

The Wilsonville Town Council met in regular session Monday, August 22, 2016, in the Council Chamber Room at the Wilsonville Town Hall. Mayor Lee McCarty called the meeting to order at 6:00 P. M.

The meeting opened with prayer by Councilman Larry Cohill.

The following council members answered roll call: Dennis Blackerby, Larry Cohill, Don Davis, Calvin Gill, Patricia Johnson, Ricky Morris, Terry Newman.

The minutes of the August 01, 2016, council meeting (mailed to the council members prior to this meeting) were reviewed. Calvin Gill made a motion to accept the minutes, as presented; Patricia Johnson seconded. The motion passed with the following vote: Dennis Blackerby, yes; Larry Cohill, yes; Don Davis, yes; Calvin Gill, yes; Patricia Johnson, yes; Ricky Morris, yes; Terry Newman, yes.

Checks were examined by the council members immediately before the meeting. Ricky Morris made a motion to approve the checks for mailing; Larry Cohill seconded. The motion passed with the following vote: Dennis Blackerby, yes; Larry Cohill, yes; Don Davis, yes; Calvin Gill, yes; Patricia Johnson, yes; Ricky Morris, yes; Terry Newman, yes.

Mayoral Announcements

The first meeting date in September, the 5th, falls on Labor Day. The mayor suggested the meeting be changed to Tuesday, September 6th. Calvin Gill made a motion to change the first meeting in September to Tuesday, September 6th; Patricia Johnson seconded. The motion passed with the following vote: Dennis Blackerby, yes; Larry Cohill, yes; Don Davis, yes; Calvin Gill, yes; Patricia Johnson, yes; Ricky Morris, yes; Terry Newman, yes.

The meeting to canvass the votes from the Tuesday, August 23, 2016, municipal election needs to be Tuesday, August 30, 2016, beginning at noon. The clerk asked how many council members would be able to attend at that time. All said they would be able to come except Dennis Blackerby. That would be a quorum of members. The time and date for the meeting will be posted on the sign at Town Hall and in the three posting places in Town.

The mayor stated fiscal year 2017 budget work will begin at the September meetings.

The ladder truck everyone is seeing in town is on loan to the Town Fire Department for inspection. The Town has not purchased the truck.

There has been a complaint from a resident about her address being on the posted poll lists for the municipal election. State law requires the posting of the list, with addresses, unless the resident has a restraining order against someone who might do them harm. The list has always been posted in this manner for municipal elections.

Be sure to get out and vote in the municipal election tomorrow. Polls will be open from 7:00 A. M. until 7:00 P. M., at the Wilsonville Methodist Church.

The clerk asked if the Town would provide lunch for the four poll workers tomorrow. She checked with the League of Municipalities, who said it is legal to do so since the workers are not allowed to leave the polling place during the day. Terry Newman made a motion to purchase lunch for the poll workers from D J's BBQ; Ricky Morris seconded. The motion passed with the following vote: Dennis Blackerby, yes; Larry Cohill, yes; Don Davis, yes; Calvin Gill, yes; Patricia Johnson, yes; Ricky Morris, yes; Terry Newman, yes.

General Fund Budget Versus Actual figures were reviewed for October 01, 2015 to July 31, 2016, ten months of the current fiscal year. Income figures are up for the time period and very few expense categories are over budget. The figures look good, so far.

Roger asked the old water meters be declared excess property so they may be sold. The contractor who installed the new meters has expressed an interest in buying the meters. They are not good for anything except scrap metal. They can no longer be used for drinking water, but they could be used for irrigation or something like that. Patricia Johnson made a motion to declare the water meters excess property; Larry Cohill seconded. The motion passed with the following vote: Dennis Blackerby, yes; Larry Cohill, yes; Don Davis, yes; Calvin Gill, yes; Patricia Johnson, yes; Ricky Morris, yes; Terry Newman, yes.

Council Agenda – There was none.

Council Comment

Ricky Morris asked if the Town can keep the state right-of-way cut between Paul's Shell and Lisco Sales and Services, just around the concrete drainage ditch. The mayor will look and see.

Dennis Blackerby asked about the tall grass and trash and garbage at the abandoned car wash on Highway 25. Is there anything the Town can do to clean that area up? That is private property and has been sold for taxes. It belongs to a Mr. Shephard. We can try making contact with him but have been unsuccessful in the past.

Patricia Johnson stated there is grass growing in the concrete drainage ditches installed by ALDOT. Can anything do done to poison the grass and weeds before they become thicker? The mayor will contact ALDOT about this issue.

Don Davis asked if Roger Perry has a back-up for reading water meters with the new equipment in case he gets sick. Roger is working on printing some instructions so someone else can do the job, if needed.

Public Comment

Mike Griffin stated he thinks the current administration is doing a good job. Finances seen to be in order and things going well.

Melissa Rosetta, candidate for town council, addressed the meeting. She has been here twenty-five years; she went on vacation, and when she got home, some of her campaign signs had disappeared. She stated these signs as expensive and she would appreciate them being returned to her. She would put a sign out and the next day it would be gone. This happened four times at one location. She thought it was children but has discovered it was adults. If people will steal signs, will they not steal something else.

Dennis Rosetta, Melissa's husband, stated he has pictures of the signs being taken which he passed around to the council members to view. He said the signs were on state right-of-way along Hebb Road. The mayor asked Mrs. Rosetta if she knew the definition of right-of-way, and she declined to answer. The discussion got rather heated. Councilman Terry Newman stated no one was on trial or in court. Rosemary Liveoak stated the right-of-way along Hebb Road is ditch line to ditch line. The mayor said a right-of-way is an easement for public use and use by private individuals is trespassing. The mayor told Mr. and Mrs. Rosetta they were trespassing on private property when they placed a camera for surveillance on the property in question and when they placed signs there without permission of the property owner. The Town also has a sign ordinance which forbids any signs being put on right-of-way.

Scott Johnson, who is in some of the pictures, stated he has been called a thief and does not appreciate the accusations being spread around town about him. He considers it libel/slander and may pursue the matter in court,

Rosemary Liveoak stated if signs were to be removed, she suggested one at the corner of Highways 25 and 61 that has been there for months be removed off the state right-of-way. She also said on Ball Park Road and on Niven Street, both town streets, bushes and trees are growing out into the streets and need to be trimmed.

Councilman Don Davis left the meeting at 6:51 P. M.

Richard Atchison asked about a hole in McGowin Road, at the Highway 25 entrance to the cemetery. Is the Town going to fix the hole? Roger Perry said this is not a simple pot hole; there is a larger sinkhole underneath.

Lane Ross asked why no political forum has been held in Town for the council candidates. Mayor McCarty said these forum events are sponsored by outside entities such as the South Shelby Chamber of Commerce and usually when there is a mayor's race involved.

Mr. Ross also complained about shrubs growing into the street at Wilson Glen Drive, Homestead Drive, and McClure Drive.

Mr. Ross reminded all the candidates to remove their signs after the election;

Frances Phelps asked if the candidates for council who were present at the meeting would stand up and introduce themselves to the audience. The following candidates introduced themselves and briefly told

something about themselves: Richard Atchison, Larry Cohill, Gordon Fluker, Calvin Gill, Ivan Greene, Patricia Johnson, Ricky Morris, Terry Newman, Anne Phelps, Melissa Rosetta, Lane Ross.

Barry Sims made the comment he hoped everyone could be good neighbors when the election is over.

Calvin Gill stated he has been in the town for sixty-three years and this is the worst election he can remember concerning dirty politics.

Barry Sims said he has been cutting the grass at the house next door to him this summer. The owner has been gone out of town for some time. Someone else cut it the other day and he expressed his thanks to whoever it was.

Mayor McCarty said when the 2020 election time comes, sign regulations will be given to those who qualify to run so there will be no confusion. Mrs. Rosetta thanked him for that suggestion.

There being no further business to come before the council, Terry Newman made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Calvin Gill seconding. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 P. M.

E. L. McCarty, III, Mayor

Attest