



**Meeting Minutes
Vilonia City Council
October 20, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.**

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 the September meeting - Councilman Maxwell made a motion to approve, Councilman King 2nd Discussion – it was mentioned that 2nd page of the minutes there was a title error. The Chamber of Commerce title should read Code Enforcement. Chamber of Commerce had no report. Motion was carried.

Approval of the financial statements for September – Councilman King made a motion to approve, Councilman Maxwell 2nd Discussion – Councilwoman French asked about expense \$26,298.00 and \$2,712.50 listed on Parks & Rec. both payable to Carden Farms, Amanda said one was for sod the other was for the sprinkler system down there. Motion was carried.

Announcements – Mayor mentioned the playground at Parkwood Meadows that was built October 10th. He was appreciative of the people heading this project up and the good job they did. The mulch is in, the only thing left is landscaping. A grand opening will be later on. Mayor stated a video presentation showing progress during the building of the playground would be presented at this time by Kira, The Mayor said a lot of time, effort and planning goes into a project such as this and he thanked the ladies for putting said video together and volunteers for showing up. He also thanked the Wassom family for donating the land.

Teen Driving 101 will be held Thursday November 5th at City Hall from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The class is free and is open to parents and teens in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades. Space is limited. To register or for information contact Amanda Norwood @cityofvilonia.org or call 501-796-8194. Parent/Guardian is required to attend with student. Registration deadline is November 2nd. This Teen Driving 101 will familiarize parents and teens with the Graduated Driver's License, including seatbelt use and distracted driving. This program will provide information to help keep teen drivers safe and promote motor vehicle safety.

Fire Department – K.C. Williams thanked the several volunteers from the department who showed up in helping build the playground. He mentioned they were up to 580 runs. They responded this past weekend to the several acres burned off Beryl Road that made the news. He reminded everyone that it is extremely dry so don't burn. This week the Fire Dept. is going to every kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades with the counties smokehouse trailer doing fire prevention and fire education. The department completed the elementary school today. In the morning they will be going to every student in the primary school presenting the program. That's fun and educational for the students. The Fire Dept. will have continued training.

Planning Commission – No report was given. The Mayor mentioned the Planning Commission is meeting regularly, also they had a workshop to discuss the Jump Start Program and possible zoning ordinance changes. They have spent a lot of time on this subject and will be spending more time in the future on deciding which direction would be best for Vilonia.

Police Dept. – Chief McNew stated the Mayor was invited along with our department to an appreciation for law enforcement by the Assembly of God Church. It was one of the nicer things that any one group has done for the Police Dept. not just posters etc. All the guys were very appreciative of this and talked about it for several days. He also mentioned he had just got back from another appreciation at the Veterans Museum.

Parks & Rec./VSA – K.C. Williams reported for VSA. He stated the VSA met earlier this week and discussed changing the baseball program to the Cal Ripken program but decided it wasn't the best for us and we will stay with the same rules and regulations we have now. They are looking for commissioners for the softball and baseball programs. They were also interested in what the city will do concerning the manager of the Parks and Rec.

Chamber of Commerce - No report was given.

Code Enforcement - No report was given.

Senior Citizen – Councilwoman French reported that approx. \$2,000.00 was made by the breakfast and yard sale fundraiser. We will discuss the part time help later.

Sewer Dept. – The report was given in written form dated August 18, 2015 and September 15, 2015. Financial statement 8-1-15 thru 8-31-15 and September 15, 2015.

Old Business – None

New Business

(A) City Logo – The new logo was in the council packets. The Mayor showed a picture of the new logo to the audience. He said that the logo was picked from several designs that were made. Amy Whitehead with UCA came up with some funding to help us. We actually contracted with Patrick LaGrone of LaGrone Design to develop a logo. They came up with several interesting designs. This was the most popular out of all the ones they picked. The Mayor then read the Creative/Design Rationale for the new logo. The new Vilonia logo is designed to be a progressive symbol representing the community's positive and future vision. Graphically it consist of the letter "V" with an upward pointing arrow hovering above it. The white void in the center which helps define the "V" is symbolic of the devastation the community has overcome and honors the loss it experienced. Imagery within the "V" is a stylized landscape representing the value placed on both nature and community. The upper portion depicts a growing landscape while the lower portion represents a community that is rebuilding and putting the pieces back together. The dominant use of the color red represents the people of the community and reinforces the level of pride they share as residents. The arrow above the "V" mirrors the void beneath and helps reinforce new direction, growth and optimism. This logo should help position Vilonia to grow economically and represent it as a great place to live and raise a family. The Mayor further stated he appreciated Amy and Patrick on their work for the new design.

- (B) P.D. Ordinance** – Chief McNew discussed in conjunction with ALEAP and standards that this ordinance is needed to explain the existence of the Vilonia Police Dept., Jurisdiction and Supervision. The Mayor then asked Marshall Smith Rec./Treasurer to read Ordinance 2015-5. Councilman Maxwell moved to adopt the ordinance, Councilman King 2nd. Councilman King made a motion to suspend the 2nd & 3rd reading, Councilwoman Clements 2nd the motion. Motion was approved by a voice vote. Then Councilman Maxwell made a motion to adopt 2015-5, Councilman King 2nd. Voice vote was taken. The ordinance was approved.
- (C) Part Time Help Senior Citizens** – The Mayor stated in the past we have hired a lady that has worked part time at \$7.25 per hour for 20 hours a week to help serve meals and help with the maintenance. The Mayor asked Councilwoman French if this would be through the end of the year. Councilwoman French said the Senior Center would like this to be forever. There was discussion where the responsibility starts and stops involving the Faulkner County Senior Citizen Center and if they would put a PT worker out here to help pay for this expense. The Mayor asked if that is something we need to address Debra about. Councilwoman French said she thought they had. She suggested we pay this at least through the end of the year. Councilman Cates said he has talked to Debra and their budget was cut approximately \$70,000.00 this year and they are probably in a pinch for money. The Mayor said our budget is tight and this may be something that may be included in the 2016 budget. The Mayor said he would talk to Debra before the 2016 budget is presented. Councilman Cates made a motion to approve PT worker at \$7.25 per hour to work 20 hours per week for the remainder of the year. Councilwoman Clements 2nd and the motion passed.
- (D) Approval of 2016 Municipal League Defense Program** – The AML service and defense program. The AML Service is \$307.05, the AML defense is \$10,491.25 for a combined total of \$10,798.30. The Mayor recommended we approve this because we use AML often during the year. Councilman Heslep made a motion to approve \$10,798.30, Councilman Maxwell 2nd, Discussion – Councilwoman French asked is this the same amount we paid last year. The Mayor stated it was. Motion carried.
- (E) Barbara McCrory /Soccer Program** - Barbara stated she appreciated what the city has done. She gave a background of how the soccer program came about and where we are at and where we want the program to go. She discussed some concerns we as well as parents have. We know the fields are not complete, but we want to make sure the concerns are on your radar. The soccer club was formed in 2011, 501C3 organization. Approximately 250-300 kids are involved in the program. Some play in the spring others in the fall. Numbers are climbing every year. Foster kids play for free. There were relationships formed with the high school soccer club and state soccer association. We had plans going forward to bring tournaments to Vilonia and other soccer events to bring money to our area. She stated they had come tonight to get support in getting the soccer fields up to standard in comparison with other cities. We know some construction is not completed, however we were told we would have a sports complex to be proud of and we feel that this promise had fallen short. Our fields are not level; we have dips in the middle of them. When it rains there will be trouble with the soccer ball rolling, etc. I know we laid sod and I don't know an answer to this. The Mayor said we were rushed to get the fields going for play. If we hadn't been rushed the grading issue could have been addressed. It is something we can correct but it will be more difficult. The Mayor assured Barbara, that it will be taken care of. More

discussion was between Barbara, the Mayor and Councilman Heslep concerning the lighting, fencing, irrigation, registration fees, bond issue and the shortage of funds in the city budget to complete some of the construction. The Mayor thanked Barbara for coming and expressing those concerns.

(F) Executive Session – Discussion on Personnel at this time the Mayor called the council into executive session to discuss personnel. After the executive session the Mayor called the meeting back to order, he announced we discussed a PT position that we will put in our 2016 budget. Also we discussed getting an ad for the Parks & Rec. Director. We hope to have that position hired by the November meeting. No action was taken tonight.

Adjournment – There being no other business, Councilman Heslep made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman King 2nd and the motion carried.