

## Meeting of the March 21, 2023

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

Meeting Prayer: Lead by Jim King

Pledge of Allegiance by all.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Preston Scroggin.

Established of quorum.

Approval February 21, 2023 Minutes: Motion of approval made by Councilman Joe Maxwell, seconded by LaCosta Beene. Motion passed.

Approval of February 2023 Financial Statements: Motion of approval by Councilman Mike Matos, seconded by Jim King, no discussion, motion passed.

### Announcements:

Chamber of Commerce-Banquet was held on March 4, 2023 at Friendship Baptist Church they had about 238 people in attendance. Chocolate Festival will be held on June 6, 2023 at the Vilonia Nazarene Church. It is \$5 for the event. The Chamber will meet monthly at Simple Simons beginning April 20, 2023 at 11:30. The chamber website is partial up and running more content is being added.

LaCosta Beene presented cards and cookies to the Street Department for their work in our community.

### Reports of Boards and Committees:

Emergency Management, planning commission, Fire Department: Keith Hillman provided a report to all council members for the current year to date fire runs was 226. The new ladder truck has arrived and is in service. There have been 5 inspections for March for new construction. There have been 8 new building permits YTD. The planning commission will meet on March 30, 2023.

Police Department: Chief McNew introduced the new hire Shelby Watkins. She has been through the academy and a motion to approve her hire was made by Joe Maxwell and seconded by Jim King, no discussion, motion passed. Chief McNew had applied for a \$100,000 grant which we were awarded for new radios. The total cost will be \$201,926.45, \$100,000.00 of this will be paid for with the grant money. The rest will need to come out of the police budget. A motion to purchase the radios with the grant money plus the money from the police budget was made by Stephen Craig and seconded by Jim King, no discussion, motion passed. This may take about a year to complete with parts being delayed.

Parks and Recreation: Work has been completed on new parking lot across the street from the soccer fields. The fishing pond is getting full and has been contracted to be stocked by the Arkansas Game and Fish. The Arkansas Game and Fish came out to inspect everything at the pond and said "This was the best in the state." They will also stock trout in the late fall.

Sewer Department: Joe Maxwell gave the sewer report and informed the council that the estimated completion date of the sewer project will be July 1, 2023.

New Business:

The mayor made an appointment to the Water board appointing Steve Simon to that position. Mike Matos made a motion to accept that appointment and LaCosta Beene seconded the motion, no discussion, motion passed.

Dr. Cathy Riggins presented the council the Vilonia Pathways Academy. She had a slide presentation and two students in the program come speak to the council along with one of the business partners doing the training for this program. This program gives students who may not want to go to college an alternative education and skill sets and job placement when they graduate in the construction industry.

The meeting to adjourn was made by Joe Maxwell and seconded by Jim King. The meeting was adjourned.

Date: 4-18-2023

Mayor: [Signature]

Recorder: Sherry Clements