

Meeting of the Vilonia City Council May 17, 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, Joe Maxwell, Jim King and Kathy French. Absent Skip Cates. A quorum was declared.

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

Approval of financial statement for April – Councilman Maxwell made a motion to approve, Councilwoman French 2nd, and the motion carried.

Announcements – The Mayor stated this past Friday he attended the dedication of the Lonoke. White Public Water Authority which is the Cove Creek Treatment Plant upon Greers Ferry. Senator Boozman was there and was one of the speakers. The Mayor said he was very impressed with the facility. The facility has the capacity to treat over 10 million gallons of water a day. It has 4 large intakes (3 of them have pumps) and when at full capacity can pump 30 million gallons of water a day. This treatment plant will give us a water supply that will last for many years. The Mayor wanted to commend our water board and chairman Mr. Howard Williams who has spent 8 years getting the funding for this project. Their hard work needs to be noticed and give them a pat on the back for the good job they did in service and for the water supply we will have for many years to come.

Fire Department –Keith Hillman reported that we did 23 business inspections in April with 4 being in violations. We have given them a month to fix these violations. We have been using the new training site for live burning training. We are putting numbers on fire hydrants and also GPS them so that we can have them on our big map. Keith also reported that he and K.C Williams started today in technical search rescue class going on tomorrow and Thursday.

The Mayor read a letter addressed to him dated May 1st, 2016 that he felt the council should hear. The letter stated he wanted to let the Mayor know

about the service provided by the Vilonia Fire Department. My neighbor required MS service on April 29th, 2016 on North Church street. The men that arrived on the scene from the Fire Department performed outstanding. Although the service provided by Emergency Service was sub- par in my opinion, the Fire Dept. was excellent. I'm a paramedic and a MS instructor that has worked on MS issues at the local, state and federal levels. The Vilonia Fire Department provided excellent care. They talked to the patient and started O2 at an appropriate level and took vital signs. The firemen were not only professional but personable and treated my neighbor like one of their own family members. Although the actions of the ambulance service unit concerned me (and I have written the owners about this) I would be glad to be on the scene with the Vilonia Fire Department at any time. I just want to thank them for the service and dedication. The letter was signed Sincerely Jack Hill. Councilman King related there was a situation at the church where somebody became very critically ill. While the church service was going on those guys came in and I was amazed how professional they were, how they handled things, did it right in a quick manner. I was real proud of the MS service provided by our fire department.

Planning Commission –No report given.

Police Department –No report given.

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

- 1. Games are being played, we have had a few rain outs and I am currently in the process of rescheduling them.**
- 2. Currently working on the process to fix the baseball fields. We need to re-grade the field and make sure water does not stand on the fields. I am working with VSA in helping purchase the resurface material so that our playing surface on the baseball fields will be like our softball fields.**
- 3. The school has used our facility for kickball events for the kids and school programs.**
- 4. Currently taking applications for the benefit kick ball tournament for Jerry Roberts/Wayne Hartness foundation. It will be May 28th at the North Mount Olive Complex.**

- 5. We have now opened registration for adult coed softball league which will start when the season ends for our youth league.**
- 6. Advertisement and selling of banner space on complex fencing still continuing.**
- 7. Planning on having two softball tournaments at the beginning of next month.**

Chamber of Commerce – No report given.

Code Enforcement –Keith reported that he received his electrical, plumbing and HVAC inspector license. He stated he wrote up 48 violations in April all have been repaired except 3. I'm still working with the owners on these violations to be corrected.

Senior Citizens –Councilwoman French reported that right now everything is in a calm situation at the center with daily activities going on like games and lunch.

Sewer Department – The report was given in written form dated March 15, 2016 and April 19, 2016. Financial statement 3-1-16 thru 3-31-16 and April 19, 2016.

Old Business –

(A)Concession Stand at Baseball Park –The Mayor stated last month this item was on the agenda, I took it off and at this time I would like to bring it back. I have a letter from Mr. Trey Foster of Civil Engineering Associates. We went out for bids. Three bidders replied Key Builders Inc., Dayco Construction Inc., and AMR Construction. All the bids came in quite high so that is why we waited and pulled this item from the agenda last month. We did a deductive bid with several building changes and when the bids came back the lowest bid was Key Builders Inc. The price was \$245,600.00. This was still too high so I asked Trey to go back and negotiate with them. Key Builders came back with numerous building changes that were accepted. With those changes the price was \$196,480.00 which was a little more in line. If the council wants to approve this bid, I would like to go

back and see if other deductions could be made to lower said price. One option is the city being our own contractor. Several members of the council discussed this. The Mayor said everyone is aware of the situation with FEMA and the money that was allotted. The original price was \$1.3 million to build the park. FEMA came back with their deductions, allowances, non-allowances for a price of \$1,127,151.00. From that figure they deducted insurance \$225,000.00 with left the total of \$902,000.00, from that figure FEMA is paying 75% which is \$676,000.00, the state's portion is \$112,000.00 and our portion is \$112,000.00. We have to be very frugal with our money. The Mayor mentioned that he and Kelly has worked on the PW's. Our figures vary somewhat with the FEMA total. One thing that has thrown us for a loop is the Category A and B which is the Emergency Protective Services and also Donated Resources. The way FEMA is figuring this time, their taking money from Donated Resources and deducting that from the money we're getting back that pretty much wipes out our A & B. I've been meeting with FEMA officials going through all the PW'S and other categories. We have a disagreement on the formula on how they were figured. Kelly worked up what our formula is based on prior experience. The Mayor complemented her on this. He has met with FEMA and is now negotiating to receive more money for our city than what they show. One thing that was an issue originally FEMA was not going to pay their final payment until the project was done and originally the State of Arkansas was not going to pay their share until the project was completed. After talking with them about the hardship it would cause us the state is paying 1/2 of their portion plus total of small PW'S. After we show paid receipts FEMA will reimburse us. The Mayor stated he will talk to Trey (if that is the council wishes) to go out for more bids and if we're not satisfied we will look into the city being our own contractor. The council agreed with the Mayor on this.

Councilman Heslep commented he would like to sit in with the Mayor and Trey on how to save on the electrical costs.

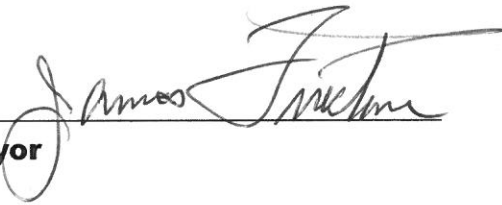
The Mayor shared with the council that he applied for the Municipal League State Aid Grant for streets for \$250,000.00. Hopefully they will make a decision on this soon. He thinks it

may be in July. This grant would be like paving North College, Jones, Wicker and other little streets like them that need a lot of work.

Also putting in for a grant through Department of Rural Services. One thing FEMA disallowed was repaving the parking lot at the baseball park so that is why I'm applying for this grant.

New Business –None

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



Mayor



Recorder/Treasurer

Date 6-21-2016