

**CITY OF WILLERNIE
COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2021**

PRESENT: Parent, Baglio, Siver, Soderlund, Dejong, Attorney-Susannah Torseth and Andrea McPine, County Commissioner-Stan Karworski, Maintenance Superintendent-Rick Paulson and Clerk-Vickie Keating.

Parent explained that the clerk is working from home due to a fall where she broke her kneecap. Parent is helping in the office.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Parent, Siver, DeJong and Baglio all read the oath of office and were sworn into office as of January 20, 2021.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Appointments were added to the agenda under new business. Baglio moved to approve the addition to the agenda, Soderlund seconded the motion and all council members present voted yes to the motion.

MINUTES

Baglio moved to approve the December minutes as pre-read. Siver seconded the motion and all the council members present voted yes to approve the minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

County Commissioner Stan Karwoski congratulated all the newly elected officials to the City. He joined the meeting to observe the Oath of Office and observe the swearing in of the new officials. Stan told all the council congratulations on their election and wished them luck in the new year.

MECHANICAL AND PLUMBING PERMIT FEES

After discussing the increase in mechanical and plumbing fees the council tabled action until February when other cities can be contacted.

LIQUOR LICENSE APPROVAL

A motion to approve the on sale, off sale and Sunday license for Gordy's, Roma, and Frigaarad's and the off sale and Sunday for Wildwood Wine and Spirits was made by Soderlund as long as

all the paperwork has been completed by the owners. Baglio seconded the motion and all council members present voted yes.

DEPUTY MAYOR

Parent explained that Patrick Miller was the deputy mayor. Since Patrick is no longer on the council, Patrick Miller will no longer be a signature on the Willernie Bank Account. Baglio has agreed to take the position of deputy mayor so Diane Baglio will be the new signature on the Willernie Bank Accounts as soon as the paperwork is completed at Midwestone Bank.

CITY APPOINTMENTS

Parent read the appointments as follows:

Midwestone Bank – official bank
White Bear Press – official newspaper
Galowitz Olson PLLC – legal representatives
Abdo, Eick and Myers - auditors
Les Mateffy - engineer
Cecila Wirth – computer liasion
Jack Kramer building inspector
John Manship heating and plumbing inspector
Vickie Keating – clerk-treasurer
Bev Friendt – cable representative with Vickie Keating as alternate

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Diane Baglio – deputy mayor, parks, and buildings
Tammy Soderlund – public safety
Andrew DeJong – sewer and water/grant searches
Siver – streets

A motion to approve the city and council appointments was made by Parent, Soderlund seconded the motion and all council members present voted yes on the motion.

MIKE HENRY

Susannah and Andrea reported on Mike Henry. There have been several complaints from residents concerning the house owned by Mike Henry on Chippenham. Susannah explained that Viet-Hanh left Galowitz Olson and Andrea McPine is taking over as lead attorney on the Henry case.

Andrea reviewed the letter sent to Mr. Henry concerning changing the single-family residence into a tri-plex. The first step was to make sure the renters were not living in the house. At the present one renter is in the house; the others have moved. Unfortunately, the house is still being advertised as a rental unit with three units available.

Mr. Henry confirmed one renter is still living in the house, but he denies advertising the house as a rental unit, however, it is still listed as a rental.

Andrea recommends filing an injunction with the court to prohibit all rental activity. The consequences for this action could be fines or possible jail time if the requirements are not met.

The council would like to pursue this action to ensure rules are followed and Mr. Henry meets all requirements necessary on this house.

Parent explained that Mr. Henry attended a Council Meeting and asked the Council's permission to change the single-family residence into a tri-plex. The Council outlined the steps that would need to be taken for Mr. Henry to proceed with the project at that time and he was going to wait and bring more information to the Council on the project. That was in August of 2019. Mr. Henry then remodeled the house without requesting a rezoning application or a rental license. The remodel was done without state code approval on a multi-family dwelling.

A motion to file an injunction on the Henry property was made by Siver. Baglio seconded the motion.

DeJong inquired about the cost of litigation on the city's behalf. It was explained that this can be expensive but hopefully an agreement can be reached between the parties which eliminates some of the cost.

After this explanation, the council voted yes to the motion made by Siver.

BONDING ISSUE

Parent explained that in 2017 she met with Wiger and Fischer to talk about needs in the City of Willernie where a list including the roof on city hall, the maintenance building and county 12 project were listed. The legislature listened to the requests and at that time the county 12 project

was just being discussed and reviewed. The water main had broken several times and the catch basin had a 4-inch pipe that needed to be replaced.

The bonding bill passed this fall; however, it was written after the county 12 project was completed so Willernie could use it to re-roof city hall and nothing else.

Parent went back to Wiger and Fischer and asked to have new requests written, explained the necessity of a new maintenance building and met Tuesday morning to testify and ask for the funds to be used on the maintenance building.

Hopefully, this will allow the city to use the funds for the maintenance building and the roof on city hall.

YARDS IN VIOLATION

Out of six violators and one responded in writing asking for more time to complete the clean up of the area.

The Washington County officer has approached all the offenders at least once and he will do so again if the yards are not in compliance.

ORDINANCE MEETING

Susannah notified Laurann about an ordinance meeting on the 16th of February. Laurann will contact the council to confirm the meeting time and date.

RICK REPORT

The pump in the pumphouse was clogged due to flushable wipes. Rick repaired the pump; however, he would like the residents to be aware that flushable wipes should not be used in the City. They clog the pump and do not disintegrate as stated on the packages. **PLEASE DO NOT USE FLUSHABLE WIPES IN THE CITY.**

Woodchuck trimmed some branches on the streets and everything else is running smoothly in Willernie.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Soderlund moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Baglio seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria R. Keating
Clerk-Treasurer