

The Wilsonville Town Council met, Monday, October 24, 2016, in the Council Chamber Room at the Wilsonville Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lee McCarty at 6:00 P. M.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Councilman Ricky Morris.

The following council members answered roll call: Larry Cohill, Don Davis, Calvin Gill, Patricia Johnson, Ricky Morris, Terry Newman. Dennis Blackerby was not present.

The minutes of the October 03, 2016, regular council meeting (mailed to the council members prior to this meeting) were reviewed. Calvin Gill made a motion to accept the minutes, as presented; Larry Cohill seconded. The motion passed with the following vote: 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. Don Davis made a motion to approve the checks for mailing; Calvin Gill seconded. The motion passed with the following vote: Larry Cohill, yes; Don Davis, yes; Calvin Gill, yes; Patricia Johnson, yes; Ricky Morris, yes; Terry Newman, yes.

Mayoral Announcements

The sidewalk grant has finally been approved. The advertisement for bidding will be in the Shelby County Reporter for three weeks, beginning next week, November 02. There will be a pre-bid meeting at Town Hall, Thursday, November 17. Bids will be opened Thursday, December 01. The council will meet Monday, December 05, and can approve the bid at that time.

The mayor has contacted Wayne Morris about upgrading the Town website and recording all the council meetings.

The drought is not getting any better. Fire Chief Edwards will ask the deputy to write tickets to anyone who burns outside. If possible, fines will be charged. The mayor asked the people to report any outside burning they see to either Chief Edwards or to the Town Hall staff.

Town attorney, Bill Justice, is working on two ordinances; one for abatement of dilapidated buildings and one for abatement of weeds/tall grass. The mayor read the ordinances which are a work in progress now. The ordinances will have to be advertised before they can be passed. There is a lot of due process included in the building abatement ordinance. A review committee will be appointed to hear the complaint; then the council will hear it. If there is any further appeal, it would go to the circuit court. Daily fines are included in the weed abatement ordinance. There may be future ordinances addressing junk, old cars, etc.

The Christmas tree lighting ceremony was discussed. The Wilsonville Elementary School choir group will sing. The mayor would like to hire Joe Breckenridge, a Birmingham singer and musician, to sing and play for the event. He would bring his own sound equipment. The program will begin at 5:30 P. M. and will be held at Central Park. Patricia Johnson made a motion to hire Joe Breckenridge, for \$500.00, to perform at the event; Terry Newman seconded. The motion passed with the following vote;

Larry Cohill, yes; Don Davis, yes; Calvin Gill, yes; Patricia Johnson, yes; Ricky Morris, yes; Terry Newman, yes.

There was a water pressure problem town-wide this morning. Roger Perry reported it was caused by a power problem at the well. The water level is low at Well Number 3. Mr. Perry has talked with Columbiana officials about buying more water from them because of the drought. Columbiana wells are much deeper than ours, and there is no problem with shortages.

The mayor has several meetings this week: the mayor's meeting, an ALDOT meeting.

The FY2016 general fund budget wound up with a deficit of \$5,127.93. The mayor asked for a motion to use prior years' reserves to zero out the budget. Ricky Morris made a motion accordingly; Terry Newman seconded. The motion passed with the following vote: Larry Cohill, yes; Don Davis, yes; Calvin Gill, yes; Patricia Johnson, yes; Ricky Morris, yes; Terry Newman, yes.

The Highway 25 bridge, Bulley Creek Bridge, was discussed. At the last ALDOT meeting, the mayor was told if the Town could raise \$500,000.00 toward the project, it would be done. The total cost of the project is estimated to be between \$1 million and \$1.5 million. ALDOT wants verification of the funding agreement. The mayor has gotten a weak commitment from County Manager, Alex Dudchock, but this can not be verified until the Shelby County Commission meets. The mayor has also spoken to Corley Ellis, who will be replacing Mike Hill in the State Legislature. Mr. Ellis has said he would approach the governor to see if a price reduction can be worked out. This is a state responsibility so the question is does the town spend money, where it is not our legal responsibility, for the safety of our citizens. Will the council fund what is needed for this? The actual expenditure would probably be in the next two or three years. Don Davis stated he is for it. Terry Newman said the bridge needs replacing; it may save the life of one or more of our citizens. Larry Cohill stated he would hate to be the one to vote no and have someone get hurt or killed at the bridge. Calvin Gill said to do it because it is the right thing to do. He said two or three people have already been killed at the bridge, and when Highway 25 was widened, it made the situation worse. Karen McCarty asked if Columbiana might help since the bridge is located between the two municipalities. Would Alabama Power Company possibly help? Lane Ross asked if the bridge could be widened, rather than totally replaced. The mayor said that has been mentioned but may not be feasible from an engineering standpoint. Gordon Fluker asked if the money would have to be paid in one lump sum or not. The mayor stated it would probably be two payments, but he does not know for sure. Sue Whitfield stated the bridge is needed, but she hates to see the Town pay for it. Patricia Johnson made a motion to commit up to \$500,000.00 for the project; Terry Newman seconded. The motion passed with the following vote: Larry Cohill, yes; Don Davis, yes; Calvin Gill, yes; Patricia Johnson, yes; Ricky Morris, yes; Terry Newman, yes.

Sue Whitfield, president of the Wilsonville Beautification Board gave an update on the Board and its wish list. The Board now has only three members. She presented the following ideas for consideration:

1. Encourage property owners to take care of their property
2. New town limit signs on both Highway 25 and Highway 61
3. Hebb Road garden area and Oak Meadow Park – repair fences
4. Lights along the new sidewalk
5. Lights back on in front of Main Street businesses
6. Central Park – trees are dying. She had an arborist look at the trees, and he says they were planted incorrectly. The root balls are too deep causing drainage issues, and they are planted in thick clay soil which needs other material mixed with it. The raised beds are also planted in

thick clay soil which does not allow for drainage. She has added mulch to try to help the situation. The grass and trees were planted on top of concrete with very little soil involved. The mayor stated grant money may be available for new town limit signs; however, the word "town" does not need to be on the sign since, following the next census, we may be a city. The signs could just say welcome to Wilsonville.

Melissa Rosetta said the sign at Oak Meadow Park needs some attention.

The lights in front of the Main Street businesses will be turned back on when the warranty on the traffic light expires which should be some time in November.

Mrs. Whitfield asked if Mr. Cosby will be asked to correct anything else at Central Park. The mayor said he would not.

Larry Lowe asked about the anchors for the Christmas tree at Central Park and how the tree would be erected since a vehicle will not be able to enter the park. There was brief discussion but not solution yet.

Council Agenda – There was none.

Council Comment – There was none.

Public Comment

Larry Lowe asked if weed abatement would apply to the bushes growing out into Homestead Drive at the entrance of the subdivision. The bushes hit the mirrors on his truck when he drives by. The mayor said weed abatement would not apply in this instance.

Gordon Fluker expressed his appreciation for the work the Beautification Board does. He also expressed appreciation to the outgoing council members: Dennis Blackerby, Don Davis, Calvin Gill, Patricia Johnson, and Terry Newman. He thanked them for their service.

Anne Phelps asked if the website calendar could include community and church events. The mayor said it could. She needs to get the information to the town clerk and the events will be submitted for addition.

There being no further business to come before the council, Don Davis made a motion to adjourn; Ricky Morris seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P. M.

E. L. McCarty, III, Mayor

Attest