

Meeting of the Vilonia City Council

April 18, 2017

The Vilonia City Council meeting 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. Absent-Sherry Clements. A quorum was declared.

Approval of minutes from meeting on March 2nd Special Meeting and Regular Meeting March 21st. –Councilman King made a motion to approve, Councilman Cates 2nd, there was no discussion and the motion carried.

Approval of financial statement for March -Councilman Cates made a motion to approve, Councilman Heslep 2nd, there was no discussion and the motion carried.

Announcements -The Mayor announced big event going on this weekend at the Veterans Museum. He called on Linda Hicks to make a few comments. She reported that about 10:30 am about 150 motorcycles (Wounded Warriors) will arrive. Food will be served at noon hour. At 2:30 pm we will have our dedication of our chapel. Councilman King said there would be a quartet singing after the dedication. At 4:00 pm we will have a wedding in our new chapel. This is an important day for our fund raising efforts.

The Mayor mentioned that Keith Hillman was unable to be here tonight as he is teaching a class at The Faulkner County Office of Emergency Management. He gave me a report in written form which I will read.

Emergency Management -Everything is going great. We are up to over 200 calls so far. We have 2 members attending the Arkansas Fire Academy starting May 1st. KC and I attended a Logistics Specials Class in Little rock last week. We had 8 people attend a School Bus Extrication class in McRae. We had 3 members just finish a First Responders class. KC and I will be attending an Integrated Warning Workshop at the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department on the 25th of April. Also on April 29th KC and I will be speaking at the U.S. Congressman French Hill Disaster Preparation seminar.

Code Enforcement -Not much to report other than grass calls are starting to come in. I have spoken to numerous residents about the new fence ordinance and grass being blown into the streets and sidewalks.

Planning Commission – From written report by Keith Hillman -Nothing on the agenda for this month. We have had 8 new residential building permits in April alone. John Wimberley, Steve Austin and I will be attending a Planning Commission workshop tomorrow at the North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce.

Police Department – Chief McNew reported they are 1 guy down. Hopefully soon we will have that position filled. We are very busy with our ALEAP. They are coming next Tuesday. We trust we will have good news after they leave. We had 6 break ins at Dove Creek over the weekend with cars not being locked. Please tell everyone to lock their cars. Councilman King mentioned that his church had items missing from their cars while the service was going on. Some members didn't lock their car. Some cars were broken into. The Chief mentioned they spoke about a month ago to First Assembly of God about break ins etc. to about 50 members.

Parks & Rec -Councilman Heslep asked Clint Tucker it might be good to invite someone from the Soccer club to inform the council what is going on. The Mayor invited Frank Cleberg from the Soccer club to come up to speak. Frank stated the season has been very successful with over 200 kids registered. We keep the park full on Saturdays. We have had some issues on week nights where we are sharing the complex with the softball group. The Mayor then said In February and I went back and checked where Linda Hicks (with the Veterans Museum) sent out a notice to everybody that they would be having an event on April 22nd. They only use the park 3 days a year. This was something the softball was notified on, the Soccer Club was notified on and what I want to know why you guys ignored this? Why did you not observe this date on your schedule? Clint said I had already spent money for this tournament. The Mayor then said you're going to have to pay attention, you guys have been using the Veterans Museum parking lot and they can't use their own facilities. Everybody is ignoring the Veterans Museum as if they weren't there. There is clearly a parking issue and this week end we really have a parking issue with thousands coming. If you have a softball tournament, soccer tournament, and Museum festivities and you have the street blocked both sides and parking is gone it will not be a good time for visitors.

There was then a long discussion involving the Mayor, Clint Tucker, Chief McNew, Linda Hicks, Councilman Heslep, and Frank Cleberg on how to handle the parking issue for this coming week end. Councilman Heslep said he would bring some reserve firemen to help with directing traffic etc. Chief McNew will determine what part of the street needs to be barricaded. Frank said he would start the pee wee soccer one hour earlier then they could leave approximately at 10:45 am to help free parking spaces. The Mayor encourages everyone to car pool. The Mayor asked John Alexander if he wanted to address anything. John mentioned that some issues involving the baseball fields, grass etc. That's the reason we're not having any tournaments over there. The Mayor mentioned bids on stripping the parking lot. Clint said he received one bid for \$2300.00, John said he can get a bid for \$750.00. The Mayor asked John if he could get a written quote. John said yes. Motion was made by Councilman Maxwell to stripe the parking lot at the baseball complex and authorize the Mayor to go up to \$1,000.00, Councilman Heslep 2nd, there was no discussion and the motion carried.

Chamber of Commerce -From written report by Keith Hillman – We have started making a “new resident pack” that will be handed out thru the Vilonia Sewer Department. These new packs will include any kind of specials, coupons, flyers and/or business cards advertising our local businesses. Talking to residents, some don't realize that we have a lot of great businesses in town. This is one way we can get information to new residents about our town and businesses. J & D Hardware will be having their 10 yr. anniversary on Thursday April 20th from 8am-4pm. The Mayor said he heard they will be serving hot dogs around the lunch hour so everyone come out.

Senior Citizens –Councilwoman French reported the fund raiser (Rook Domino, Skip-Bo) tournament made over \$8,800.00. A lot of success was due to donations—Woodman of the World, Gordon & Associates, Keith's, Webco, all of the businesses in Vilonia donated. What's for Dinner, Baileys BBQ, El Rancho, Individuals. Food was donated every night by county and state elected officials. The Domino Tournament was won by 2 men from Texas. The Skip-Bo Tournament was won by 1 woman from Vilonia and 1 woman from Conway. The Rook Tournament was won by me Kathy French. On the 4th Thursday of each month Butch Money sings at the Senior Center. Come out and hear him sing.

Sewer Department – The report was given in written form dated January 17, 2017 and March 21, 2017. Financial statement 1-1-17 through 1-31-17, also 2-1-17 through 2-28-17 and March 21, 2017

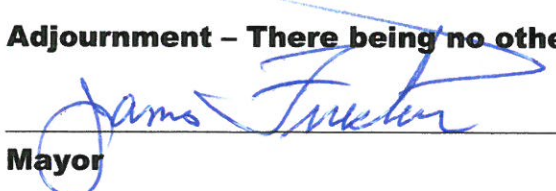
Old Business –The Mayor mentioned Ordinance 2017-1 (Building Permit) was tabled 2 times for more study. The Mayor asked Clay to discuss. Clay said our town was behind other cities our size in cost of building permits. We would like to at least cover our cost in sending Keith to inspect said buildings. We are proposing to raise residential \$ 50.00 to \$150.00. We would go up \$50.00 per year for the next 3 years until we get to a \$300.00 cap. Another thing Councilman Maxwell wanted is to have sub-contractor listed. Also electrical, heating contractors have their license on file showing they are certified to work on buildings. We don't have anything to do with the plumbing as the Water Department takes care of that. Councilman Maxwell asked about gas. Clay said the Water Department takes care of gas lines. The meter is taken care of by Center Point. Councilman Maxwell asked about several other things. The Mayor made notes of these. Councilman Cates said we need to put in a date when this ordinance takes effect such as the yearly changes. It was decided by the council to bring back next month Ordinance 2017-1 with changes for passage.

New Business

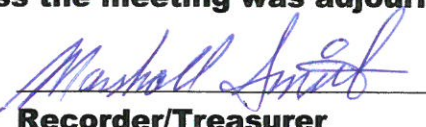
(A) Appointment to the Water Board –The Mayor recommended Brian Presley District 4 be reappointed to the Vilonia Water Board of Directors. Councilman Maxwell made a motion to approve, Councilman King 2nd there was no discussion, and the motion carried.

(B) Appointment to the Planning Commission -The Mayor read a letter of resignation from Trey White citing personal work schedule. The Mayor recommended Fred Fowlkes to take Treys place. Councilman Maxwell made a motion to approve. Councilman Cates 2nd, there was no discussion, and the motion carried.

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



Mayor



Recorder/Treasurer

Date 5-16-2007