



**Meeting Minutes
Vilonia City Council
November 17, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

Approval of minutes from meetings in October - The Mayor mentioned there were two meetings in October. Councilman Maxwell made a motion to approve the special meeting dated October 1st and regular meeting dated October 20th, Councilman King 2nd and the motion carried.

Approval of financial statement for October - Councilman Maxwell made a motion to approve, Councilman King 2nd and discussion was held. Councilwoman French asked about the expense on the Parks & Rec. \$1,125.00 by Custom Wood Recycling. Mayor stated this was for the playground mulch. The motion carried.

Announcements - Mayor stated for the second time that Vilonia has been chosen as one of the Volunteer Communities for the year of 2015. There were 10 communities chosen. We will receive our award at the Municipal League Conference in Springdale. Next the Mayor announced the annual Vilonia Christmas parade will be December 5th at 5:00 p.m. The theme will be "Sights and Sound of Christmas". Y107 will be broadcasting. There was more discussion on this subject. The Mayor brought up that you may have missed the news involving Taylor McNeel. She goes to the College of South Arkansas University and was a graduate of Vilonia High School. She was elected National FFA President. This is quite an honor and the Mayor has talked to our County Judge about doing something for her. We would like to put something to recognize her in signage on our entries to Vilonia. We may have to check our sign ordinance to see if we can do this. The Council agreed.

Fire Dept. - K.C. Williams mentioned the annual boot drive by the County Fire Fighters is coming up. They will be raising money for the children of Faulkner County. This will be done on November 27th, 28th, December 5th and 12th. He mentioned all fire hydrants have been inspected in the city and some outside the city. We are working on two grants to get a water tender pump. He also talked about information he had passed out to the council discussing Vilonia's preparation with "Mayhem in May". This article displays pictures of some of the department personnel and how our community is preparing an emergency operations plan. We received national exposure on this subject. He mentioned that when a siren sounds you should check the weather forecasts. The sirens are not designed for everyone to go to a shelter; they

are to alert people who may not be paying attention to the weather. Our sirens go off county wide anytime there is an alert for our county regardless of where the tornado is. There was further discussion on kids going to safe room shelters.

Planning Commission - The Mayor read a written report presented by Keith Hillman. The monthly planning commission meeting has been moved to Thursday November 19th due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Harps will be bringing their new revised plan. Also rezoning issues will be discussed.

Police Dept. – Chief McNew mentioned training sessions on firing ranges. Had some calls regarding the noise. We trained for as long as 8 hours, some officers complained. The Chief stated we stayed with it. UCA put this training on. A guy from Texas came in and taught the course. He mentioned they have had some remodeling in secured evidence room. The Mayor mentioned he liked the idea of involving other agencies in our program.

Parks & Rec/VSA - Tommy Bates mentioned the commission meets once a month. We have been discussing what to do in the fall, what we did last year, and what we need to do involving spring. They are excited about the new director coming on. The commissioners are involved in how to enhance the program, how to involve parents and coaches. We are about 10 weeks away from spring league. By the middle of January parents will be thinking about what teams their kids will be on. In February drafting will be going on and the fields need to be ready. The Mayor mentioned he felt like the fields will be ready in two weeks if the weather remains good. Sod, sidewalks and other concrete work should be completed on the baseball field contracts. Everything looks favorable at this point for completion. Councilwoman French asked where we stand on hiring a park director. The Mayor said Friday was the deadline. We have 10 applicants. He further mentioned the interview process will begin the week after Thanksgiving. He will get with the committee on this.

Chamber of Commerce - No report was given.

Code Enforcement - The Mayor read a written report given by Keith Hillman. There have been 11 code violation warnings that have been done so far this month. Most of these have been for trash build up and appliances in the yard. All of those have been cleaned up. Under building construction he stated the last couple of months have been pretty slow. Keith has done 8 framing inspections and 6 final inspections so far this month. Keith mentioned he and Joe Maxwell attended a 16 hr. electrical inspection class in Maumelle on November 4th and 5th. Councilman Heslep asked what can be done to utilize Keith and Joe in making inspections on electrical work mandatory. The Mayor said a new ordinance may have to be done. He will look into this.

Senior Citizens - Councilwoman French said the emphasis is on Thanksgiving. The Lions Club will be hosting a dinner on Thursday November 19th at 11:00 a.m. There will be a concert from the Vilonia Primary Melody's and lunch will be served afterwards. There will be a dinner also by the Senior Center Wednesday November 25th. The center will be closed November 26th and 27th.

The Conway Center is having a pancake fund raiser on December 5th. We do receive some money from the center, so we need to support this event.

Sewer Department -The report was given in written form dated September 15, 2015 and October 20, 2015. Financial statements 9-1-15 thru 9-30-15 and October 20, 2015.

Old Business – None.

New Business:

Land donation by Martin Presley - Green Meadows. The Mayor stated Mr. Presley had some property at 6 Green Meadows which consist of three acres which he wants to donate to the city. He further said we could do some type of park, soccer field, or playground area. Councilman King said if we push this type of donation with appreciation on what's being done we could be rewarded with parks all over the city. Motion made by Councilman Maxwell to approve donation of three acres to the city at 6 Green Meadows, Councilman King 2nd and the motion carried.

Safe routes to school bid award - The Mayor stated about three years ago we applied for a Safe Routes to School Project. We were approved. We went through engineering phase, we went through the bid process. We had 5 bidders. W.K. Contractors was the low bidder. The grant was for \$70,000.00; our bid came in at \$69,610.19. Councilman Maxwell made a motion to approve W.K. Contractors for \$69,610.19, Councilman King 2nd. Motion carried.

Wage Adjustments - The Mayor stated this time of year we have been doing a one time wage adjustment in appreciation for our employees. It's been our custom to give \$350.00 to full time employees and \$175.00 to part time employees. Motion made by Councilman King to approve, Councilman Maxwell 2nd and the motion carried.

Presentation of the 2016 budget - The Mayor passed out the 2016 proposed budget. He asked if anyone had questions please call, he will try to answer your questions. If we need to have a set down budget meeting, let him know. We did a 2.5% salary adjustment. We projected our budget slightly lower than last year.

The Mayor read a deactivation notice from Kira Livingston which stated her last day would be November 27th. She thanked the Mayor for allowing her to assist the city and the community and utilizing her skills. She knew she would only be here for a year at most. She told of the opportunity in participating in multiple recovery efforts. She worked on the 2030 Vilonia plan, the 1 year Anniversary event, two playgrounds built, development of the new city website, and the Implementation Task Force. She also appreciated the positive development opportunities to develop her skills. She is confident our city will grow and move forward with the Vilonia 2030 plan. The Mayor complemented Kira in the different projects she worked on. Our website looks good and we have been proud to have you for this short period.

Adjournment - There being no other business, Councilman King made the motion to adjourn, Councilwoman French 2nd and the Motion carried.