

**CITY OF WILLERNIE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2023**

PRESENT: Parent, Siver, DeJong, Baglio, Soderlund, Attorney-Susannah Torseth, Engineer-Marcus Johnson and Clerk-Vickie Keating.

SWEARING IN OF TAMMY SODERLUND

Soderlund was sworn in with the Oath of Office.

WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF

The Washington County Sheriff was not in attendance at the February meeting.

NANCY GUERTEN

Nancy Guerten attended the meeting to report to the council on the farow cats living in Willernie. These cats live under her deck and the neighbor's deck. During the past year Nancy has had three females spayed and took 3 or 4 litters to the Humane Society which costs \$85 each time. The Humane Society is now taking appointments and not accepting cats at this time.

Nancy doesn't mind feeding the cats but doesn't want them to have any more kittens.

Baglio asked how many cats there are under the deck There are three juveniles that Companion Animal will take and one female that has not been spayed. Companion Animal will drop off a trap, hoping to catch this female.

Parent is concerned because she has two male cats and the wandering cats spray on her front and back door, then the indoor cats do the same on the inside. These farow cats also hunt birds and there is a leash law in Willernie.

The council doesn't know how to resolve the problem with the farow cats and thanked Nancy for all the work she has done. Nancy will continue to work with Companion Animal to solve the problem.

CHRISTINE WESLEN BUSINESS LICENSE

Christine Weflen owns St. Croix Saddlery and she would like to purchase Roma for this business. They are now located in Hugo but have outgrown the space and have been looking for a larger building.

They think that Roma will be a good fit if the council will permit them to open.

Christine handed out a description of the business and brought samples of her products. They carry tack for the horses, clothing for riders, do logos for the riders and they could bring embroidery and engraving onsite.

In addition to selling, two mobile units that do horse shows and events will be parked in the back of the building. They also make horse treats and the kitchen in Roma is perfect for this venture.

There are twenty people on staff and some part-time employees.

The customers come from all over the state and different states through the website. They have good English tack, and it is a destination location. There is inventory online housed in the store.

The council explained that one problem in Willernie is the parking. How much parking space do the trailers take away. Christine explained that they will not take any away because they are parked in the back next to the building

Saturday and Sunday are the high volume days but it really depends on the day. They close at 7 p.m. on weekdays and 5 p.m. on weekends.

The council will review the business license at the March meeting and vote at that time.

CARLEY RYAN BUSINESS LICENSE

Carley Ryan is looking at 108 Trim for small rescue. This is a foster-based business that fosters animals. The animals are monitored before they are placed in foster homes. Kathy, introduced as an employee, has fostered 8 moms with babies and has been involved since 2021.

At 108 Trim they would be able to provide a place for the animals before fostering. The Humane Society is overwhelmed at this time and Carley can help the animals one on one. There is not a fenced area for walking the animals and they usually have twenty a month. They work with several different vets on a regular basis. She works during the day but would be onsite after hours. The area would be without personnel at certain times, however, Carley would be there most of the time.

The Council asked how the fostering takes place. The company has dogs and cats, and they place them with families as soon as possible. The longest animal held was 9 months. Usually, it is two weeks max. They can make sure if the animal needs something extra it can be addressed before an issue arises.

The highest number of dogs at one time is 60. They don't always have enough foster homes and sometimes there are problems with the placement of the animals.

Parent is concerned about the noise and cleaning the area. The environment is not really what you would want for animals due to the bar and the noises. There are no kennel runs for the dogs and the noise would be too much for the residents.

ALLSTATE AUTO SUPPLY BUSINESS LICENSE

Two gentlemen attended the meeting without being on the agenda due to the problem with Zoom. They wanted to apply for a business license at 108 Trim.

They have parts come in and ship out with Fed Ex. They currently have 5 employees and are hoping to have 10 max. No customers will be coming in, there is no retail, it is a call station and is a good space for shipping.

The council suggested presenting their paperwork at the March council meeting where it will be reviewed.

PERMIT FOR FIBER CABINET

Parent moved to approve the permit. Siver seconded the motion and the motion passed.

YARDS IN VIOLATION

Palmer-Tveit had a hearing today. They have engaged an attorney that is going to review the requests to clean up the area which will take place in the spring. The pictures on the property go back to 2018. This property will need to be checked on annually.

The council is asking for enclosed space to store articles and to follow city ordinances. If there is any other criminal action they will be violating the ordinance.

The settlement with Palmer-Tveit will fix this issue and be in compliance with the ordinance. There could probably be a probation period.

The next court hearing is May 15.

NIGHT SKY LIGHTING

Siver spoke to a person in Centerville, and they do not have a dark sky ordinance but there is wording in the building permits to include down cast lighting.

It is difficult to find other small communities that have a lighting ordinance. Bloomington is the only one with exterior lighting.

Marcus explained Center City has an ordinance so Siver will contact them and report back.

PARKING COUNTY 12

A resolution for the parking spaces on County 12 was made by Parent to get the designated disability spaces. Soderlund seconded the motion.

The resolution passed.

GRANTS

DeJong will check on the Garden Club grant and report back to the council.

CITY REPORT

Milnar Park needs the woods cleaned out in the spring.

The lift station has had some difficulties; however, Ken Johnson and John Manship fixed the problem.

The catch basin behind the post office has collapsed so Miller Excavating is coming in tomorrow and the pothole on Warner will be fixed.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Soderlund moved to approve the bills, Silver seconded the motion, and the bills were approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Soderlund moved to adjourn the meeting, Baglio seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria R. Keating
Clerk-Treasurer