

**Meeting of the Vilonia City Council
October 15, 2024**

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

Meeting Prayer: Led by Jim King

Pledge of Allegiance: By all.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Preston Scroggin.

Established quorum.

Approval of minutes for September 17, 2024 meeting: Motion of approval made by Maxwell, seconded by King, approved by all, motion passed.

Approval of Financial Statement for September 2024: Motion of approval made by Maxwell, seconded by King, approved by all, motion passed.

Reports of City Departments:

(A) Fire Department: Jimmy Hoofman presented. There were 4 permits in September and 2 so far this month (October) bringing the total for the year to 81 permits. There have been 898 runs. The fire department conducted pump testing and all apparatus passed. Recently completed training included BLS (Basic Life Support) Instructor certification, HazMat Chemistry Class, and exposure protection for structural firefighting. Upcoming training includes firefighter survival and first aid (First Responder), an EMR (Emergency Medical Response) HotZone conference in Texas, Exterior Fires for the FF1 and FF2 class, and 5 firefighters will be testing for their FF1 and FF2 certification. For recent events, Fire Prevention Week was October 6th through 12th, so Vilonia Fire had firefighters help with the morning car riders one morning each at Frank Mitchell Intermediate School, Vilonia Primary School, and Vilonia Elementary School. For upcoming events, Vilonia Fire plans to attend the city's Trunk or Treat on October 26th and conduct a school demonstration for career development class at the Vilonia High School on October 24th and 25th. Two new volunteer members joined this month, Dixie and Josh Brabham. Dixie is from Faulkner County Dispatch and Josh is from Vilonia Water Works. The mayor mentioned his appreciation for the Vilonia Fire Department maintaining an ISO 3 rating.

(B) Code Enforcement: none

(C) Planning Commission: Todd Beene presented. The Planning Commission last met on September 26, 2024. We reviewed the Comcast site plan that borders the city limits along the bypass and looked at a preliminary review of a proposed duplex development at 968 Main Street. We discussed a work night for the Master Street Plan that will be scheduled in the near future. Next scheduled meeting is October 31, 2024, at 7PM. The agenda has not yet been released.

(D) Police Department: Brad McNew presented. He has been working on the budget for next year. Officer Jones is expected to be out of FTO by end of month. Our officer who was out on medical is now back.

(E) Sewer Department: Brandon Betts presented. We got Quail Hollow off the bypass today and the concrete crew for the headworks will be here at the end of the week to get the slab poured so we should be able to start the headworks next week. Still waiting on getting parts for other projects, but it's going pretty smooth. Matos asked for a timeline on the completion for "the one on Barnard." Some back and forth ensued, with Matos requesting information on the Barnard pump behind Mr Rick Barnard's house, not the one on 107, and Betts stating the pump on Barnard is called the 107 pump. Sewer is waiting on a new screen for that pump.

(F) Street Department: Mayor presented. The Street Department has been busy trying to finish up on the drainage ditch cleaning before the paving crews come in next week.

(G) Parks & Rec: Terry Shannon presented. The playground equipment has been installed at the Softball Complex (41 North Mount Olive Road) and at Remembrance Park (26 Aspen Creek Drive). There was also a new see-saw installed at Soaring Eagle Memorial Park (26 Cemetery Street). I want to thank Mayor Scroggin and the rest of the staff at City Hall for helping make this possible. The Softball playground equipment is operational but is still needing sidewalk concrete poured and the dirt work completed around the equipment, which I'm expecting next week. Later tonight there will be an update about the National Fitness Campaign grant. No donations for the fitness court so far but I'm starting to reach out to some people.

Public Comment: None

Announcements:

(A) Department recognition by LaCosta Beene: Beene recognized Vanessa Flores. She has taken care of so many things over the summer with mowing, Trunk or Treat, helping at the ballpark. She does a great job but most of all, she takes a lot of pride in our community and that's what we like to see. So I just want to take the time to tell her thank you and we appreciate her.

(B) Vilonia Area Chamber of Commerce: On behalf of the Vilonia Chamber of Commerce, Cindy Hanks of H&H Bookkeeping, presented:

- There was one ribbon cutting this month for the re-opening of Cole Funeral Home, formerly Vilonia Funeral Home.
- The Monthly luncheons are opened to the public, both members and non-members. This is a great way to network, meet others and enjoy a delicious meal and beverage for a low price of \$8.75 at Simple Simon's Pizza of Vilonia.
 - Upcoming guest speakers are as follows:
 - October 17th John Keith with THINK Coffee
 - November 21st Jessica Lingo with Kinetic
 - December 19th Eagle Bank
 - If anyone would like to be our guest speaker you may contact the Chamber

- Fall Fest was this past Saturday. It was held at the Veterans Museum. We had 27 booths, a bounce house, and a food truck. We had a group from V'Cloggers perform, music, arts & craft booths - it was well attended! Thank you all who participated!
- In November we will be looking to add new board members for the upcoming 2025-2026 year. If you know of anyone interested, please have them contact one of the Board Members for more information.

(C) Vilonia Community Development Corporation: LaCosta Beene presented. We are currently doing our 2025 memberships. We have put together some teams that are working on the organization for Eagle Fest. If you're interested in being on those committees, you can go to our website at developvilonia.org and there's a Contact Us. The membership is on that page also.

(D) The Planning Commission will meet OCTOBER 31, 2024, at 7 PM.

(E) 2024 Faulkner County Clean-Up is OCTOBER 18th and 19th at Vilonia Street Department, 47 North Mount Olive Road. Electronics will be at the Conway Expo Center ONLY, not the Street Department. OCT 18th, 8 AM to 3 PM, and OCT 19th, 8 AM to Noon at all locations. Tire Disposal available at Vilonia Street, but limited to 4 tires per person. (Flyers attached) Maxwell asked if there were any help available for elderly people, Mayor Scroggin stated there would be volunteers on site to help, and Maxwell clarified he meant to get stuff loaded at their homes to get TO the site. Mayor Scroggin said to let him know, or the Vilonia Fire Department, and we'd see what we could do. Mayor Scroggin requested Maxwell to remind him about the cardboard trailer later so he could look into it again.

(F) City of Vilonia Trunk or Treat 2024 will be Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 5 PM to 7 PM at the Vilonia Baseball Complex on Cemetery Street. Vilonia will be handing out hot dogs, water, popcorn, candy, and cotton candy. For more info, visit the city's website at www.cityofvilonia.net/tot, email cityhall@cityofvilonia.org, or call the City Clerk at 501-796-2534 ext 4. There will also be hay rides. The event is completely free.

(G) Brady Zweifel – Update/Opportunities on grant funding from Metroplan. The Small Cities Council of Executive Board of Directors at Metroplan has been working on this project since the beginning of the year and on July 22, 2024, Central AR was awarded \$49.25 million out of \$100 million for the Tri-Regional Coalition. These monies are to be spent on pass-through grants to local entities for Green Networks projects, Building Efficiency projects, and Transportation Efficiency projects. This is a 100% fully funded grant with 0% matching required from the city. We don't qualify for many grants because our income is too high; this grant isn't like that. I'm asking for support from the city and to help push out this survey (<https://forms.microsoft.com/r/Bm2qe433bJ>). My focus is to get the pedestrian walking trails we've been working on. This is a huge opportunity because that median income is not in play here. For floodway properties, we can apply for this grant to buy those properties and put in these projects. There is no money out of our pocket. Matos asked what costs the city would need to pay for the survey. Zweifel confirmed there is no cost to the city. Zweifel also mentioned the Metroplan project "Smooth Commute" since the majority of city residents work outside the city. They're working on grant funding to lower traffic congestion. (Presentation materials attached)

- a. Mayor Scroggin mentioned Metroplan had helped with the Church Street project, granting us over \$300,000 and they're also trying to help us with access to the Elementary School via the state highway (Eagle Street). He suggested parents contact their state senators as ARDOT has not yet been receptive.

(H) Mayor Notes:

- a. **Daylight Savings Time starts November 3rd, so set your clocks back one hour on Sunday morning.**
- b. **Election Day is November 5th. Voting is at Beryl Baptist Church (Main and Graddy Loop).**
- c. **City Closure** – Monday, November 11, 2024, all City Offices will be closed for Veterans Day.
- d. **App** – Download the Connect Vilonia app on the Apple and Android App Store to get notifications directly on your phone.

Old Business:

- (A) ORDINANCE 2024-1 AMENDING ZONING ORDINANCE 2016-2** – Final reading, read in full. Motion of approval made by Firestone, seconded by Beene, Matos called for discussion. Matos stated his dislike for conditional uses, as he is against ambiguity in the municipal code. He requests a list of the conditions which would be imposed for conditional uses. No other discussion. Firestone requested a voice vote, Mayor called for a voice vote, 4 in favor, 1 opposed (Matos), motion passed.

New Business:

- (A) NATIONAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN CONDITIONAL AWARD OF GRANT BY VILONIA PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR TERRY SHANNON** – National Fitness Campaign update – we have been awarded a \$30,000 grant for the new fitness court. Shannon will propose a resolution at the November City Council meeting to adopt the grant and start the funding process. There is no obligation at this point. Matos requested the resolution include the city is protected from committing any financial responsibility and the city can back out if additional funds are not made. Beene asked what the time frame to accept the grant was. Shannon stated there would be a letter of acceptance from the mayor this week and the resolution in November. Mayor assured he would state in the letter if the city did not raise the money, they would back out. Beene asked the date to back out. Shannon stated once we start the funding process, until that moment we can back out at any time or state we'd like to push back from the 2025 to the 2026 campaign.
- (B) COMMUNICATION ON CONSTRUCTING AN ORDINANCE TO REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT INSIDE SUBDIVISIONS WITHIN CITY LIMITS BY COUNCIL MEMBER LACOSTA BEENE** – We have received a lot of feedback from citizens about people driving too fast and not stopping at stop signs in subdivisions, so I've been working with Chief McNew and Kelly, as well as the Mayor. We're looking to decrease the speed limit to 20 mph on streets inside the subdivision. We've also been working with Entergy because we've got a lot of street lights out and the street department to replace the faded out stop signs. We're planning on submitting an ordinance at the next council meeting. We've gotten input from the Municipal League. I'd like to get some feedback from the council members on what we can do to make our

subdivisions safer for our kids waiting on the bus, for the older people walking, for everybody involved. Mayor Scroggin inserted that while the City pays the electricity bill for the street lights, Entergy actually has all the control of those lights and entreated citizens to report street lights they see out to the city. Firestone mentioned he remembered marking the lights with caution tape to help Entergy identify the bad lights. Beene stated the police were aware of citizen complaints and were planning to increase police presence in subdivisions and requested citizens not be upset about the increased presence. Matos mentioned his subdivision has a speed limit of 25 mph and thought 20 mph was perhaps still too high. Beene mentioned the 20 mph choice came after researching nearby towns such as North Little Rock, Mayflower, and Beebe, and finding 20 mph to be the most common limit in towns with a reduced speed in subdivisions.

(C) MELVIN SIEBENMORGEN REGARDING CITY PROPERTY ON GREEN MEADOWS – Melvin Siebenmorgen introduced himself to the council. Mr.

Siebenmorgen lives at 4 Green Meadows and referred to his home as his homestead. He is requesting permission to purchase 6 Green Meadows Drive from the city. Mayor Scroggin clarified the property was donated by Martin Presley and was in a flood plain where no structures can be built on it. Siebenmorgen stated he understood and it would only be used for his family's small farming. The property is 3 acres. VCDC had been looking at that property for a community garden, but they are okay with a different location. Mayor Scroggin confirmed the city would have to have an assessment done on the property. Siebenmorgen mentioned the far lot, of a similar size, had recently been listed. Mayor Scroggin called for council input. Maxwell questioned what type of animals Siebenmorgen was planning to have on the property, to which Siebenmorgen replied chickens and "you know", but not a pig farm. Maxwell asked about restrictions on farm animals allowed in that area, Firestone said there were no restrictions. Mayor Scroggin confirmed the subdivision was put in around the 90s as a large lot subdivision. Siebenmorgen mentioned the Wofford Ranch was out there and had many horses. Mayor Scroggin stated the council would get an appraisal and then a resolution. Beene interjected that the VCDC was considering a different property so this potential sale would not interfere with the community garden plan. Firestone stated the sale had his blessing.

(D) ANNEXATION ORDINANCE 2024-2 (MULTIPLE PROPERTIES) – Landon Sanders, attorney working with Brandon Betts and others to complete this, presented. Mayor Scroggin informed the council there were two versions of the Ordinance available, one with and one without an emergency clause, and the one used was dependent on the council's decision. Firestone stated this annexation had been in the works for a very long time. Sanders stated he drafted the ordinance based on examples from the Arkansas Municipal League and after talking to Conway City Attorney's Office and Danny Rasmussen (the Vilonia City Attorney) and was advised to use the emergency clause unless there was hesitation. Matos stated he did not believe there was any hesitation. Sanders stated he added wards to the map based on the existing ward map of Vilonia, but Mayor Scroggin stated the final decision would be made by the County Clerk. Mayor Scroggin also said he and Brandon Betts would get with Ms Darter (Margaret Darter, Faulkner County Clerk) to confirm wards. Firestone moved to suspend 2nd and 3rd readings, Maxwell moved to read by title only, title only motion seconded by King. Ordinance 2024-2 read by name only: an ordinance accepting the annexation of certain

territory to the City of Vilonia, Arkansas, and making the same a part of the City of Vilonia and assigning same to wards. Firestone restated his motion to suspend 2nd and 3rd readings, Matos seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Mayor asked if there was any further discussion, none mentioned, entertained a motion for adoption of the ordinance. Beene motioned for approval of Ordinance 2024-2, seconded by Firestone, Mayor called a voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

(E) ANNEXATION ORDINANCE 2024-3 (BENNY DALLAS) – Also presented by attorney Landon Sanders. This is an annexation by 100% rather than majority of property owners. This annexation is for three lots with three private landowners, the rest of the lots/landowners on the street did not want to annex. The landowners wishing to be annexed have obtained their title work to show they are the owners, they have an engineering letter showing they are contiguous to the city, and they've went through the appropriate steps with GIS and the county court.

- a. Firestone asked if the road up to it would be included in the annexation; Betts stated no, Sanders stated it was up to the county judge's office and by statute the county judge has the discretion to dedicate public roads and right of ways that are being annexed by the city, but there would still be more county properties than city properties after the annexation, so the assumption at this time is that the road would likely remain county. Matos asked if the police (VPD) would have jurisdiction on the road. Sanders stated he believed so, that only the corner lot would create possible issues as the other lots would be obviously city property. Firestone pointed out the ordinance states the city will furnish sewer within three years and asked if that would be at city's expense. Sanders referred the question to Betts, who answered the landowners are putting their own sewer in as part of the agreement to annex. Firestone questioned right of way getting sewer to the property since this is a county road. Betts responded we are getting easement through another property on Saddle Creek and it will be pumped and they will have a grinder station (grinder lift station).
- b. Matos referenced the recent flooding complaints from Appaloosa Trail and asked if we had considered what problems we may be inheriting. Sanders stated he was unaware of that situation but it was a good question. Betts noted there is a natural gas line behind that property that backs up to Saddle Creek and you can't touch that. Firestone asked if there was a drainage ditch on the north side of Saddle Creek. Betts responded the gas line runs at such an angle there is no way to dig a drainage ditch in these properties.
- c. Beene mentioned she had spoken with Philip about this recently regarding the water line and he was unsure if the existing line was big enough to take on three more houses; she questioned if the water department had looked into that. She also mentioned she had asked about fire hydrants and was told there were none and he seemed to not be a fan of putting them in and wanted the city to do that. She also mentioned the road is half paved and half graveled and that Philip said Mr. Dallas is going to pave it, that it was part of the agreement when they first purchased the property. Firestone asked Fire Chief Jimmy Hoofman the water line size requirement for a fire hydrant and Hoofman responded 6-in minimum.
- d. Matos stated he would not be in favor of suspending 2nd and 3rd readings for this ordinance. Motion to read by title only by Matos, second by Firestone. The council confirmed the second reading would be at the November 19, 2024, meeting of the

Vilonia City Council. Ordinance 2024-3 read by title only: an ordinance accepting the annexation of certain territory to the City of Vilonia, Arkansas, approving the schedule and services to be extended to said area and assigning such to wards. This was the first reading.

- e. The mayor requested council members consider any questions they may have about the ordinance and submit them to the staff so they can be addressed, but to remember the water issues would be through the Vilonia Water Works water authority and he would do his best to direct those questions and get them answered as well. Sanders requested they address questions for the landowners to him and he would get them addressed.

Motion to adjourn made by King. Meeting adjourned.

Date: 11/19/2024

Mayor: [Signature]

Recorder: [Signature]

2024 Free County Wide Clean-Up

October 18, 2024 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

October 19, 2024 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

LOCATIONS:

Faulkner County Road
Department
65 Acklin Gap Rd. / Conway

Guy City Hall
405 Highway 25 N / Guy

Wooster Fire Department
14 Hankins Street / Wooster

Vilonia Street Department
47 North Mount Olive St. / Vilonia

Conway Department of Sanitation
4550 Highway 64 W / Conway

Conway Expo Center &
Fairgrounds
2505 East Oak St. / Conway

Hours at all locations are the same.

Open to all Faulkner County Residents

Not for use by commercial haulers

**Due to State Environmental Regulations, the
Following Items Will NOT Be Accepted:**

Tires
Paint
Liquids
Motor Oil
Anti-Freeze
Car Batteries
Food Waste

Household Hazardous Waste
Herbicides/Pesticides
Electronic Equipment
Construction Debris
Fluorescent Bulbs
Yard Waste

**Tire Disposal will be available at Faulkner County Road Dept.,
Vilonia Street Dept., Conway Expo Center, and City of Conway
Sanitation Department.**

For more information contact:
Faulkner County Solid Waste Management District: 501-336-0758

2024 Free Electronic Waste Drive

October 18, 2024 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

October 19, 2024 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location:

Conway Expo Center

2505 E Oak Street / Conway

Items Accepted:

Computers

VCRs

Tablets

TVs

Hard Drives

Cell Phones

DVDs

Printers

Game Systems

Anything with a computerized chip is accepted

Open to all Faulkner County Residents

Must present photo ID

**For more information, contact Faulkner County Solid Waste
Management District:**

501-336-0758

brooke@fcsolidwaste.com

jean@fcsolidwaste.com

On July 22, 2024, Central Arkansas was awarded \$49.25 million out of a total \$100 million for the Tri-Regional Coalition (Central Arkansas, FT. Smith, and NWA) EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) to implement parts of the region's Energy and Environment Innovation (EEI) Implementation Action Plan. A large part of this allocation (\$33,995,000) will be spent on pass-through grants to local entities for:

- 1) Green Networks projects (land acquisition/restoration/bike-ped trail construction)
- 2) Building Efficiency projects (Energy Savings Performance Contracts)
- 3) Transportation Efficiency projects (EV fleet transition, EV charging, LED streetlights).

Allocated amounts can be found in the table below (highlighted in yellow).

\$49.25 million to Central Arkansas	Grant Administration	\$805,506	Energy Sav. Perf. Contracting	\$3,500,000
	Energy Ambassador	\$644,520	C-PACE Revolving Loan Fund	\$3,500,000
	Land Acquisition/Pres.	\$6,000,000	LIT Geothermal	\$7,750,000
	Land Restoration	\$9,500,000	E-Bike Rebate Program	\$1,500,000
	Bike/Ped Infrastructure	\$8,000,000	Streetlight Conversion (LED)	\$5,000,000
	EV Fleets & Charging	\$1,995,000	Workforce Development	\$1,055,021

This is a 100% funded grant with a 0% match requirement and a first of its kind for Arkansas. Metroplan is developing applications for Central Arkansas focused on green network projects, transportation efficiency projects, and building efficiency projects. These applications are expected to be ready for distribution from late November to early December. Metroplan will evaluate and award grant funding with approval from the executive board of directors.

After discussion from other board members and representatives, it was highly suggested to submit a plan/application for a pedestrian walkway (bicycle and foot traffic) from lower income areas to downtown/main street in areas where permanent structures cannot be built. A project like this would encompass land acquisition/preservation, land restoration, and bike/pedestrian infrastructure.

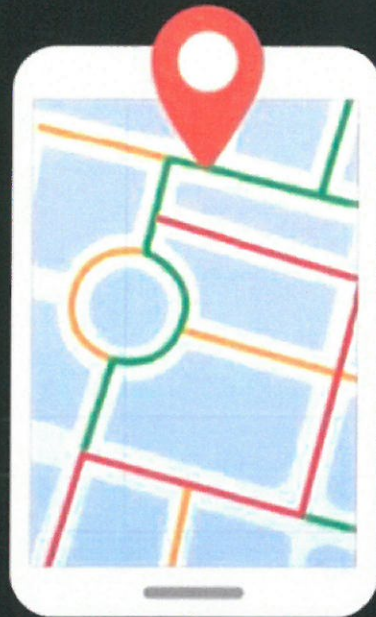
Requesting city council support and community participation in the survey to help Vilonia be competitive for this grant. Looking for keywords such as: connectivity/walkability, downtown/main street, low-middle class

<https://forms.microsoft.com/r/Bm2qe433bJ>

Another campaign Metroplan is working on is the smooth commute campaign. This initiative is looking for key information on drivers commute to work. A large majority of Vilonia's population works out of town and conducts personal activities with the local businesses.

metroplan.org/smoothcommute

SMOOTH
COMMUTE
CAMPAIGN



Central AR Energy & Environment Innovation

Central Arkansas Community
Survey 2024

Share your priorities for investments in efficiency and sustainability solutions in Central Arkansas by completing this short survey! Para español, vea el menú desplegable de arriba.

Start now

ONLINE SURVEY

<https://forms.microsoft.com/r/Bm2qe433bj>

Open through December 15, 2024

Preference to complete by Aug. 23rd

- Rate the measures by your priority
- Type in specific projects/locations you'd like to see in your community

