

Meeting of the Vilonia City Council March 15, 2016

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, and Jim King. Absent Kathy French. The Mayor mentioned there was a death in the French home, Kathy's husband and asked for prayers to go out for the family. A quorum was declared.

Approval of minutes from meeting in February–Councilman King made a motion to approve, Councilwoman Clements 2nd and the motion carried.

Approval of financial statement for February – Councilman Maxwell made a motion to approve, Councilman King 2nd. Discussion: Councilman King mentioned that the February financial statement looked much better than last month's financial statement. Everyone agreed. The motion carried.

Announcements – The Mayor announced various dates of importance for the Vilonia Veterans Museum coming up this year.

April 2, 2016 –Military Fest and Military Vehicle show.

April 23, 2016 – Ride to support (Veterans motorcycle groups) coming from Jacksonville, arriving in Vilonia about 11:15. There will be a luncheon and entertainment.

September 25, 2016 –Gold Star Families Day (families of members killed in action) will be coming from around the state to get together.

October 15, 2016 –Tentative date–WW1 Re-enactment.

October 29, 2016–Zombie Run.

November 5, 2016 –Veterans Day Program/5K Run/Walk.

December 3, 2016 – Soup Supper/Auction

There was also an announcement by the Vilonia Lions Club. A Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held Sunday March 20th at 2PM at Veterans Museum, 53 N. Mt Olive in Vilonia. Ages 0-3, 4-6, 7-8 also an area designated for special needs kids (no age limit). The Easter Bunny will be there for photos. Museum will be open to tour (no charge).

Fire Department –Keith Hillman reported we did some fire training at the burn towers last week end. One of the fireman graduated from the fire academy last week. K. C. wanted me to report they are going to start digging footings and pouring concrete for the tornado shelter for the city next week. This shelter is located by the Senior Citizen building. This should be completed hopefully by the first week in April. The Mayor thanked Keith and K.C. for their work on this project.

Planning Commission –No report given.

Police Department –Chief McNew stated the department had to buy 3 new computers. We are still working on policies and had hoped to have it to you tonight. We are about 2 or 3 hours short of finishing. There are over 400 pages and we may put it on a thumb drive for the council to view. Hopefully next council meeting we will have a resolution prepared. He said he would try to get this to the council before packets go out. The Mayor asked if we needed to have a work session. The Chief said there might be one or two items we may have a question on but right now he saw no need for a work session, but if the council so desires we can have it.

Parks & Rec-VSA –Allin Crawford discussed an agenda that was included in council packets.

- Registration is complete for the summer season for baseball and softball. We have 370 kids enrolled to play. Soccer was over 280 kids. We have collected over \$25,000 in registration fees which will go back in the program for equipment, maintenance, utilities, and umpires.
- We have not completed the logo contest so we will continue the contest and plan on presenting the winner at the April city council meeting.

- The softball complex field work is done and all that is needed is the main walk way poured from concession to field.
 - The baseball complex will be delayed due to amount of rain fall.
 - Scheduling of interviews for hourly work will begin this week. He has some good candidates (high school boys).
 - Right now we are building score tables for softball fields.
 - Advertising and selling banner space on complex fencing still continuing.
 - Credit/debit card reading machines for concession stand is set up for the softball and soccer fields. There will be a flat rate of 2.3% on every transaction. I checked today Chick Fil-A sandwiches will be provided each night.
 - Temporary fencing is around the little kids' soccer fields to keep children from running into traffic. We are working on getting the rest of the fields surrounded.
 - Working on finalizing schedules for season play for baseball and softball. We have a total of 72 teams in our alliance group, the biggest we have had in years. Our first big games will begin April 2nd for 8 and under in softball.
 - Working on coordinating a grand opening weekend in May to show case our fields and host a kickball tournament for the Jerry Roberts/Wayne Hartness foundation for scholarships. Tentative date is set for May 7
- Chamber of Commerce – Fred Fowlkes stated he appreciated everyone's support of the recent chamber banquet. It's the best banquet we have had. As far as attendance we could have sold more tickets. Other than being over crowded for the building, it was good. We're looking for a larger building next year so everyone can come that wants to.

Code Enforcement –Keith reported building construction has slowed down right now due to the wet weather. I did about 5 inspections last week. We have a couple of houses that need to be demolished. Code books say we need to talk to the council and then send out letters to the owners. The houses are #43 West Wicker. It was hit by the storm of 2011 and the owner never did anything with it. I don't see how he's living in it. The other house is at 1121 Main Street and it is abandoned. The Mayor mentioned we needed to go ahead and send letters out and then take appropriate measures as our code says.

Senior Citizens –Skip Cates reported that they were still working on the Dominos, Rook, and Skip Bo tournament that will be held April 4th. Dinner will be served 4 nights. Monday and Tuesday skip Wednesday and then Thursday and Friday. Friday will be mainly a cleanup night.

Sewer Department – The report was given in written form dated January 19, 2016 and February 16, 2016. Financial statement 1-1-16 thru 1-31-16 and February 16, 2016.

Old Business – None.

New Business

(A) Proclamation – The Mayor introduced some members of Arkansas Community Foundation. He then read the Proclamation involving ARKANSASGIVES DAY to be April 7th 2016. The Mayor stated he appreciated the Arkansas Community Foundation as they have helped during the recovery.

(B) Cuerden Sign Co.-involves sign proposal of \$1,321 for the VDRA building. The Mayor stated he didn't think we could spend monies on a nonprofit venue. He said he wanted to check with the Municipal League attorneys. Since we own the building we can work on the parking lot or the building. The Mayor said he was pulling this item from the agenda until we receive an answer.

Kira Livingston mentioned the recent Career Expo was a hugh success with 167 people attending. Employers scored 4.56 out of 5 points on how the expo was run. Mayflower and Vilonia brought students. There was a variety of adults that came out. Kira said they are looking at making this an annual event. The Mayor thanked Kira, Amanda Norwood, Keith Hillman, Shontel Brown and the Assembly of God Church where the Career Expo was held.

Councilman King mentioned there will be a VDRA building grand opening very soon. He mentioned it was amazing on the things donated and how successful this project has been.

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

Mayor

Recorder/Treasurer

Date 4/19/2016