

Meeting of the August 15, 2023

Members present: Jim King, Steven Craig, Joe Maxwell, Mike Matos and James Firestone and LaCosta Beene all members present

Meeting Prayer: Lead by Jim King

Pledge of Allegiance by all.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Preston Scroggin.

Established of quorum.

Approval July 18, 2023 Minutes: Motion of approval made by Councilman Jim King, seconded by Mike Matos with corrections of a typo and addition, motion passed

Approval of July 2023 Financial Statements: Motion of approval by Councilman Joe Maxwell seconded by Jim King, no discussion, motion passed.

Reports of City Departments:

Fire Department has had 700 runs year to date. Keith reminded everyone to be mindful of school starting on August 16, 2023 and watch the traffic. There will not be a planning commission meeting this month.

Police Department: Chief McNew was absent and the mayor reported that the new officers are out working on their own.

Sewer Department: Joe Maxwell gave the report this month. He reported that Entergy got power to the lift stations. Brandon is running conduit to all the lift stations. The Ultra violet is working. Humbard is out again looking at all of the lines.

Mrs. Beene wanted to recognize the Planning commission for their hard work they do for the citizens of the town especially in light of the recent Crypto issues facing the commission.

Chamber of Commerce: The Chamber gave. They will have their monthly meeting at Simple Simmons pizza on August 16, 2023. Linda Hicks will be the speaker. They will have their 2nd annual fall festival at the Veterans museum on October 7, 2023. They have 15 vendors signed up as of today. You can pay on line for a vendor booth. They had one new member join and pay on line, American Made General Store was the new member. It was asked if the chamber events could be placed on the city website so that the two entities can work together.

The mayor reminded everyone to complete the community survey. This is part of the community catalyst program.

Old Business:

3rd Reading of Ordinance 2023-3 Live Streaming of all public meetings. The ordinance was read for the final time. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mike Matos and seconded by Joe Maxwell. Much discussion was had. Joe Maxwell had questions about the law if power went out because we would be violating our own law, because once an ordinance comes into effect it becomes law. Stephen Craig felt this was an overreach of the executive branch of the law. After the discussion the mayor called for a verbal vote: Stephen Craig, LaCosta Beene, James Firestone, Joe Maxwell and Jim King all voted no and Mike Matos was a yes. Ordinance failed to pass.

Joe Maxwell discussed the city dumpster program again. After much discussion this item will be worked on by the mayor and staff at city hall. It will be for Vilonia citizens only and open on certain days and they must prove they have an active sewer bill and license with a Vilonia address.

New Business:

There will be a county wide clean up on October 20th and 21st the dumpster will be in the same location it has been for several years. All e-waste will need to go to the Conway expo Center.

The Mayor presented the bid for the wastewater treatment plant headwork's package for equipment only the lowest bid came in by Hydro-Dyne Engineering of Clearwater Florida in the amount of \$634,250.00. The motion to accept the bid was made by Joe Maxwell and seconded by LaCosta Beene, no discussion, motion passed by all members.

Resolution 2023-3 establishing the time of the council meeting, setting point of order and establishing rules for conducting council meetings was read. The motion to adopt was made by Stephen Craig and seconded by Joe Maxwell. Stephen discussed why he felt it necessary to have this resolution and every year at the beginning of each year this can be voted on again. Mike Matos had issues with people providing their address and the presentation time and if this conflicts with other procedural issues. After discussion, the mayor called for a vote. 5-yea's; Stephen Craig, LaCosta Beene, James Firestone, Joe Maxwell and Jim King and 1-no; Mike Matos

Proclamation for Constitution Week: The proclamation was read by the recorder and the mayor briefly discussed this proclamation. All citizens are asked to observe constitution week beginning September 17th through 23rd He will sign this as it is done every year.

The mayor discussed the Church Street project that there was a two week delay due to Entergy moving lines.

Public Commentary: None

The meeting to adjourn was made by James Firestone and seconded by Jim King. The meeting was adjourned.

9-19-23

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Recorder: Sherry Clement