

**Meeting of the Vilonia City Council
May 21, 2024**

Members present: Jim King, Joe Maxwell, Mike Matos, James Firestone, Lacosta Beene, and Steven Craig.

Meeting Prayer: Led by Preston Scroggin

Pledge of Allegiance: By all.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Preston Scroggin.

Established quorum.

Approval April 2024, Minutes: Motion of approval made by Councilman Jim King, seconded by James Firestone, approved by all, motion passed.

Approval of Financial Statement for April 2024: Motion of approval made by James Firestone, seconded by Jim King, approved by all, motion passed.

Reports of City Departments:

- (A) **Fire Department:** Chief Jimmy Hoofman presented. There have been 36 building permits so far this year, with 12 in April. The Vilonia Fire Department has been undergoing training, such as Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) for day care fire and tornado, ISAR training for search and rescue, and county training for Firefighter 1 (FF1) and Firefighter 2 (FF2) state certification. There are four new members.
- (B) **Planning Commission:** Todd Beene stated the next Planning Commission Meeting will be Thursday, May 30, 2024, at 7:00 PM. There will be two conditional use public hearings just before the May meeting, for a Home Day Care and a Mobile Home. At the April 25th meeting, the Peachwave Food Truck was approved for conditional use.
- (C) **Police Department:** Chief Brad McNew recommended to hire Cherry Lamar. Motion to hire made by Joe Maxwell, seconded by Jim King, approved by all, motion passed. Council reached unanimous consensus to change the policy to allow Chief McNew be able to hire without council approval.
- (D) **Sewer Department:** Joe Maxwell stated the sewer committee did not meet for May. The plant updates will be starting June 17th.
- (E) **Street Department:** Mayor Scroggin presented. We are trying to complete Church Street and expect it to be completed in June. We are still recommending drivers choose alternate routes when possible.
- (F) **Parks and Recreation:** Mayor Scroggin announced the softball season has finished while baseball still has a couple weeks left. We are installing new mulch at the Soaring Eagle Memorial Park playground on Cemetery Street.

Public Comment: No public comment

Announcements:

Mayor Scroggin announced City Hall will be closed Monday, May 27, 2024, for Memorial Day.

The City of Vilonia now has an app: Connect Vilonia. It can be found on the Apple Appstore and Google Play store by searching "ConnectVilonia."

Valley Event Space is a newly opened business.

Faulkner County Council on Aging reimbursed the City for half the cost of the new stove installed at the Vilonia Senior Citizens Center.

The traffic study has been completed and the city is working with All Service Electric out of Hot Springs to evaluate the traffic lights and optimize timing. According to ARDOT, a left hand turn signal is not needed at the Naylor/US-64B intersection at this time.

VCDC: Chad Hearne, President, stated there was a great turnout for the VCDC's first event, the Vilonia Community Fishing Derby and 5K held the past Saturday, May 18.

Big thanks to Steven and Katie Craig; Steven did a fabulous job planning, marketing, and executing the event and deserves all the credit for its success. Also thanks to the VCDC Board, specifically LaCosta Beene, Jennifer Brown, Stanley Gordon Jr., Mary Lackie, Kelly Lawrence, and Kim Weaver Williams. Thank you to Mayor Scroggin, Joe Maxwell, Mike Matos, and State representative Cameron Cooper. Thank you to Arkansas Game and Fish for dumping 500 lbs of catfish for the event. Lastly, thank you to the Vilonia Fire Department and all our volunteers.

We had 15 runners for the 5k, with Daniel Hope, 4th grade teacher at FMIS, taking top spot at just over 21 minutes and Addison Burgess the top female runner. We also had 150-200 people attend the derby with dozens registered to participate in it. The Centennial Grill was provided by Christan Dryer of Centennial Bank and the hot dogs were provided by Central AR Pest. We had many sponsors for the event and they are still listed on our website, as well as pictures and videos, which we will be posting more of in coming days. Thanks again for your continuous support for this community.

Department recognition by Council person Beene: Seasonal help at parks: concession, gate, everyone else

Chamber of Commerce: Scott Berrier, Board Member, presented.

Monthly luncheons are open to the public, both members and non-members. They are the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:30AM at Simple Simons on Church Street, for the low prices of \$8.75. The guest speaker for June is Kelly with Renewal Ranch, July is Brooke with Rausch Coleman, August is Central AR Karting, September is Jackie Fowlkes with Vilonia Realty, and October is John Keith with T.H.I.N.K. Coffee. If anyone would like to be a guest speaker, contact the Chamber. Board meetings are located here (in the city hall courtroom) at 2pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month and are open to the public.

Upcoming ribbon cuttings include Valley Event Center June 4th, Carlson Grace Jiu Jitsu June 15th, and Classic Mike's Barber Shop June 15th.

The VACC currently has 62 members.

The Chocolate Festival is set for Tuesday, June 4th 5-7pm at the new Valley Event Center. This year will have a chocolate eating contest along with best chocolate and best decorated booth. Please come out and join this delicious event. We have over 20 vendors this year. This fundraiser will help the Vilonia Chamber continue to fund the VHS Scholarship in the future.

Fall Fest is set for Saturday, October 12th 10am-4pm at the Veterans Museum. Booth fees are \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. More details will be posted on our website and social media closer to the event.

We have switched over and are building a new website. We are hoping to continue to share the city.

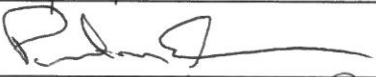
Appointment to Water Board: Mayor Scroggin appointed Mickey Fortner for the District #3 position. A motion to accept the appointment was made by Mike Matos, seconded by LaCosta Beene, approved by all, motion passed.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Motion to adjourn by Jim King, seconded by Joe Maxwell. Meeting adjourned.

Date: 6/18/2024

Mayor: 

Recorder: 