

**CITY OF WILLERNIE
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 17, 2024**

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MAY MINUTES

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

THERE WAS NO COUNCIL MEETING IN JUNE DUE TO JUNETEENTH.

WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF

There was a runaway teen, some traffic issues where a pedestrian was hit in the city this month.

Soderlund asked to have more patrol due to the traffic in the city. Wildwood and Stillwater Road is a dangerous intersection, and the council would like the officers to patrol this area.

The officer explained that the enforcement team with special investigation detail are working in Birchwood today so he will ask for a saturation in this area. There will be a curfew sweep due to young families in the area.

DeJong suggested a check on the bikes and motor bikes in the area.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 1300

Susannah reviewed the changes made in ordinance 1300. There were no questions, so the public hearing closed at 7:35 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 384 WARNER RENTAL LICENSE

The owner of 384 Warner has requested a variance on the property to allow the renters to stay in the house until the lease is finished. The tenants are considering purchasing the house, but no purchase date has been set. The renters are researching financing on the house. The lease is finished in February.

Susannah reminded the council of the criteria for allowing a variance which is reasonableness, uniqueness and character of landowner's property.

Parent explained the history in trying to reduce the number of rentals in the city to the owner of 384 Warner.

The owner of the property explained he did not know that a rental license was required when he rented the property, and the tenants were unaware of the problem.

Public Comments at the hearing were from Howard Moore, who did not believe the tenants had the facts correct.

Donald Regan, resident on Dartmoor, feels the tenants and landlord could solve the problem in small claims court and believes the decision should follow protocol even though he is against the rental ordinance.

The public hearing closed at 8:02 p.m.

The council meeting resumed at 8:03 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

McKala Jobowi would like to rent her house at 106 McGregor. The mayor explained the rental license and other owners are waiting for a license.

McKala explained that she needs to rent the home for a number of years due to financial hardship caused by her divorce.

Ms. Jibowi can file for a variance, but the outcome does not look good for the approval of the variance considering the recent requests made by other owners.

ORDINANCE 1300

DeJong moved to adopt ordinance 1300 as posted. Baglio seconded the motion, and the ordinance was approved.

384 WARNER

Even though it is a problem for the current tenant the city does not want to make exceptions to the rule of no rental licenses. The landlord will need to allow the tenant 60 days to move or purchase the house.

It was suggested denying the variance and not enforcing it until 60 days after the passing of the motion made by the council.

A motion to deny the variance for 384 Warner rental license with the caveat not to enforce it for 60 days was made by Parent. Soderlund seconded the motion.

Under discussion of the motion DeJong explained he is torn on this variance and understands the owner would like to keep the property for his children when they finish school.

All council members except DeJong voted yes to the motion.

KEN REPORT

Brian Sanchez owns property next to the beach and wants to clear the area, put up a new fence, and plant some lilac bushes to help with the shade. The bid from Woodchuck to remove the trees is \$7400 and they would like the city to consider splitting the expense on the property.

Parent asked if they needed Willernie's permission to cut the trees down. The answer is yes because some of the trees are on Willernie property. They also want Willernie to share the expense of removing the trees.

Parent would like more information on this issue before making a decision.

Ken and Parent met with Jane from the Mahtomedi council concerning the money raised by Steve Wolgamont and how it can be spent to honor him. Mahtomedi will install a bench in Willernie Park with wheelchair access and a plaque with Mr. Wolgamont's name on it.

Ken finished the work on Chatham. Chatham has drainage problems so Ken will watch this area.

Baglio asked about the sign on Milford that says NO PARKING. There is no room on the other side of the road for a sign. Baglio asked if the sign saying no parking on both sides of the road can be installed. Ken will need to order this sign.

109 WARNER

Bob LaCasse would like a record attached to the property if and when he decides to sell 109 Warner. The retaining wall has always been in place, and it will be maintained.

Parent moved to allow the retaining wall to remain in the present location and for the property owner to be responsible for maintenance and repair of the wall. Should the retaining wall need to be removed or need significant repair it should be replaced as it is standing with like or improved material at the owner's expense. In the event the city needs to allow repair work any or all damage will be repaired by the owner. DeJong seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

401 STILLWATER ROAD PARKING ISSUE

The property owner requested a sign on the property to prevent other cars from parking on her property. Tori investigated the issue and to make sure the city has the right of way on the property a survey would need to be done.

The owner fixed the problem at this time, so the issue was tabled.

SANTINO TENERELLI RESOLUTION REVISION

The resolution was tabled until August.

ELECTION JUDGE APPROVAL RESOLUTION

Parent read the resolution appointing the election judges.

Soderlund moved to approve Boni Westberg, Jennifer Washington, Celeste Klein, and Cindy Jacobson as election judges with Barbara Parent and Patrick Miller as substitutes for the August 13th Primary Election. Siver seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

BUSINESS LICENSES

A motion to approve the business licenses with the completion of all paperwork was made by Parent. DeJong seconded the motion, and all the licenses were approved.

CLYDE AND CRAIG HOUSES

The bank will pay half of the cost for repair on the drainage and road at Craig Place up to 39 thousand dollars matching the grant from Rice Creek.

There will be routes investigated with the possibility of easements on some of the adjoining property to correct the drainage.

The first issue is to accept the bank's offer on the repairs.

Parent moved to accept the agreement with the bank, including the grant from Rice Creek. Baglio seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

HOWARD MOOR ROAD ISSUE

The drain by Howard's house fills with debris and causes water to flow into his garage.

Howard has some ideas on how to fix the area until it can be fixed properly and will discuss this with Ken. Marcus and Ken will investigate the drain and work out a solution.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Siver explained the ice cream social will be on National Night Out and she will hand out flyers for the occasion.

BILLS FOR JUNE

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

BILLS FOR JULY

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

ADJOURNMENT

Soderlund moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m. De Jong seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria R. Keating
Clerk-Treasurer