

Meeting of the Vilonia City Council

December 20, 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, Jim King and Kathy French. A quorum was declared.

Approval of minutes from meeting in November—Councilman King made a motion to approve, Councilman Maxwell 2nd and the motion carried.

Approval of financial statement for November—Councilwoman Clements made a motion to approve, Councilman Cates 2nd and the motion carried.

Announcements –The Mayor mentioned that that ever one has noticed that the new Harp's had their grand opening December 7th and they have had a good turnout every day and we're certainly glad to have them in our city.

The Mayor announced the 3rd annual Vilonia Veterans Museum Chili Cook-off January 21st at "What's for Dinner" which is located at 14 South Church Street. This cook-off will help raise money for the Veterans Museum.

Emergency Management –Keith reported the fire department broke a record yesterday on runs which total 707 for the year.

Code Enforcement – Keith said building inspections are going well. Other businesses are going in. Housing has kind of slowed down. In January I will have end of the year report on various categories. K.C. said we did have another firefighter (James Cope) go to school and pass the EMT exam. The fire department has 21 firefighters who have passed the exam.

Councilwoman French asked about old truck parts left on one property.

Keith said we are in the process of changing some of our ordinances. In the ordinances we currently have there's really not anything we can enforce that with. I am in the process of drawing up five or six ordinances. I have talked to the Mayor on this subject and next week I will be going to the Municipal League and talking with one of their representatives who can hopefully help in drawing up those ordinances. This will help clean up some things in town.

Councilwoman French asked about street lights. All the lights on east Wicker are working. I will go by after our meeting and look at west Wicker.

Councilman Cates asked how much money was raised by the "boot drive".

Keith said we raised \$5,774.00 which based on population was better than other cities. Councilwoman French asked about our firemen stopping people on the bypass concerning the "boot drive". It is really dangerous to stop on the bypass. Keith said it wasn't our firemen it was Hilltop firemen. Councilman Heslep said next year they were going to look at other options since the bypass is dangerous.

Planning Commission -No report given. The Mayor read a letter from John Bonner Chairman of the Vilonia Planning Commission stating he was resigning effective December 31, 2016. He stated he had been on the Vilonia Planning Commission 12 years. With additional work duties he didn't feel like he has the time to devote to the commission. He stated he has enjoyed his term and wanted to thank the Mayor and citizens of Vilonia for letting him serve. The Mayor said it will be hard to replace Mr. Bonner. Everybody keep that in mind and if you know someone that would like to serve on the Planning Commission we will be taking applications. Also there is a vacancy on the Sewer Commission (replacing Don Smith)

Police Department -Chief McNew reported they are still working on ALEAP. Hopefully this week we will submit it to the State where they will go over our policies and then set a time to come and do our inspections. This will probably take 3 to 6 months to complete. Also next month I'm going to introduce another reserve we're going to put on. He is in class right now. We're down to 2 reserves and with this new reserve we will have 3. So far from January to now they have put in 366 hours of the 2 we now have. They have been working a lot.

Parks and Rec-VSA -Allin read from written agenda given to the council.

- (1) Our main priority and focus is to complete the baseball complex for the 2017 season.**
- (2) The baseball and softball camp was a hit and success among the community. The kids and parents loved it and the high school kids and coaches did an amazing job at hosting the camp and teaching kids how to play.**
- (3) Working with other programs and cities to build a good alliance and work relations for next year's program.**

(4) We will be starting the 2017 season signups at the beginning of January.

(5) I would like to have an executive session to discuss personal needs in the parks department. The Mayor said we will have it toward the end of meeting.

Councilwoman French asked how are the concession stands going as far as construction on them. Allin said they are putting the finishing touches on. All they lack is the commodes, and sink, they've got to pour the sidewalks outside. I'm hoping the next 2 weeks they will have everything done. It is looking good.

Chamber of Commerce – Keith reported today he met with the North Little Rock Chamber President. He gave us some good ideas how to get our chamber back up to speed. He really had some good input and wanted to set up a meeting with our chamber and come speak and help to revitalize our chamber.

Senior Citizens -Councilwoman French said there's really no report. Their getting ready for Christmas. They will be closed Friday.

Sewer Department -The report was given in written form for 2 months dated September 20, 2016 and October 18, 2016. Financial statement 9-1-16 thru 9-30-16 and October 18, 2016. Also Financial statement 10-1-16 thru 10-31-16 and November 15, 2016.

Old Business –None.

New Business –

(A) Presentation to Don Smith - The Mayor asked Don to step to the front and read a plaque of appreciation to Don for serving on the Sewer Commission from July 2004 to November 2016 (12 years). Don wanted to address the council. He discussed how rewarding and a pleasure to serve on the committee. He mentioned that the average citizen doesn't realize what the Sewer Department goes through. He pointed out that Bill Reed and others puts in many hours working for the success of the department. He asked that volunteers stay focused on not only today but the future of Vilonia sewer demands that will come in time. We need to look down the road 5 to 10 years for expansions at the Sewer

Department. He mentioned we have about 1400 customers we serve. He thanked Joe Maxwell for his guidance on the committee as chairman. He challenged Vilonia to get involved in committees. He said in stepping down he will still be involved. If you need my help please let me know.

The Mayor said he would like to recognize Boy Scout Troop 444 for coming to the council to learn more about government.

(B) Budget for 2017 – 2nd budget if approved contains a 2 % salary increase for employees effective December 20, 2016.

Executive Session – The Mayor said we have a personnel issue concerning the budget so he wanted to go into executive session. After being in executive session the Mayor called the meeting back to order. He stated while we were in executive session we discussed personnel issues involving the parks department. Would the council like to take action? Councilwoman Clements made a motion for the city to begin taking applications for an assistant director for Parks and Recreation for a full time position. Councilwoman French 2nd, being no discussion the Mayor called for a vote. Council members Cates, Clements, Maxwell, King and French voted to approve the motion, Councilman Heslep voted no. The motion carried.

2017 Budget Approval -The Mayor mention we had one version that had no raises and one version had a 2 % raise on salaries. The Mayor asked what is the council's wishes? Councilman Maxwell made a motion to approve 2017 budget containing the 2 % raises. Councilman King 2nd. being no discussion the Mayor called for a vote. Council Members Cates, Clements, Maxwell, King and French voted to approve. Councilman Heslep voted no. The motion carried.

The Mayor asked Marshall to read resolution 2016-8 for the 2017 budget. Councilman Maxwell made a motion to approve, Councilman King 2nd. The Mayor called for a voice vote. Councilman Heslep voted no. All other members Cates, Clements, Maxwell, King and French of the council voted yes. The motion carried.

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


Mayor


Recorder/Treasurer

Date 1-17-2017