

## Meeting of the May 16, 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 April 18, 2023 Minutes: Motion of approval made by Councilman Joe Maxwell, seconded by Jim King. Motion passed.

Approval of April 2023 Financial Statements: Motion of approval by Councilman Jim King, seconded by James Firestone, no discussion, motion passed.

Announcements:

Chamber of Commerce- Chocolate Festival will be held on June 6, 2023 at the Vilonia Nazarene Church. It is \$5 for the event. The Chamber has its website up and running the only thing not available is the ability to pay on line for membership. The Chamber had 11 people present at their luncheon meeting held in April at Simple Simmons.

LaCosta Beene presented cards and cookies to the Court Clerks for their work in our community. Sherry Lee has been with the city for over 20 years. She is assisted by Trisha Bernard.

Reports of Boards and Committees:

Emergency Management, planning commission, Fire Department: Keith Hillman reported the picture fund raiser will end on May 20, 2023. The department has been testing fire hydrants in town and found 10 and reported to the water department for repair. The planning commission will meet to review the site plan for the Vilo site for crypto mining.

Police Department: The mayor informed the council that the police department was down 4 officers at the moment. The new car came in and has no equipment and will need to be outfitted, Brad said this may take a while. Interviews are being conducted for replacement officers. The mayor and Brad reported that the cities will no longer receive state aid on vehicles for the departments anymore. This program is being removed across the country.

Parks and Recreation: The mayor reported that he purchased a truck for \$10,000.00 for the department. He will begin a search for a ¾ ton truck in the fall. The trucks being used are worn out and need lots of repair.

Sewer Department: Joe Maxwell gave the sewer report and informed the council that the estimated completion date of the sewer project is still on track to finish July 1, 2023. The water filtration will be installed and take out 85% of trash and grit from the system.

New Business:

The mayor gave an overview of current projects in the works: The Duncan street bridge work continues. Church Street work continues to be done, it was slowed down due to the past rain events. The mayor is applying for a grant for the Grady and Beryl road work. The mayor also reported on the ground erosion on the walking bridge on main street this will be fixed. The mayor reported that the finances are in good shape for the year so far and the town continues to see growth.

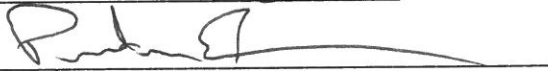
The Boy Scouts troop 444 presented their service project of painting and moving the parking blocks in front of the Spirit of Vilonia. The troop has to have service hours to earn badges. They are asking for new service ideas in the future. Arthur Childress made the presentation to the council.

A proclamation was read for the Vilonia School District.

Stephen Craig presented the council with an ordinance 2023-1 for the Vilonia Parks and Recreation. This ordinance details polices to enforce for acts of vandalism. This ordinance was reviewed by the city attorney. The recorder treasurer read the ordinance. A motion was made to suspend the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading by James Firestone and seconded by Joe Maxwell. A verbal vote was held Stephen Craig, LaCosta Beene, James Firestone, Joe Maxwell and Jim King all yeas and Mike Matos, no. The motion passed. Mike Matos moved to table this ordinance and it failed for lack of a second. A motion to adopt the emergency clause was made by LaCosta Beene and seconded by Stephen Craig. A verbal vote was held, Stephen Craig, LaCosta Beene, James Firestone, Joe Maxwell and Jim King all yeas and Mike Matos, no. The motion to adopt the emergency clause passed. There was much discussion by Mike Matos as to why he felt a section of the ordinance should be changed. Mike felt Section 1, part G of the Rules and Regulations about hunting being prohibited needed to be changed. Other members had no problem with how the ordinance was written. The mayor called for a verbal vote, Stephen Craig, LaCosta Beene, James Firestone, Joe Maxwell and Jim King all yeas and Mike Matos, no.

The meeting to adjourn was made by Jim King and seconded by Stephen Craig. The meeting was adjourned.

Date: 6/20/2023

Mayor: 

Recorder: 