

Meeting of the Vilonia City Council

July 21, 2020

Members present: Shawntel Brown, Skip Cates, Joe Maxwell, Jim King and Kathy French.

Meeting Prayer: Lead by Jim King

Pledge of Allegiance by all.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Preston Scroggin.

Established of quorum.

The mayor announced two vacancies. The Recorder/Treasurer Eric Simmons and Council woman Sherry Clements had resigned their posts. The mayor appointed former council woman Sherry Clements to fill the Recorder/Treasurer position. Skip Cates made motion of approval, Joe Maxwell seconded, no discussion, motion passed. Meeting recessed to swear Mrs. Clements in. Meeting resumed Sherry Clements took seat as Recorder/Treasurer.

The mayor appointed Steven Craig to the vacant alderman position. Joe Maxwell made motion to approve, Skip Cates seconded, no discussion, motion passed. Meeting recessed to swear Mr. Craig to vacant seat. Meeting resumed and Mr. Craig took seat for rest of meeting.

Approval of June 16, 2020 Minutes: Motion of approval made by Councilman Joe Maxwell, seconded by Skip Cates, no discussion, motion passed.

Approval of June 29, 2020 Special Meeting: Motion of approval made by Skip Cates, seconded by Jim King, no discussion, motion passed.

No June 2020 Financial Statements:

Announcements: Mayor Scroggin spoke of the importance of everyone participating in the Census for our community. Faulkner County stands at #2 in state Vilonia is #3 in state for Census completion percent.

Reports of Boards and Committees:

Emergency Management, planning commission, Fire Department: 560 runs so far this year for the fire department.

Building Inspections: There were 9 new inspections this month so far. Keith Hillman stated there should be 5 more ready by the end of this week. Building in Vilonia is booming right now. There have been a lot of grass complaints and Keith is going to be working on this issue more aggressively in the coming days.

Police Department: Brad McNew reported that the new police car arrived today and is in Little Rock. The car now needs to be fitted with all of the equipment. This may take about 2 months. They are continuing

to take applications for a vacant position. He also reiterated the importance of locking all of your doors and removing your valuables from your vehicles. There has been an increase of crimes of opportunity in subdivisions. He just asks everyone to be more responsible.

Parks and Recreation: Logan was not able to be at the meeting due to umpiring games at the fields. The Mayor gave the report. The Co-ed season is half over and has gone very well so far. Everyone is complying with state regulations for COVID-19 restrictions. Logan is taking applications for fall ball for 8 and under. He is currently working on the safety plan for the health department's approval. Once this is approved by the health department fall ball can be started. The mayor addressed the council regarding tournaments at the ball parks. He wanted to be reassured that the council wants the city to do the tournaments for our kids and not rent out to individuals. This was reiterated by the council.

Chamber of Commerce: Shawntel Brown reported that the Chamber will host its first face to face meeting since COVID-19. The Chamber is asking everyone in town to shop local and support all local businesses.

Senior Citizens: Kathy French reported that all senior citizens centers are closed indefinitely due to COVID-19. The 3 workers continue to work and provide the meals on wheels. The Senior Center continues to do curbside meals on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for anyone that wants to pay a small donation. They are selling about 35 meals a day by doing this.

Sewer Department: Brandon reported that the Camera crew is working diligently to find problem areas in the sewer system. They will be at the 107 and Naylor areas this week and Brandon thinks this is where they will run into a lot of issues. The sewer committee met tonight prior to the council meeting and hired Alisha Prater as a full time employee for the sewer department.

Old Business: The Mayor reported that the city closed on the property located at 18 Eagle Street today. Our first payment will be on July 21, 2021 in the amount of \$23,695.49 each year. He hopes to pay this off much earlier than expected.

Jack Trumper from Stephens Inc. came and gave an update on the selling of the bonds for the new sewer expansion and the time line for the next few months. The interest rate was locked in at 2.66%. The city should receive the funds in September.

Sarah Giammo spoke to the council regarding the Rate and Bond ordinances that needed to be passed. Sarah read the title to Ordinance 2020-2 for the Rates services. An Ordinance confirming rates for services rendered by the sewer system of the city of Vilonia, Arkansas; and prescribing other matters relating thereto. Shawntel Brown made a motion to suspend rules and read by title only, Joe Maxwell seconded, no discussion, a verbal vote was called all ayes and no nays. Motion passed Sarah read the title the second time. Shawntel Brown made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only, Kathy French seconded motion, no discussion, and a verbal vote was called all ayes and no nays. Motion passed. Sarah read the title for the third time Joe Maxwell made a motion to suspend rules and read by title only, Kathy French seconded, no discussion, verbal vote was called all aye and no nays, motion passed. Councilman Joe Maxwell made motion to pass Ordinance 2020-2, motion seconded by Skip

Cates, no discussion, a verbal vote was called all ayes and no nays, motion passed to adopt Ordinance 2020-2. Sarah read the title to Ordinance 2020-3 for the Bond services. An ordinance authorizing the construction of betterments and improvements to the sewer system of the city of Vilonia, Arkansas and the refunding of outstanding sewer revenue bonds; authorizing the issuance and sale of sewer refunding and construction revenue bonds; providing for the payment of the principal of and interest on the bonds, prescribing other matters relating thereto; and declaring an emergency. Joe Maxwell made a motion to suspend rules and read by title only Shawntel Brown seconded, no discussion, a verbal vote was called all ayes and no nays. Motion passed Sarah read the title the second time. Joe Maxwell made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only, Shawntel Brown seconded motion, no discussion, and a verbal vote was called all ayes and no nays. Motion passed. Sarah read the title for the third time Joe Maxwell made a motion to suspend rules and read by title only, Shawntel Brown seconded, no discussion, verbal vote was called all aye and no nays, motion passed. A separate motion was made to adopt the emergency clause motion was made by Joe Maxwell, seconded by Shawntel Brown, no discussion, a verbal vote was called all ayes and no nays, motion to adopt emergency clause passed. Councilman Joe Maxwell made motion to pass Ordinance 2020-3, motion seconded by Jim King, no discussion, verbal vote called all ayes and no nays, motion passed. Ordinance 2020-3 adopted. Records for this bond issue will need to be kept until 2053. Shawntel Brown thanked the Mayor and staff for all the hard work that was put in on this expansion project.

Matt Rust came to give a report on the streets to the council. Matt has had a list of streets that take priority of repair since he came to work for the city several years ago. Simpson Street is top on this list since it is a street that has a lot of traffic on it. He and the mayor reported that the city operates on tax dollars to make street repairs every year and that amount of tax turn back for the street department is \$100,000.00 a year. The mayor wanted to reiterate that the projects recently completed was done with grant money and not tax turn back money. Grant money is ear marked for specific projects and cannot be used for anything except what it was awarded for. The grant money recently received was for the bridges that had been condemned on Simpson and Barnard. Matt has been working with the city engineer and they are coming up with a developer handbook for sub divisions and streets. They hope this will help in the future to alleviate problems like we are dealing with our streets now. The mayor is applying for approximately 400,000 dollars in grant money to make more street repairs. We only have 2 more bridges that need to be fixed. The mayor hopes to get this grant to help complete those projects. They mayor noted that some of the streets have not been touched since 1987. The mayor and street department are well aware of the issues on Simpson and Dove Creek subdivision. Simpson is priority due to being heavily traveled. Dove Creek is being looked at but to do it correctly the cost would be in the millions of dollars to fix. The city engineer is looking to see what can be done. This subdivision was not done correctly there is no drainage in this area. The utilities are shallow. It's a mess. Matt and the engineer is looking to see how to best deal with the issues in the future. There are other areas in Saddle Creek that have some drainage issues. The street dept. is looking into this problem and how to best address it. Matt reported that the mower had to have about 1700.00 dollars' worth of repair after it hit a tent that was in a ditch area covered up. The mayor stated that the cities next big project will be streets in the future. He mentioned that some cities that have sub-divisions create their own improvement districts and this maintains their streets but 51% of the residents have to agree to the

program. The other way is to issue bonds and the last of course is tax for street repairs. The mayor also reported that the sidewalk and lighting project is in the works. This will be paid for with grant money.

The motion was made to adjourn by Jim King seconded by Skip Cates meeting adjourned.

Adjournment: Motion made by Councilman Jim King and seconded by Shawntel Brown, no discussion motion passed.

Date: 8/18/2020

Mayor: [Signature]

Recorder: Sherry Clements