the people in Vilonia. They are helping Mt. Vernon in getting their center going. Our center is ordering food for them making sure they have enough food. Their center is also serving Meals-On-Wheels (125) in the Mt. Vernon area. We serve 540 meals in Vilonia. This makes a total of 665 Meals-On-Wheels for people who can't get out and go anywhere to eat. Councilman Heslep asked what days will the tournament be held. Councilwoman French said March 27th, 28th, skip Wednesday the 29th, then play March 30th and 31st.

Sewer Department -The report was given in written form dated December 20, 2016 and January 17, 2017. Financial statement 12-1-16 through 12-31-16 and January 17, 2017. Councilman Maxwell said he wanted to make the council aware the sewer committee is now meeting every other month. We met in January, we will meet again in March and every other month after that except for October, November, and December when we will meet monthly those months due to budgetary planning. He also stated the sewer needs one more person to fill vacant spot. The Mayor said he was working on that.

Old Business -The Mayor stated that some time back you gave me permission to go out for bids for a bridge on North College Street. The bids came back higher than we expected. I asked Trey to go back and rebid. One thing that scared the contractors was this is a pre cast unit that we are putting in. It comes in different pieces and these companies had never done one so we found some contractors that have used this type of structure before. Hopefully when we rebid these contractors will come forward with their lower bids.

The Mayor said he got a letter from our State Aid Street Committee from Harold Perrin Chairman. The letter informs us our request for a project to overlay Jones Street, Wicker Street, Goff Street, N. College Street, Saye Street, and Dallas street has been approved in the amount of \$250,000.00. The Mayor said we will probable put \$50,000.00 of our own money into this. The bids should go out early this spring and construction to start in June. The Highway Department will put out the bids and oversee this project. The question was asked if Whispering Winds would be in this project. The Mayor said yes.

New Business -

(A)-Vilonia East - No report given.

(B)-Additions & Deletions for 2016 -The Mayor read the list. Councilwoman Clements made a motion to approve the list. Councilman King 2nd and the motion carried.

(C)-2016 Budget Amendment - Resolution 2017-1 - Marshall Smith read said resolution. Councilwoman Clements made a motion to approve, Councilman

King 2nd. a voice vote was taken. All members of the council voted for approval. The Resolution 2017-1 was approved.

(D)-Ordinance 2017 -1 -Amending Ordinance 2004-1. The Mayor mentioned this ordinance is to establish a new fee schedule for building permits. He asked Keith to address it. Keith said the last time we adjusted these fees was 2004. We're raising said fees to keep up with other cities. Discussion: Councilman Maxwell mention several cities were still lower than our proposed schedule. He felt like it discourages business. Councilman Heslep said a lot of things we do we don't charge for such as heating permits, electric permits. We had Keith go to school to get certified and we need to cover some costs. Councilman Maxwell said I don't think we need to vote on this tonight. Councilman Cates said he felt like Councilman Maxwell. He couldn't support this ordinance without more study. We're trying to catchup by raising these fees some double since 2004 and it's not the residents fault it's our fault by not raising some fees since 2004. There was still more discussion Councilman King made a motion to table this ordinance until the March meeting, Councilwoman Clements 2nd. Motion carried with one no vote---Councilman Heslep. Ordinance 2017-1 is tabled until the March meeting.

(E)-Ordinance 2017-2 - Amending Ordinance 2001-3 -Marshall Smith read said ordinance. The Mayor said the changes are on Section 2 (A) which changed the height of grass cutting from 16 inches to 8 inches less than 3 acres. Section 2 (C) same thing, and then adding Section 2 (H). Keith said this was for people not to blow grass in the street which can clog gutters etc. Also general clean up, look more presentable etc. Councilwoman Clements added in Section 2 (H) it talks about gutters we need to add the word (street). Councilwoman Clements made a motion to suspend the second and third reading of ordinance 2017-2. A voice vote was taken with all the council voting yes. Marshall asked if we were going to add (street) to the ordinance. This was agreed upon by the council. Motion was then made by Councilman Maxwell to approve and amend by adding (street) in Sec. 2 (H), Councilman King 2nd. A voice vote was taken with all members of the council voting yes. Ordinance 2017-2 is approved.

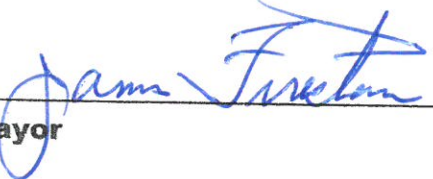
(F)-Ordinance 2017-3 -Amending Ordinance 2012-3 -Keith discussed this ordinance was to address type of material to be used in decorative fencing, metal fencing and how said fencing should be in good repair.

Councilwoman Cements made a motion to suspend the second and third reading, Councilman Maxwell 2nd. A voice vote was taken with one no vote - Councilman Heslep. The Motion to suspend 2nd & 3rd reading is approved. A motion was then made by Councilman Maxwell to approve Ordinance 2017-3, Councilman King 2nd. A voice vote was then taken with all members of the council voting yes. Said ordinance is approved.

(G)-Executive Session - The Mayor mentioned the last item on the agenda is discussion of an Interim Park Director and would at this time call the council into Executive Session.

The Mayor called the council back to order and stated we discussed an Interim Park Director's position. He asked what is the council's wishes. Councilman Heslep made a motion that we hire John Alexander as Part Time Interim Park Director @\$250.00 per week. Motion carried.

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



Mayor



Recorder/Treasurer

Date March 21, 2017