

**CITY OF WILLERNIE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2023**

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Siver moved to approve the agenda, Baglio seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 2023 MINTUES

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at the August meeting.

WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF

Officer Jarrett explained there has been an increase in vehicle tampering and encouraged all residents to call in any suspicious activity. School is starting so the speed on Warner will be on the radar.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

An addition to section G in the ordinance prohibiting cannabis and tobacco use in certain public places has been suggested and was read by Parent.

Susannah explained this is modified for the City of Willernie. With the ability to consume or smoke cannabis products, cities are realizing they don't want to allow this so reasonable restrictions can be incorporated into the ordinance.

This can be published and voted on at the next council meeting.

Officer Jarrett looks at cannabis as contraband usage just like alcohol, smoking while driving under the influence has been enforceable.

Parent moved to post the ordinance, Baglio seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The second ordinance is an interim one prohibiting the sale of cannabis. At the last meeting the council passed an ordinance issuing licenses, however, the cannabis cannot be sold yet unless on tribal land.

The process for issuing licenses is a problem since Washington County is not set up to process applications, zoning restrictions apply in Willernie, over 500 feet from parks is a requirement to sell the products, however, the state might change the laws in 2025.

There is also a provision issuing one license in the county for 12,000 people. This should be in place by 2025 so cities will know what guidelines to follow.

A moratorium should be put in place due to the process that needs to be figured out by the state and county. The proposed moratorium will be in place until January 1, 2025, and by that time the office of cannabis management should be in place.

Parent has discussed this issue with other mayors and other cities. Nothing is in place and the cities need to wait for the state and county for direction.

A motion to publish the ordinance for a moratorium on cannabis licensing was made by Baglio. Soderlund seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The third issue is inoperable motor vehicles in the city and the ordinance referring to the vehicles.

A motion to publish the inoperable motor vehicle ordinance was made by Soderlund. DeJong seconded the motion and the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE 2024 BUDGET

Siver moved to approve the 2024 Budget with a 5% levy and other changes made at the budget meeting. DeJong seconded the motion and the motion passed.

KEN REPORT

Everything is running smoothly in the city. He has been trimming around stop signs and corners plus Wildwood Park.

The council asked if the east side of Mitchell could be trimmed.

Kerry Lane does not have a street sign and some stop signs need to be replaced. Several are in the basement and Ken will install them in the next few days.

The drain on Kerry Lane needs to be cleaned and the piles of trees on Chatham need to be addressed.

The mowing on the avenues was questioned and it was suggested a letter be sent to the residents, so they know where they are expected to mow.

Trees that fall from the city areas are the city's responsibility, however, if the trees are on private property the city is not responsible.

A proposal has been presented to Ken to finish the maintenance building and install the bathroom.

The old truck should be sold as soon as possible.

XCEL PERMIT

A motion to approve the Xcel permit was made by Baglio, Siver seconded the motion and the motion passed.

MIKE ALTIMIMI PERMIT REVIEW

Susannah explained the city cannot vote on Mr. Altimimi's application since there is a proposed moratorium on the cannabis for the city.

BUSINESS LICENSES

A motion to approve the business licenses was made by Siver, Soderlund seconded the motion and the motion passed.

OEVERING HOMES

The watershed district has been checking on the houses built on Clyde and Craig. The grass is growing at 109 Craig. Jack explained that nothing can move forward on these houses until Rice Creek Watershed is satisfied with the drainage and other issues.

A suggestion was made for a no parking sign on the south side of the Clyde stop sign. This should involve Kimberly down to Kindross. Ken will check on this issue.

YARDS IN VIOLATION

Three new violations were mailed on Monday. There are still some small violations that need to be cleaned up.

316 Chatham has had several complaints by the neighbor on vehicles parked on the property. Baglio and Soderlund talked to the resident and he was told the vehicles need to be on a driveway with class five. He agreed to mark the driveway.

If a citation needs to be given Officer Jarrett will issue it.

DeJong suggested an ordinance violation under ordinance 1400 page 8. Susannah will look into this issue and take action.

The other two addresses are 329 Kimbro and 320 Kindross. Susannah will also address these issues.

Soderlund asked about placing stakes in the city so the plow can see where the driveways are located. Ken agrees this would help with the plowing. The polls can be ordered with 25 in a bundle.

A motion to have Ken purchase the poles was made by Soderlund, Siver seconded the motion and the motion passed.

GRANTS

The engineer is checking the watershed for grants on the lift station. There needs to be a plan for the station before proceeding with the research on grants. Marcus will review the plans and report back to the council.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Soderlund moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Baglio seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria R. Keating
Clerk-Treasurer