

Meeting of the Vilonia City Council

October 17, 2023

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

Invocation: Lead by Jim King

Pledge of Allegiance by all.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Preston Scroggin.

Established of quorum.

Mayor Scroggin announced to the Council Sherry Clements has resigned from the position of Recorder/Treasurer. She held a position on the Vilonia City Council for over 30 years. The mayor suggested getting her a plaque in commemoration of her years of service and the council agreed.

Approval September 18, 2023, Minutes: Motion of approval made by Councilman Mike Matos, seconded by Councilman Jim King, motion passed – all in favor.

Approval of August and September 2023 Financial Statements: The August Financial Statements were delayed by a month due to a bank/mailling delay. Motion of approval by Councilman James Firestone, Councilman Matos requested clarification on the August Street Department Financial Statement regarding a purchase of \$28,850. The mayor clarified the amount was for a new Dodge truck for the Parks and Recreation Department. Councilman Joe Maxwell seconded the motion to approve, motion passed – all in favor.

Reports of Boards and Committees:

Fire Department: Fire Chief Keith Hillman reported. The Fire Department has had 932 runs so far this year. There have been a couple issues with fire trucks breaking down, but they are all currently up-and-running.

Planning Commission: There were 3 new residential permits and 1 storage building permits last month. The Planning Commission will meet on the 26th at 7pm. Agenda items include a new mini storage on Eagle Street. Chief Hillman stated information for the County Wide Clean Up. E-waste will be held at the Conway Fairgrounds. Tires will be accepted at the Vilonia location (limit 4 tires per person).

Councilman Steven Craig thanked Fire Chief Keith Hillman, Assistant Chief Kevin Wooley, Captain Eric Ramsey, Firefight Shawn Sullivan, Firefighter Alex Merrill, and Firefighter Josh Gipson, as well as the other volunteer fire departments for a job well done regarding the structure fire on Rainwater Cove the day before (October 16, 2023). The mayor stated the Vilonia Fire Department is “one of the most professional organizations in the state” and he is very proud of them.

Police Department: Chief Brad McNew reported. Chief McNew reported the police vehicle purchased this year is still waiting to be outfitted (waiting on a radio system). New officer Patrolman Phillip Rappold is being FTOD. A couple vehicles have been broke down and are being fixed. The department is preparing for the annual budget. In the process, Chief McNew priced a new vehicle to replace one that is soon to be rotated out due to end of life and was informed there was a vehicle currently available, but that there was expected to be shortages and long wait-times in the next year. Chief McNew then requested approval to purchase a pursuit ready, 4-wheel drive police truck at \$44,893 this year instead of next year. The new vehicle will still need to be outfitted. Councilman Matos requested an estimate on cost of outfitting. Chief McNew stated he was unable to say, but estimated \$15,000 - \$20,000. Councilman Matos questioned if the Council had approved the purchase of a vehicle earlier in 2023. Chief McNew said yes, there had been one in the budget. Councilwoman Beene questioned how many autos the Police Department was currently down, to which Chief McNew replied there were currently exactly enough. Discussion continued on why the Vilonia Police Department does not "hot seat" patrol vehicles, why at least one 'extra' vehicle is recommended, and whether it was financially feasible to purchase the vehicle now. Motion to approve the purchase of the truck made by Councilman Joe Maxwell, seconded by Councilman Steven Craig and Councilman Mike Matos, voice vote held, motion passed – all in favor.

Sewer Department: Councilman Joe Maxwell reported the October Sewer meeting will be held Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 6:00pm in the Vilonia City Hall Courtroom. The mayor stated the city is waiting on Entergy to complete the plant upgrades.

Street Department: The Church Street Project is underway. The grants are in on the bridge. Engineering is done on Saddle Creek and it is shovel ready if we get it. They've been busy getting cleaning done around for the winter.

The mayor recommended Mrs. Cindi Milam to the Council to fill the vacant Recorder/Treasurer position for the duration of the current term. Motion to approve made by Councilman Joe Maxwell, seconded by Councilman James Firestone, Councilman Jim King, and Councilwoman LaCosta Beene; Councilman Steven Craig requested a voice vote, voice vote held, motion passed – all in favor.

Public Commentary: None

Announcements:

Department Recognition by Councilwoman LaCosta Beene recognized Jaye Cox by the Council for her dedication to the City. She was hired to do social media, the website, IT troubleshooting, but she has helped within all departments and community events.

Chamber of Commerce: Chamber President Tanya Hendrix reported for the Vilonia Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber announced they will have their monthly luncheon on Thursday, October 19th at Simple Simon Pizza (\$8.75 including drink) with Spirit of Vilonia as their speaker. The event is open to the public, both VACC members and non-members. The speaker for November is expected to be Shelby Fiegel from UCA Community Development Institute. If anyone would like to be a guest speaker, please

contact the Chamber. The Chamber's Second Annual Fall Fest had 34 vendors and around 450 attendees at the Vilonia Museum of Veterans and Military History. New members that joined recently were Renewal Ranch, Cosmetic Creations, American Made General Store, Juniper Therapy, LYFT, Joshua Long, Triple L Marketing Solutions, and B&B Safety Training. Shop Small, Shop Local is Saturday, November 25th. The Chamber is seeking new board members for 2024, if interested, please contact a current board member for more information. The 2024 Annual Chamber Banquet is set for March 2nd at Friendship Baptist Church. Tickets are available online via their website only (www.viloniachamber.org). Renewal Ranch is having a 3-day event November 28th through December 2nd called KrisKingleMarket, a German inspired event; currently there are 40 vendors, live entertainment, horse and buggy rides, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Please see the Renewal Ranch Facebook and website for more information. No questions.

The 2023 Faulkner County County-Wide Clean-Up will be held Friday, October 21st, from 8am to 3pm and Saturday, October 22nd, from 8am to noon. Dumpsters and a tire trailer will be available at the Vilonia Street Department building at 47 North Mount Olive. E-Waste will only be accepted at the Conway Expo Center. See flyer for details.

The 2023 City of Vilonia Trunk or Treat will be held Saturday, October 28th, from 5pm to 7pm, at the Cemetery Street Baseball Complex. To be involved, contact CityHall@cityofvilonia.org or online at www.cityofvilonia.net/tot

There will be a Community Catalyst Strategic Doing Workshop Wednesday, November 15, 2023, from 9am to 3pm, at Vilonia City Hall. This event is in-person only and the public is encouraged to attend. Councilwoman Beene mentioned this meeting is a DOING Workshop and not a planning meeting.

Vilonia City Hall offices will be closed Friday, November 10, 2023, in observance of Veterans Day.

The 13th Annual Vilonia Christmas Parade will be Saturday, December 2, 2023. Judging starts at 5pm, parade starts moving at dusk. The theme this year is "Homemade Christmas." Details available online at www.cityofvilonia.net/parade

Mayor reported he met with Entergy Engineering Department about lighting in Dove Creek; they will be installing a few more lights.

Meeting was held with ARDOT and the Vilonia Schools Superintendent to discuss improving Hwy 107 and the entrances of the schools. The Mayor stated this is the first step in getting 107 turned into a 4-way, in the next 10-15 years. Councilwoman LaCosta Beene stated South Mt Olive onto 64 (the old highway), out of the Intermediate School, is having some issues with people pulling out as a very congested area.

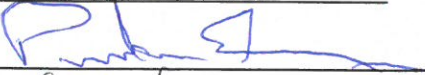
Old Business:

Councilman Steven Craig pulled Ordinance 2023-5 and Ordinance 2023-6. He plans to extensively rework them and submit them to the Vilonia Planning Commission in November.

New Business: None

The Mayor entertained a motion, motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Jim King, seconded by Councilman Joe Maxwell. The meeting was adjourned.

Date: November 21, 2023

Mayor: 

Recorder: 