

**CITY OF WILLERNIE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 19, 2023**

PRESENT: Parent, Soderlund, Baglio, Siver, DeJong, Attorney-Susannah Torseth, Ken Johnson-Maintenance Superintendent and Clerk-Vickie Keating.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Siver moved to adopt the agenda, Soderlund seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2023 MEETING

Baglio moved to approve the June 2023 minutes as pre-read, Siver seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF

Officer T. Harris made a presentation to the council on the Willernie contract deputies. The Willernie cost is 5% of the contract.

The violent crimes are down, there have been several thefts, drug and vandal calls. Medical calls and mental health calls are numerous.

A specialized enforcement team supports the deputies. The speed is higher causing more traffic accidents. Nation wide suspects are fleeing from law enforcement. More training is needed for the deputy's emergency operations.

Overdoses continue to be a problem. There has been an 80% increase in drug usage.

The Washington County Sheriff has been in office for 30 years and his first contract was with Willernie. The dollar amount is an \$8000 increase for an additional deputy.

Parent thanked the sheriff for all the work they do for the city.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Santino Tenerelli, the resident at 301 Webster Road, was present to ask about the retaining wall he built. Mr. Tenerelli would like to know if a permit is required for the wall. The council explained the ordinance requires a 10-foot set back from the street for a retaining wall.

The reason for the wall was to prevent vehicles from sliding out of the driveway into the street.

The council explained that a variance will be necessary for the wall to conform to the ordinances.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUSPENDED AT 8:5 P.M. FOR ORDINANCE HEARING

The proposed cannabis ordinance was read by Mayor Parent and then questions were requested. There were no questions or discussion, so the public hearing closed at 8:26 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING RESUMED AT 8:26 P.M.

Susannah passed out a memorandum and explained that more research has been done on the cannabis laws which she explained.

Industrial hemp and marijuana now have a definition. Cannabis and Marijuana are about the same thing.

If Willernie chooses to pass this particular ordinance the CBD has less Delta 9. The proposed ordinance does not apply to CBD and won't be legal until January 2025.

Marijuana – the flower, seed concentrate over .3 are currently not legal but will be legal in January 2025. Higher levels of marijuana are going to be legal to use, possess and transport this year. It can be consumed in private homes.

DeJong asked about the secondhand fumes and how that is going to be handled. It was explained that will be a civil issue and depend on the officer responding to the problem.

Parent moved to pass the ordinance with the recommended changes. Soderlund seconded the motion and the ordinance passed.

CANNABIS LICENSE

The recommended fee for the license is \$1700 and \$500 for the background check.

A motion to approve the application for a cannabis license with the above changes was made by DeJong. Parent seconded the motion and the motion passed.

MIKE ALTIMIMI BUSINESS LICENSE

Parent read a prepared statement before the request for Mike Altimimi's license was discussed.

Devon Holstad, attorney for Mike, thanked the council and wanted a good faith effort to wipe the slate clean when considering Mike's business license.

Since the City of Willernie outsourced the compliance to Washington County for tobacco the opening of the business was proper procedure according to Mr. Holstad.

They would like to move forward with the best interest of the city. Mr. Altimimi has served his country, loves Minnesota and wants to open a business in Willernie.

The application was resubmitted on July 5, 2023, which was distributed to the council. There was no application submitted in April. The first paper application was submitted in June as the city attorney stated.

Soderlund explained that Mr. Altimimi was told there was no information on the CBD and research needed to be done.

Last month the conversation changed to having the store selling tobacco without hemp.

DeJong asked if Mr. Altimimi is willing to delete hemp from the business license and the license will be to sell tobacco only.

Mr. Holstad answered yes to the question.

DeJong then asked Mr. Altimimi if something had changed since the last meeting because Mr. Altimimi stated that the business could not survive with tobacco sales only. If a business license is issued tonight, then is Mr. Altimimi going to move forward with the hemp?

Mr. Holstad replied that Mr. Altimimi is going to comply with any city ordinances including the one that was just passed.

Susannah then asked what products Mr. Alimimi is going to sell. He answered that he was going to sell all products.

DeJong is asking if the hemp side is not approved tonight then does Mr. Altimimi want a business license?

DeJong then said that what they sell is under state law. The question is the proper license from Washington County for tobacco.

The business license will be for a tobacco store with the proper license from Washington County.

A motion to approve the business license for the sell of tobacco was then made by Baglio if Mr. Altimimi will not put the hemp sign on the sidewalk. The motion was seconded by DeJong.

Baglio—yes, Soderlund—no, DeJong—yes, Siver—no and Parent—yes. Motion passed.

STRAY KITTENS

Claudia, from Mahtomedi, is working to neuter the farrow cats and place the kittens. They have worked very hard to place the kittens and make sure the cats are neutered.

Parent thanked Claudia and the group of individuals helping to remove and neuter the cats.

KEN REPORT

Due to the storm Ken was called away on emergency road issues.

Parent explained the street sweeper was fixed for \$1500 so now Ken can use it.

The old truck can either be fixed or sold at this time.

Soderlund moved to sell the old truck, Siver seconded the motion and the motion passed.

XCEL PERMIT

All the addresses on the permit were in the City of Mahtomedi so no permit was approved.

ST. CROIX SADDLERY

St. Croix Saddlery asked permission to install a sign on the side where there is a hole from the patio that was taken down.

The council reviewed the sign ordinance and agreed this was allowable in the city.

YARDS IN VIOLATION

Baglio will send a follow up to 421 Paddington about the truck to be removed by the 30th.

The pictures from Global Alliance were presented and the cars in the yard were discussed.

Susannah will do some research on this property and report back in August.

Tyler Russ needs to be reminded about the pallets against the fence and Brad Patraw will be called by Baglio.

Gemma also needs to be contacted about the articles on the road behind her house.

DeJong reported on Oeivering Homes and all the violations. A ordinance violation will be sent to them for the cleanup.

NIGHT SKY LIGHTING

There was information on night sky lighting in the Pioneer Press that was included in the water bill for the residents to review.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The tournament will take place on August 12th. Patrick is working on donations and volunteers are needed if you are available.

GRANTS

DeJong will contact Catherine Nester and there is the Storm Water Management Grant plan that he will check into.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Soderlund moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. Baglio seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria R. Keating
Clerk-Treasurer