

Meeting of the Vilonia City Council August 16, 2016

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

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

Approval of minutes from meetings in July--Councilwoman Clements made a motion to approve, Councilman Maxwell 2nd and the motion carried.

Approval of financial statement for July--Councilman King made a motion to approve, Councilwoman French 2nd and the motion carried.

Announcements –Marshall Smith mention the super job the Arkansas Highway Department did on the repaving of Highway 64. He said it seems like it brightens up our city. The Mayor and Council concurred. Councilwoman French asked did we have reflectors on the old highway. The Mayor said he didn't think we did. Councilman King said we had a few. The Mayor said we appreciate Mr. Scott Bennett and the highway department and commissioners on the nice improvement the repaving did for the city of Vilonia.

The Mayor said he had received a letter from Sharon Hawkins Account Manager of the American Red Cross complimenting Keith Hillman and Kelly Lawrence on helping organize the recent BATTLE OF THE BADGES campaign in giving blood. The goal was 30 units. We ended up with 32 units. This represented 96 potential lives saved. This battle was between the Police Department and the Fire Department. The Police Department won the battle in giving blood.

Emergency Management –Keith reported that the Fire Department has a lot of training coming up in the next couple of months. We usually try to do this in the winter months. He mentioned they had 5 runs today. Building inspections has slowed down a lot. We do at least two a week. The new intermediate high school gym tornado shelter got finished and we did the final inspection on it last week and the new Harp's is coming along good.

Code Enforcement -We were doing good until the rain came last week. The grass was dying, now the rain will start the grass growing again.

We do have one issue and I won't mention the man's address. We have a vehicle that's parked on Naylor Road and according to our city ordinance which says in the event any person is found in violation of this ordinance I have to ask the city council for your permission to write him a ticket and/or have the vehicle removed. I gave this man 2 months ago 1 month to get it removed, then I gave him 10 days. Friday I gave him 5 days to get it removed. His response was write me a ticket and I will see you in court. I'm asking for you to give me permission to write a ticket or get it towed which will be in accordance with our ordinance. Councilman Maxwell made a motion to have said vehicle removed. Councilwoman French 2nd and the motion carried.

Planning Commission –Keith reported the only thing coming up is the new ARcare building to build on main street where the old red brick house was that we tore down. I talked to the man in charge on this and he is supposed to get the plans in this week to Kelly.

Police Department –Chief McNew wanted to remind everybody to lock their vehicles. We had several incidences where people are checking vehicles stealing everything they can get their hands on. We have been busy on some things. I have a personnel matter I need to discuss in Executive Session. The Mayor said we will go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

Parks & Rec-VSA –Allin Crawford read from written agenda given to the council.

- 1. Adult Coed was a great success. We had positive feedback from all who participated and they look forward to the next time we host it.**
- 2. We had to cancel our fall kid's softball and baseball due to lack of participation, I am hoping that there will be more participation next year.**
- 3. We are currently resurfacing the fields at the baseball complex for a more efficient maintenance and less cancellation of games for next season.**
- 4. Our main priority and focus is to complete the baseball complex and get it built and ready for the 2017 season.**

- 5. We will be hosting some tournaments this fall at the softball complex.**
- 6. We came to an agreement with the soccer club, and have their 2017 contract ready to sign. There are no changes from last contract except for dates of expiration.**
- 7. We are working with other programs and cities to build a good alliance and work relations for next year's program.**
- 8. Workforce -Workforce kids needed some job experience. We volunteered through the state for this program. The state paid their insurance and hourly wages for the kids to come and help us out in the city. They helped Trish out, me out, and the Fire Department. They got some good work experience being high school boys. I want to build on that relationship.**

Chamber of Commerce – No report given.

Senior Citizens –Councilwoman French reported that the center is starting to make plans for their fall fund raiser which will be a country breakfast and flea market. This will be held on October 8th from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. They are soliciting donations for the flea market. You can drop by any day they are opened and leave your donations. I have one question they have asked me to make. Do we have sand that the street department has? The Mayor said he was unaware of any sand at the department. The Mayor asked how much do they need. Councilwoman French said they don't need much. They put the sand in little containers for smokers and they are just about out of sand. I told them maybe Trish could bring enough to fill the cans up. Allin said he could come up with some and would get it to them.

Sewer Department – The report was given in written form dated June 21, 2016 and July 19, 2016. Financial statement 6-1-16 thru 6-30-16 and July 19, 2016.

Old Business – Councilwoman French asked the Mayor if he had found any information involving "Whispering Wind street". The Mayor stated he had talked to Matt and the issue is drainage. We have to get dry weather. This issue is on Matt's list of things to get done. There is a low area on that street and we need to find some way for the water to drain to a lower area to fix said street.

Councilman Heslep mentioned that last month the Chief stated we had some complaints in Quail Hollow on speeding. I spoke to about 20 people this week the unanimous response was why don't we take the stop signs down on Ross Street. It seems the people were more concerned with the number of stop signs more than the speeding and feel we really don't have an issue with speeding. The Mayor asked the Chief has he had time to do things with his program he mentioned last month. The Chief said it is being charged up right now. The Mayor mentioned that at first opportunity we need to get a count and see what the issues are. Councilman Heslep said he felt the stop signs were serving their purpose and we don't need to put in speed bumps. The Mayor concurred and said we will get our police to monitor the streets, see how much traffic we have, and whether there are speeding problems and then see what we need to do.

New Business –

- (A) Legal Fees -The Mayor received a letter from Marcus Vaden our Prosecutor concerning how we pay him. Currently we pay him \$125.00 per hour. In his letter on a monthly basis the total is usually around \$1,000.00. He is asking we change from hourly to monthly with said fee to be \$1,000.00 per month. This would be easier when budget time comes to put in \$12,000.00 for the year rather than ascertain what this amount would be on the hourly basis of \$125.00. The Mayor said he asked Kelly to look back on the history on this and found it would be cheaper to go to a monthly fee. With that said the Mayor feels like it would be a good move to go monthly. Councilwoman French made a motion to approve monthly fee of \$1,000.00, Councilman Maxwell 2nd and the motion carried.**

Executive Session -The Mayor stated we are going to adjourn the meeting to go into executive session and talk to Chief McNew about a personnel issue. The Mayor called the meeting back to order and stated we went into the executive session at the request of the Chief We discussed personnel matters and will not take any action at this time.

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



Mayor



Recorder/Treasurer

Date 9-20-16