

**CITY OF WILLERNIE
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2021**

PRESENT: Parent, Siver, Baglio, DeJong, Attorney's-Susannah Torseth and Andrea McAlpine, Maintenance Superintendent-Rick Paulson and Clerk-Vickie Keating.

ABSENT: Soderlund

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Baglio moved to approve the agenda as presented, Siver seconded the motion and all council members present voted yes to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2021 MINUTES

Baglio moved to approve the January minutes as pre-read, Parent seconded the motion and all council members voted yes to approve the January minutes.

PAY PERIOD FOR THE COUNCIL

Traditionally the pay periods for the City Council have been eleven months in November and one month in December. The Council would like to receive one check a year in December.

Baglio moved to change the pay period to one check in December of each year, Siver seconded the motion and all council members present voted yes to change the pay period.

BUSINESS LICENSE FEE

Baglio explained that she checked into the license fees with Marine on St. Croix, Bayport, and Scandia. None of these cities charge business license fees, however, they do have liquor license fees. Willernie fees are in line with the other cities and Baglio does not feel the fees should be increased at this time.

MIKE HENRY

Andrea has been in contact with Mr. Henry, who still has one tenant in the house on Chippenham. Mr. Henry has filed an eviction action against the resident; however, the City is not involved in this action.

An injunction was discussed at the December meeting concerning Mr. Henry's house on Chippenham. Mr. Henry is willing to sign an agreement with the city and will go through the proper channels to change the zoning on this property before renting units.

If someone is willing to sign an agreement, then litigation is not necessary because failure to follow the agreement would then cause legal actions.

Parent explained that Mr. Henry has applied for rezoning for a duplex. Architectural plans were not included in the rezoning application, he did call the city office to ask for a rental license on the property, however, no licenses can be issued until the rezoning process is complete.

The council asked if the residence could maintain a triplex. Susannah explained that this is not in compliance with city ordinances. The rezoning on a duplex is not complete and after the permit for rezoning is complete the city has 60 days to decide on the application according to state statutes.

The City cannot prohibit Mr. Henry from spending money on the residence or evicting residents and he can also move his son onto the property. The agreement with the City will contain a release from any claims against the City for loss of income on the property. Mr. Henry needs the proper documentation to rent the property.

The Council agrees the signed agreement with Mr. Henry is the best procedure to follow at this time.

MECHANICAL AND PLUMBING PERMITS

The price of the mechanical and plumbing permits was tabled until the March meeting.

STREET SCAPE

Parent shared a picture of the banners with the Council. Everyone was impressed with the design on the banners. The banner is blue and gold, has Mahtomedi and Willernie and is tastefully done.

DeJong counted 15 light posts, 7 are Willernie's and 8 are Mahtomedi's. Mahtomedi goes from the Picadilly to Wildwood and Willernie starts at the old gas station down past the row houses.

Flowers will be included on the lamp posts and Mahtomedi will maintain them.

A motion to accept the banner was made by Siver, seconded by Baglio. All council members present voted yes to accept the banners.

YARDS IN VIOLATION

Baglio explained that along with Soderlund they met with the Washington County Officer who met with the Willernie violators. Only one resident requested extra time to complete the removal of items from their yard after they received a warning.

The officer would like the paperwork to be more specific when violations listed are against the ordinances so the committee will address that problem. He would like the items to be removed to be listed so the resident knows exactly what is expected for the cleanup.

Baglio asked if the ordinance of violation can be changed to shorten the time frame of the offense. Sixty days is too long for the clean up process. She feels the process should be simplified. Thirty days to clean up the area and then a citation of some monetary value can be assigned.

Susannah explained that the process can be fine-tuned, and each resident should have the opportunity to address the council before ending up in a legal situation. The time frame can be shortened allowing the residents to attend a council meeting before a citation is issued.

It was suggested printing the next council meeting in the violation report explaining that they have until then to contact the city or appear at a meeting.

Susannah will do some research on the process and report back to the council at the March meeting.

RICK REPORT

Everything is running smoothly in the City.

Parent asked Rick to install a new metal backing on the bulletin board in the spring since the old one needs repair.

Parent also asked the council to think about continuing locking the doors at City Hall at the end of COVID to allow for the safety of the clerks since there is no security at City hall. Parent asked the council to consider this possibility for the future.

DeJong asked about the various items sitting out in the snowbanks that residents have offered for free and if it constricts the plowing in the City. Rick explained that so far, the items are on private property and have not caused any issues with the plowing.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Siver moved to approve the bills, Baglio seconded the motion and all the council members present voted yes to approve the bills.

ADJOURNMENT

Parent moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Baglio seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria R. Keating
Clerk-Treasurer