

**CITY OF WILLERNIE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 17, 2021
VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT: Parent, Baglio, Soderlund, Siver, DeJong, Attorney's-Susannah Torseth and Andrea McAlpine, Cable Commission Representatives- Kate Swenson, Tim Finnery, John Baker and Bev Friendt plus Clerk-Vickie Keating.

ABSENT: Rick Paulson

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Siver moved to accept the agenda as presented, Soderlund seconded the motion and all council members present voted yes to pass the motion.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2021 MEETING

Soderlund moved to approve the February minutes as pre-read, Baglio seconded the motion and all council members present voted yes on the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at the March Meeting.

CABLE ORDINANCE

Laurann-ordinance attorney-reviewed the proposed cable ordinance and explained that the other cities are approving this ordinance.

Tim Finnery explained that a year ago the cable commission did not recommend renewing the franchise with Comcast. Tim also introduced Kate Swenson, attorney John Baker and cable representative Bev Friendt.

The cable commission is recommending approval of the ordinance and publication of the summary ordinance for the City of Willernie.

Kate Swenson reviewed some changes that are going to be made due to the agreement such as system upgrades and government access will be moving to high definition. Comcast also agreed to a transition with better PEG funding.

A motion to approve the franchise agreement including the ordinance was made by Baglio.

Soderlund seconded the motion and all council members present voted yes to approve the motion.

Baglio moved to approve the resolution of publication and Siver seconded the motion. All council members present voted yes to approve the motion.

After approval of the motions, Parent thanked the cable commission representatives for the work done on the negotiations.

REPORT ON ORDINANCE MEETING

The Council met and reviewed the rental license ordinance. There was a discussion on capping the number of rentals the City will allow and rational for the cap.

There are approximately 214 residences and 41 rentals at the present time in the city.

Several addresses were discussed as potential rentals without rental licenses.

It was decided a standard letter should be drafted to be sent out to the properties in question and request information as to the tenants on the properties. The wording in the letter needs to be correct before the letters can be sent out so Susannah will check into the legal aspects of the correspondence and report back to the Council.

The Council would like an ordinance in place to set the cap on rentals at 10%, due to the limited parking, plowing that is necessary and access for emergency vehicles.

Parent will explain the changes being considered in the rental license ordinance in the Mayor's letter that will be mailed in the water bills the first of April. This will be mailed to all residents in the City so everyone will know what the Council is considering concerning rental licenses for Willernie.

APPROVAL OF PERMIT FOR RIGHT OF WAY APPLICATION

Parent moved to approve the permit for installation of cable at 323 Warner Ave. S. along the road right of way, as long as the road is returned to its original condition when the work is complete. DeJong seconded the motion and all council members present voted yes to approve the motion.

MIKE HENRY

All neighbors within 20 feet of the property at 312 Chippenham will be notified of the public hearing discussing the rezoning of said property into a duplex instead of single-family residence.

Andrea McAlpine explained Mr. Henry signed the agreement to seize all rental activity on the property until the rezoning hearing is complete. There is one tenant on the property and that tenant is in the process of moving.

MECHANICAL AND PLUMBING PERMITS

After reviewing the prices for the plumbing and mechanical permits, Parent moved to change the commercial fees to \$125.00 and the residential properties will remain at \$75.50. Siver seconded the motion and all council members present voted yes to approve the change.

YARDS IN VIOLATION OF ORDINANCES

Soderlund and Baglio have done some research on the violations and feel that the violators should receive a citation after the 30 days are complete if the work is not done on the property. This would be a shorter period and they feel it would be a better system.

Baglio would like a simplified form. If the work is not done in 30 days, the violators probably will not comply. If there is a problem, they can always discuss it with the council. Some of the violators will not comply if a fine is not involved in the process.

Susannah explained there must be an appeal process involved in the violation of ordinance paperwork that is sent out to the violators.

Council members reviewed the process in other cities and most of the other cities do not give the residents as much time to fix the problems.

Parent explained that in the past the violators had 30 days to clean up the area or they were given citations.

The inspection report will be reviewed and changed to accommodate the shorter period and the appeal process for the residents.

The notice of violation will be sent out the first day of every month and this will allow the residents to join a meeting or complete the work in 30 days. The inspection report will be changed to a notice of violation allowing 14 days to appeal the violation. Baglio and Soderlund will work on the changes along with Susannah and report back to the council.

RICK REPORT

Rick did not attend the March meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Soderlund moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Baglio seconded the motion and all council members voted yes to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria R. Keating

Clerk-Treasurer