

Meeting of the Vilonia City Council

October 18, 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, Jim King and Kathy French. Absent -Joe Maxwell. A quorum was declared. The Mayor mentioned that Councilman Maxwell is in Ada, Oklahoma attending a 2017 National Electrical Code and Safe Room Standards training seminar.

Approval of minutes from meeting in September--Councilwoman Clements made a motion to approve, Councilwoman French 2nd and the motion carried.

Approval of financial statement for September--Councilman King made a motion to approve, Councilwoman French 2nd and the motion carried.

Announcements –The Mayor read a card he received from the Vilonia Hand Made--Home Grown Market Committee and Vendors stating their appreciation in supporting our inaugural season. Over 30 different vendors have sold their goods at the market, and have participated and placed in 3 different contests while promoting the market and the City of Vilonia. As our season comes to a close we sincerely appreciate you the Mayor and City Council of Vilonia for your support in promoting community growth. The card was signed by Jan Huff, Vice President.

Emergency Management –Keith reported that the fire department is up to 567 runs so far this year. The fire department will be involved in the annual trunk or treat contest. We'll be doing some haunted hay rides, handing out candy etc. The picture fund raiser has started. We have approx. \$6,000.00 on hand. October is Fire Safety Month. I want to remind everyone to check their smoke detectors and fire extinguishers and make sure their extension cords are the right ones. Also K C Williams and I are working to get us a grant for a new water tanker and need your approval to start the grant. Last year we were denied. It is a matching grant. It is 5% of the cost \$281,000.00. The fire department would also like to buy a new rescue truck. We have a bid from North Point Ford for \$ 26,550.00. We also need your approval on this. Both of these amounts are in our budget. Councilwoman Clements made a motion to approve both requests, Councilwoman French 2nd and the motion carried.

Keith mentioned a couple of new business are coming to town which is encouraging. We have a couple of houses that have started up. We have a total of 8 houses under construction.

Code Enforcement – Keith said we're seeing a lot of cleanup being done. A lot more needs to be done. I'm working on that.

Planning Commission – Keith said he didn't know of anything coming up. We had a special meeting and approved Bailey's BBQ.

Police Department -Chief McNew reported Officer Stocks is still in training. Maybe after six more weeks we can get to use him in our department. Also we received a resignation letter from Officer Carpenter.

Parks and Rec-VSA -Allin read from written agenda:

- 1. Our main priority and focus is to complete the baseball complex and get it built and ready for the 2017 season.**
- 2. Finishing up the soccer season.**
- 3. The last softball tournament listed on the books for this year will be October 29. It will be a dress up tournament for the kids.**
- 4. A scheduled Trunk or Treat will be on October 29th.**
- 5. Working with the school in hosting a month long camp on Tuesday and Thursday nights the whole month of November starting at 6pm till 8pm, at the North Mt. Olive complex. It will be free of charge and for any first time kids interested in playing the age groups will be 3-6 years old. Softball and baseball. This camp is designed to teach beginner kids that are interested in the fundamentals of how to play.**
- 6. Working with other programs and cities to build a good alliance and work relations for next year's program.**

7. I would like to give a presentation on the parks department, where we are currently at and where we are going. Please clear your calendar if possibly for November 8, 2016 at 6pm in the Court Room. I will email budget material and future plans so that any questions may be asked about them on that night.

Thank you for all of your involvement with your kid's future and I look forwards to seeing you all there.

The Mayor asked Allin to get with him before anything is sent out. Allin said he would. The Mayor said all my career I have been against installing speed bumps. Allin I need your input here on this subject. Over at the soccer fields we tried to put up fencing, we have police officers patrolling, we have stopped speeding and with no permanent fencing up we have had the kids going in the street after the balls. I would ask the council to consider putting a couple of speed bumps on the road where you turn off of North Mt. Olive go maybe 2/3rds of the way down to slow some people down. Allin said he wanted to get with Matt to see if hump down or hump up speed bump would be best. Allin said Matt has more experience on this. Allin said soccer has applied for a grant to put up 30ft nets up along North Mt. Olive. He also said he has the help and equipment to make this happen at no cost to the city. These nets will resemble what Hendrix College has.

Chamber of Commerce – No report given.

Senior Citizens –Councilwoman French reported that the breakfast and flea market were a success. The breakfast made a little over \$2,000.00 and their still making money on the flea market. They also have a program that will start soon in connection with Care Link who works with all the centers called "Matter of Balance". Anyone 60 and over who feel that they don't have good balance and afraid they might fall they can do classes from October 25th to November 17th. There will be no charge. They will give you tips, exercises that will build your strength and lower your risk of falling. The classes will be on Tuesdays and Thursday from 9-11am.

Sewer Department -The report was given in written form dated August 16, 2016, special meeting dated August 25, 2016, and September 20, 2016. Financial statement 8-1-16 thru 8-31-16 and September 20, 2016.

Old Business – Councilwoman French reported on the committee involving sidewalks from the fire department parking lot to Fred's. We met with the District Manager from Fred's. He took pictures where we might put the sidewalks. He had to get with his boss who is the Area Manager and he was going to call me back and so far I haven't received a reply. So at this point we are waiting for an OK to proceed further. The Mayor asked if Fred's could fund any of the cost. Councilwoman French said they would not. She reported they were concerned about safety in walking. The Mayor said it may mean a no reply but we will wait for an answer from Fred's.

New Business -

(A) Arkansas Municipal League Dues for 2017 -Councilman Cates made a motion to renew said dues for \$13,659.55 for 2017, Councilman Heslep 2nd and the motion carried.

(B) Resolution on increasing City Mills -The Mayor read an act that is headed "Time To Levy Property Taxes". Said act reads that a city and town councils may levy general property taxes of up to 5 mills on the dollar. The governing body of the city must levy and certify its property tax to the county court every year prior to the November meeting of the Quorum Court. It needs to be done at the cities October council meeting. Currently the City's Mills are 1.6 collected by Faulkner Co. Tax Collector. The Mayor further stated we have gone and looked at millage rates for Conway, Greenbrier, Mayflower and ours is well below the other municipalities. We have a resolution prepared 2016-7 and I asked Marshall to read this resolution raising current millage from 1.6 mills to 3.0 mills. Resolution was read. The Mayor said by raising our millage from 1.6 to 3.0, (Conway is 3.0, Mayflower is 4.0, Greenbrier is 3.0) would bring our city more in line with Conway and Greenbrier still lower than Mayflower. Councilman Heslep made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-7, Councilwoman Clements 2nd a voice vote was taken with all 5 members of the council voting yes. The motion carried.

(C)Rick Wyles -Conditional Use approval from Council -Mr. Wyles stated he wanted to put in a pre- owned dealership where Vilonia Reality used to be at 1099 Main between the ice house and corner that KEITH'S HAS. The dealership will consist of a portable office in the back and a carport. On the frontage will be inventory and parking. Sales only, no service. It will be in house financing, cash, and bank financing. We will maintain at least 15 vehicles. The Mayor asked if any improvements would be made. Mr. Wyles said yes in clean up. Later on I would like to purchase the property and pave portions of the site. The planning Commission approved the site based on conditional use. If Mr. Wyles purchases the property, he wants to have permanent structures on the site. Councilman Heslep said since this property is in the "Town Center" we don't need to make exceptions. We worked on the 2030 plan and we set forth what we wanted our main street to look like. He was concerned why the Planning Commission approve this. The drawing doesn't meet the requirements. Councilman King stated these guidelines doesn't apply to this. These guidelines are for subdivisions and some time we need to wake up and realize every business we get is not going to be a Taco Bell or Kentucky Fried. Councilman Heslep said these were not the requirements the Planning Commission held in Bailey's BBQ. Councilman Heslep made a motion to deny the request, Councilwoman Clements 2nd, Councilman Heslep and Councilwoman Clements voted yes, Councilman King and Councilwoman French voted no. Councilman Cates said he didn't vote as he was still studying the subject. The Mayor said the none vote by Councilman Cates counts as a vote to deny approval. The motion passed so the property is denied approval.

Mr. Wyles asked the question what is the difference in a portable office building, does it not look better kept than the food trucks sitting on tires and wheels and jack stands under them.

Councilman Heslep stated again he felt like the Planning Commission didn't hold you to the requirement under our city ordinances. This issue could come back to the council. Mr. Wyles said he wouldn't be coming back.

(D) Discussion on Mobile Food/Business Vendors -Proposed Ordinance -The Mayor stated we don't need to pass anything tonight. We are still asking for input. He asked for input on the \$250.00 vendor permit that is paid annually. If a food trucks moves around do they pay another \$250.00 or a smaller fee? Another thing in this proposed ordinance doesn't address the Town Square. If the Town Square is developed are we going to allow food trucks in that area. It was felt the Special Event section would cover that. These 2 items the \$250.00 annual fee and a possible small fee if moved to another location where a special event could be granted. The Mayor said he would get with Kelly and would have an ordinance prepared for the November meeting.

(E) 3 Appointments to Planning Commission that needs to be filled in 2016-The Mayor read a resignation letter from Angie Rios stating appreciation for being appointed to said commission and the task force and for personal family obligation, this resignation is effective immediate. She was appointed to take Marty Knights place. She volunteered during our recovery and also served on various committees. She helped to establish the Vilonia Hand Made-Home Grown Market.

The Mayor said he had 2 renewals to make and a new appointee to fill Angie's position. He stated he would like to reappoint Marshall Smith and Melissa Jenkins for 3 more years and make a new appointment Steve Austin for 3 years. Councilman King made a motion to approve these 3 *did not* appointments, Councilman Cates 2nd and the motion carried.

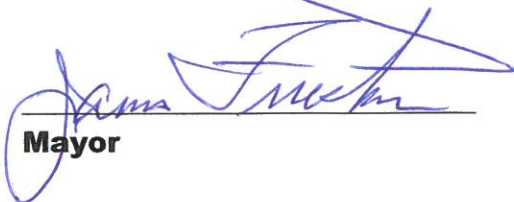
The Mayor stated he had a request for Preston Scroggin to address the council. Preston wanted to thank everyone for their hard work in recovering from tornado's. He mentioned Keith and the Fire Department cleanup is looking good. He feels we are headed in the right direction. He mentioned

Keith will be coming with new ordinances and I know you will help him. He said he made a school meeting and feels they are having a positive impact.

The Mayor said last Friday myself, Keith Hillman, Freddie Faulks, Ed Sellers, Matt Sewell, and Cathy Riggins met with Dr. Stephens. It was a very positive meeting, possible partnerships the schools and city can work together on. Everyone knows the schools are a drawing card for Vilonia. People come here for the school system.

Cathy Riggins said she would speak from her heart. After the tornado we had 192 displaced students. These are students who did not have a home. Last year we didn't drop much, this year we dropped a significant number. In the history of our school system we haven't dropped that many students. We started looking at that data, one thing we noticed is that young family's kindergarten etc. are not moving here. There are some houses being built but not the number we have seen in the past. What we hope to do is be a partner and give support to you. We recognize there are some things we need to work on. We're looking to offer stronger programs that would attract people to our district. We are looking to see what grants are available to assist departments of the city to promote activities for our students. Our school is the heart beat of the city. In the afternoons our campus is full of people. We realize when we lose growth that effects our economical ability to the schools. When the school goes down the city and property values goes down. We're excited about the opportunity and we're listening to you and we hope you have things to share with us and we can learn and together we can rebuild. It's unusual to have 2 tornadoes within 3 years. This is a new experience for all of us and we want to offer our support and be partners in seeing our community grow. The Mayor said we want to make Vilonia great again.

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


Mayor


Recorder/Treasurer

Date 11-15-2016