



**Minutes
Vilonia City Council
December 15, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.**

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. Sherry Clements was absent. 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: Councilman Cates made a motion to approve, Councilman King 2nd and the motion carried.

Announcements: The Mayor announced the Christmas Parade was a success with good participation including a large crowd watching. He also said the soup supper and auction for the Veterans Museum went very well. Councilman King suggested we try to get a count next year of people attending the parade. Amanda asked that next year the Mayor and the council consider being in the parade.

Fire Department: K.C. Williams thanked the fireman who came out and supported the recent boot drive. Our city had a friendly competition with Greenbrier and we won. Our fireman stood out in the rain over three weekends and raised approximately \$5,500.00 which went to Central Arkansas Boot Drive. The money was used to buy toys for children that the schools pick out. We are writing a grant for apparatus to replace two of our vehicles in constant state of disrepair. We don't know anything about the grant for about a year.

Planning Commission: Keith Hillman stated that on the agenda this coming Thursday the 17th is Harps' revised building plans and a public hearing on zoning ordinance revisions.

Police Department: Chief McNew said he's been busy keeping cars going and bodies on the street. We had three guys out, four cars down at one point. We have been busy making sure we have coverage. Other than that he didn't have any other news.

Parks & Rec/VSA: Brian Lane announced they had just hired a new Softball Commissioner Dawn Kasper who was in attendance. We had a meeting last night and a lot of discussion. It was suggested we need input from the Mayor and City Council on what direction we need to go. Our registration will start February 1st in signing up kids. We need to know if the fields will be done for play or may not be done. The Mayor said if we had not had so much rain the fields would have already been done. We just need some dry weather. The Mayor further stated he felt like the softball fields will be ready to go by April. Brian asked if an alternative plan needs to be in place. The Mayor said it might be good to have another plan to be on the safe side. Hopefully that won't happen as we don't want our kids playing elsewhere. We are going to do everything in our power to make the fields playable. Other discussions on whether we could use the baseball fields. The Mayor stated our priority is to complete softball first. Brian thanked the council for said inputs.



Chamber of Commerce: No report given.

Code Enforcement: Keith Hillman reported it has been going slow. He referred to written reported YTD on building permits, Residential Housing 17, Storage Buildings 8, Business 6, Additions 2. If the rain holds off everything will begin to wrap up soon.

Senior Citizens: No Report was given.

Sewer Dept: The report was given in written form dated October 20, 2015 and November 17, 2015.
Financial statement 10-1-15 thru 10-31-15 and November 17, 2015.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- (A) Resolution for Veterans Museum – The Mayor said at the last audit the auditors took issue with the City paying for utilities for the Veterans Museum. He said we have had visitors from 28 states, and 3 continents. Over 4,800 people have toured here. The Museum is very important to Vilonia and is getting bigger and better. He said for these reasons we need to do a resolution to partner with the Museum. Marshall Smith Rec./Treasurer read said resolution 2015-7. Councilman Maxwell made a motion to approve, Councilman King 2nd. Discussion: Councilwoman French asked what the amount would be. The Mayor said it was about \$1,500.00 last year. The Mayor then took a voice vote, and the motion carried.
- (B) Approval of 2016 Budget: With pay rates to be effective December 20, 2015. The Mayor then asked Marshall Smith to read said resolution 2015-8. Councilman Maxwell made a motion to approve, Councilwoman French 2nd. Discussion: Councilwoman French asked had the Mayor talked to Debra concerning part time. The Mayor said the PT employee for the Senior Citizens program was in the 2016 budget. Hopefully Faulkner County Senior Citizens will pick this up. Councilman King asked wasn't the 2016 budget conservative? The Mayor said yes. He said his business side said to be conservative. In reality with a new grocery store coming in and other business entities opening up we could have a lot more revenue. The Mayor then called for a voice vote. Motion carried.
- (C) Executive Session: Personnel – The Mayor called the meeting back to order. He stated we went into executive session to discuss personnel involving hiring a new park director. We had interviews last week with 6 applicants. One applicant was extremely qualified but we could not reach a salary agreement. We are now moving to our next choice. The council has asked me to meet with him and negotiate a salary. We will have a special called meeting Monday the 21st at 6:00 p.m. to hopefully hire the individual.

Adjournment: There being no other business, Councilman King made the motion to adjourn, Councilwoman French 2nd and the motion carried.