

**CITY OF WILLERNIE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2023**

PRESENT: Parent, DeJong, Baglio, Soderlund, Siver, Attorney Laurann Kirschner and assistant Tori Kelm, Ken Johson, Maintenance Superintendent and Clerk-Vickie Keating.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING

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

WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF

Officer Jarrett attended the meeting and explained there was a person in crisis in Willernie that needed assistance. Susannah is working with Officer Jarrett on ordinances to help with clarification of the rules.

The car on Kindross has been removed without a citation.

DeJong explained that motorcycles are not stopping at the sign placed on Wildwood Road and Paddington and asked for assistance with this issue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at the October meeting.

KEN REPORT

The information from Mahtomedi on McGregor was explained by Parent. Mahtomedi is going to reconstruct McGregor and would like Willernie to pay \$36,000 for the section of this street located in Willernie. Ken and Parent drove the area and Willernie owns 185 feet of this road, Ken will ask for some price information on the area to be reconstructed and report back to the council.

Parent does not feel there is enough information on this project to make an intelligent decision until other options have been reviewed.

There are two storm drains on either side of the street connected to County 12 and Willernie is not sure if another drain will be necessary. The information will be sent to Marcus, city engineer, for review.

SLIDE IN MILNAR PARK

The slide in Milner Park was broken when an adult male climbed on it. It has been roped off, but the slide cannot be fixed due to the age of the equipment. A new slide will be ordered.

An insurance claim has been filed so the city is waiting for a report from the insurance company.

Leaf vac was out last week, and Ken will continue to pick up the leaves until the snow flies.

Saturday is the brush and chipping day in Milner Park. Reflectors will be available for residents to mark the edge of their yards to help with the snow plowing.

A few stop signs have been replaced and the no parking sign on Clyde has been installed.

Ken asked if there was a certain day for the leaf pick up and the council suggested Monday. He needs a full load to pick up the leaves and will continue to pick them up until mid-November.

Brian from Overline is scheduled to come to Willernie in November to check the sewer lines and the hydrants will be oiled and flushed once a year.

AMANDA KLINE

Amanda Kline owns the property at 418 Sargent and is asking for a variance for her property to allow this property to be used as a rental.

She understands the regulations but circumstances for her are different because she has a strong track record for property in the city, has contacted the police when problems arise and worked with neighbors when there have been problems. She has mentioned Willernie in multiple media areas and asked for help with the new maintenance building.

Amanda has tenants that are willing to move in immediately and would like to have a decision on this request tonight.

Parent explained the variance process and that a public hearing is necessary before the council can act on the requested variance.

The council cannot grant a variance at this council meeting since the criteria have not been met for the application of such a variance. There is also the issue that multiple requests have been made for rental licenses since the ordinance was passed and the council has held firm on the ordinance.

The reason for the ordinance was due to the request from residents in the city. There are good landlords and others have created problems for the neighbors through the years. Also, Willernie has a high percentage of rentals for such a small area and the rental license does not stay with the house when the house is sold.

Ken Jary spoke on Amanda's behalf. Mr. Jary was a resident of Willernie and rented a property before moving to Mahtomedi.

Amanda does not agree with the ordinance and objects to the decision.

REBECCA BECKER

Mrs. Becker is a neighbor of 418 Sargent. There was no notice of this property becoming a rental and she contacted Soderlund to address the rental license information on the property.

Mrs. Becker is not in agreement with allowing another rental in the city. There is a cap on the rentals, and she would like the city to maintain the cap. It is not the city's problem that Ms. Kline did not follow the process correctly to apply for a rental license.

Mrs. Becker would like the council to know she supports the rental license ordinance and would like to make sure that residents follow the ordinance.

REPORT OF CLYE AND CRAIG HOMES

109 Clyde has been sold. The certificate of occupancy was given, Susannah and Jack agreed that the certificate of occupancy could be given because the home was inspected and ready to live in. The other two properties need to be finished before a certificate of occupancy can be approved.

Ordinance 301.110 Right of Ways needs clarification. DeJong will work with Susannah to fine tune this ordinance, request a public hearing and pass the new ordinance.

YARDS IN VIOLATION

318 Paddington needs a visible street address, there is trash on the porch and the yard needs maintenance.

Susannah is working with the owner of 318 Paddington and Soderlund will also contact the owner, plus the clerk will send a letter to the owner addressing the problems.

320 Paddington has a parked car that Siver discussed with them. They will remove the car in the next few days.

302 Kimberly has a disabled car and fence that needs attention.

The property given to the city by the Simpsons was surveyed and the survey was explained by Parent.

LIFT STATION

Marcus is researching the lift station.

CATS-DONATIONS

Siver explained the group from Mahtomedi that has been helping the City of Willernie with the farrow cats is paying for the neutering and shots out of their own pockets and she would like some donations for the group. Several cats have been neutered and placed in homes.

Siver will report on the donations as they are delivered. Siver would like the city to consider donating some funds to this purpose in the future.

DONALD REGAN

Mr. Regan joined the meeting via Zoom and suggested investing some city funds in CD's or a high yield savings account.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Soderlund moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Baglio seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria R. Keating
Clerk-Treasurer