

**CITY OF WILLERNIE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2024**

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 2023 MINUTES

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

WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF

Dylan Xion introduced himself as the officer on duty during the night shift. He explained that nothing unusual has been happening in the City.

The council suggested the violations at the stop signs in the city should be addressed as often as the officers can observe the violators. DeJong reported a car in front of his house at two in the morning, however, nothing was reported to the sheriff's office.

APPOINTMENTS

Baglio moved to approve the Council Appointments as follows:

Deputy Mayor – Baglio
Parks & Building – Baglio
Sewer & Water – DeJong
Streets – Siver
Public Safety – Soderlund

Siver seconded the motion and the motion passed.

CITY APPOINTMENTS

Soderlund moved to approve the City Appointments as follows:

Clerk-Treasurer – Vickie Keating
Building Inspector – Jack Kramer

Mechanical & Plumbing Inspector – John Manship /backup Jack Kramer
Official Bank – Midwestone
Newspaper – White Bear Press
Legal Firm – Galowitz Olson LLC
Auditor – Abdo, Eick & Myers
Cable Commission – Bev Friendt/Alternate Vickie Keating
Engineer – Bolton & Menk/Moore Engineering
Computer Liaison – Celia Wirth

The motion was seconded by Baglio and the motion passed.

LIQUOR LICENSE APPROVAL

A motion to approve the following liquor licenses was made by Siver.

Gordy's Steak House – On Sale and Sunday
Frigaard's – On Sale and Sunday
Wildwood Wine and Spirits – Off Sale

The motion was seconded by Soderlund and the motion was passed.

KEN REPORT

The bathroom in the Maintenance Building is not done. Ken needs help to finish it. There is a carpenter that will help construct the walls for \$1,000. John Manship will install the plumbing.

Mike Henry has no objection to the no parking sign on his property on Milford.

Woodchuck has been contacted about the trees in the park. Ken would like guidance from the council on what trees and how much trimming the council would like done this year.

Ken will have the dead trees removed from the park and the trees on the north side should be trimmed.

Schifsky's closed the doors as far as paving is concerned. The plant will be open, but they are not honoring the bids. Ken will start over and get new bids from other companies.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at the January meeting.

EARLE OF SANDWICHES VIA ZOOM

Blaine Development is interested in partnering with the landowner and redevelopment of the property.

They are looking at a residential development with self-contained parking.

The current owners of the property are looking into possibilities, and they want input from the council.

The size of the property is a problem and some of the property on Trim might be purchased in addition to the Earle property.

Parent asked about the self-contained parking. The developer is considering apartments on the top and parking underneath with some commercial shops in the middle.

It was explained that it could only be two stories, not four and right now residential is not allowed in the commercial district.

A two-story building would not work for the developer.

Parent also explained there is no mail delivery in Willernie, and the streets are narrow. Wildwood Road has higher traffic due to the Post Office plus large trucks that deliver to the restaurants park on Wildwood Road.

DeJong explained that accessing the property would be an issue. A development of that property would need to have access to county 12 because 12 could handle the traffic. Also 36 rental licenses would not be available in the city at this time.

ELECTION JUDGE RESOLUTION

A resolution to appoint the election judges for the March 5 Presidential Nomination Election was read to the council.

The resolution appoints Boni Westberg, Celeste Klein and Jennifer Washington as election judges for \$11.00 an hour with Patrick Miller and Barbara Parent as substitutes.

Soderlund moved to approve the resolution, Siver seconded the motion and the motion passed.

RIGHT OF WAY APPLICATION

This application was postponed until the February meeting.

XCEL REPLACEMENT POSTS

This application was postponed until the February meeting.

SECURITY CAMERA

DeJong presented options for the security camera to be installed at city hall. It would be battery operated.

The cost is approximately \$199.00.

Parent moved to approve up to \$1,500.00 for the camera. Baglio seconded the motion and the motion passed.

VARIANCE FORMS

Susannah presented some tentative variance forms for review by the council.

The forms will be discussed at a future meeting.

REPORT ON CLYDE AND CRAIG HOUSES

Tori explained that there was a sheriff's sale on January 12th and redemption time could go until June.

The owner has the right to use the road to this property even though it was not built correctly.

DeJong would argue that if the MOU is void the road is unlawful and it is not a road. This does not affect the runoff but in the short term he thinks the city should do what is best and show they are not allowing people to use city property.

Susannah believes the city has the option for the assessment route. The assessment process could occur, there is no statute to cover the assessment. She suggests the city engineer prepare a plan to fix the road as the city wishes.

The properties on the road would be assessed.

Soderlund does not believe closing the road is a good idea. The MOU was not followed and there have been many errors on this property by several parties.

DeJong does not want asphalt on an unlawful road.

DeJong moved that the current construction of asphalt on Craig Place is not deemed a lawful road.

No second was made to the motion.

A resolution ordering preparation of a report on the improvement was discussed and will be modified according to council guidance.

Soderlund made the motion to pass the resolution ordering preparation of a report on improvement on Craig Place. Resolution 2024-2 as revised.

Baglio seconded the motion and the motion passed with DeJong voting no on the motion.

COMPLIANCE ORDER

316 Chatham – published notice for inspection and a courtesy correspondence was sent to Mr. Ludwig, however, the resident would not allow Jack to inspect the property.

Jack Kramer, building inspector, walked the property, no one was home, and the lower-level windows are covered.

Susannah was prepared for noncompliance and the property could be red tagged, however, she received notice from the Secretary of State informing her the correspondence was not received so the procedure will be resubmitted. The ordinances require notice in writing. Mr. Ludwig called and agreed to schedule an inspection in February.

The city has not received any information on the property informing the city this is a church. As of this date the role of the LLC is in question.

The paperwork will be sent to the Secretary of State and another inspection date will be set for the property.

A compliance order will be sent if the owner fails to allow the inspection.

YARDS IN VIOLATION

317 Wildwood has been cleaned up.

316 Chatham removed the vehicles.

Emerfoll has a disabled vehicle in the driveway – Baglio will check on the removal of this vehicle.

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 10:00 p.m. Siver seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria R. Keating
Clerk-Treasurer