

The Wilsonville Town Council met Monday, December 21, 2020, in the Council Chamber Room at the Wilsonville Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ricky Morris at 6:30 P. M.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Councilwoman Melissa Rosetta.

Councilwoman Rosetta led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following council members answered roll call: Richard Atchison, Mavis Cohill, Lauren Kennamer, Larry Lowe, Blake Ray, Melissa Rosetta.

The minutes of the December 07, 2020, regular council meeting (mailed to the council members before this meeting) were reviewed. Councilman Lowe asked about the charge for the hot spots available for checkout in the library. The library is charged a monthly fee for each hot spot. Melissa Rosetta made a motion to approve the minutes, as presented. Mavis Cohill seconded, and the motion passed with the following vote: Richard Atchison, yes; Mavis Cohill, yes; Lauren Kennamer, yes; Larry Lowe, yes; Blake Ray, yes; Melissa Rosetta, yes.

Checks were examined by the council members immediately prior to the meeting. Larry Lowe asked about a check for two styles of safety vests for the food distribution program. He thought it was not necessary to get two styles of vests. Blake Ray made a motion to approve the checks for mailing; Melissa Rosetta seconded. The motion passed with the following vote: Melissa Rosetta, yes; Blake Ray, yes; Larry Lowe, abstain; Lauren Kennamer, yes; Mavis Cohill, yes; Richard Atchison, yes.

Ordinance Number 201221 was presented as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 201221

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WILSONVILLE, ALABAMA, TO EXEMPT CERTAIN "COVERED ITEMS" FROM THE MUNICIPAL SALES AND USE TAX DURING THE LAST FULL WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY, 2020, AS AUTHORIZED BY ACT 2012-256, GENERALLY REFERRED TO AS THE STATE SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS SALES TAX HOLIDAY LEGISLATION.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WILSONVILLE, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. In conformity with the provisions Act 2012-256 enacted by the Alabama Legislature during the 2012 Regular Session, providing for a State Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax **Holiday, the Town of Wilsonville, Alabama, exempts "covered items" from municipal sales and** use tax during the same period, beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the last Friday in February, 2021 (February 26, 2021) and ending at twelve midnight the following Sunday (February 28, 2021).

Section 2. This ordinance shall be subject to all terms, conditions, definitions, time periods, and rules as provided by Act 2012-256, except that the time period shall only be as specified in Section 1 above and not for all years thereafter.

Section 3. The Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to certify a copy of this ordinance under the seal of the Town of Wilsonville, Alabama, and to forward said certified copy to the Alabama Department of Revenue to be recorded and posted on the Department website.

Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective on the 22nd day January, 2020.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 21st DAY OF December, 2020.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____ -
Town Clerk

This is an annual opportunity, if the Town wishes to participate. We have participated in the past. Richard Atchison made a motion to adopt Ordinance 201221, as presented above; Larry Lowe seconded. The motion passed with the following vote: Melissa Rosetta, yes; Blake Ray, yes; Larry Lowe, yes; Lauren Kennamer, yes; Mavis Cohill, yes; Richard Atchison, yes.

Candidates who signed up to fill the vacant council seat addressed the meeting as follows:

Donnie Smith. Mr. Smith stated he and his wife, Krista, have lived in the area since 2003. He has a degree in electrical engineering from UAB and works for AT&T in construction. He has been a member of the Wilsonville Volunteer Fire Department since 2002. He has assisted in repairing water main breaks in the past. He is a member of the Wilsonville Baptist Church; his children attend Wilsonville Elementary School. He would like the opportunity to give his time and talent to the Town.

Jimmer Bolden. Mr. Bolden and his wife have lived in Wilsonville for twenty-one years. He is a military veteran and has served in the National Guard. He loves the Town, the people are welcoming. He plans to stay here and would like to be more involved. He possesses common sense which he thinks goes a long way in service on the council.

Wesley Seale. Mr. Seale was not present.

Don Belcher. Mr. Belcher stated the only drawback in his serving is his hearing is not the best. His background is in education, having experience in elementary schools, high schools, and colleges. He has served as a guidance counselor. He worked on the college level in Germany for a time. Melissa Rosetta thanked Mr. Belcher for submitting a resume.

Greg Smith. Mr. Smith lived in Wilsonville as a child and has recently moved back and build his retirement home here. He served in the military where he learned about technology. He is a disabled veteran. He has worked for AT&T in the technology area as well as other technology companies in the

software area and cloud based companies in the engineering department. Everyone would like to see improved internet service, storm shelters, and other things. He would like to serve any way he can to help obtain these things and help in any other way he can.

Melissa Rosetta asked if anyone knew anything about Wesley Seale. Richard Atchison stated he works for the railroad. He thinks this involves working some evening shifts, which may be why he was not in attendance.

Mayor Morris thanked the candidates. He stated the council will make a decision on who will fill the vacant seat at the January 4th meeting.

Mayor Morris met with representative of 58, Inc. last Friday.

The mayor reported there was a major water main break on Kennedy Avenue last Friday. A tree had to be removed which was on top of the line and whose roots were in the line. This was a long drawn out repair. He thanked Roger Perry, Paula Perry, Tim Pesnell, Danny Edwards, Scotty Morris, and Jeff Smith for their help. Roger Perry stated the water line has been there for sixty-one years. There are more trees along that line that need to be removed before they cause similar problems in the future. Richard Atchison stated we have two options: remove the remaining trees or possibly relocate the water line.

The Drive-by Visit With Santa and Mrs. Claus Sunday was a success. At least thirty-five vehicles came by.

Mavis Cohill stated there will be no food trucks in town this coming week. They will return after the holidays.

Councilwoman Cohill asked about the possibility of a new service station in Wilsonville. This is in the works. The former Paul's Shell station has been sold. Remodeling will occur. We do not have a date for the opening by the new owner.

Mayor Morris stated engineering work is in progress for water system projects. Roger Perry met with the engineer last week.

The mayor stated the second council meeting in January, January 18, falls on Martin Luther King Day, which is a holiday. Larry Lowe made a motion to have the second January meeting on Tuesday, January 19; Richard Atchison seconded. The motion passed with the following vote: Richard Atchison, yes; Mavis Cohill, yes; Lauren Kennamer, yes; Larry Lowe, yes; Blake Ray, yes; Melissa Rosetta, yes. This change will be posted.

The following proclamation was presented to the council:

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH
PROCLAMATION

JANUARY, 2021

WHEREAS, Alabama's Human Trafficking Awareness Month was established in January, 2011, in observance of National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, to proclaim the

equality and freedom of all people, to advocate for legislation, to educate leaders and to encourage public awareness to the various forms of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking occurs when an adult or child is recruited, harbored, obtained or exported through force, fraud or coercion for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor, involuntary servitude, debt bondage and other methods of slavery; and

WHEREAS, the United States government estimated that 600,000 to 800,000 Individuals are trafficked across international borders each year and exploited through forced labor and forced sexual activity; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Institute Against Human Trafficking states that the United States is the number one consumer of commercial sex worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Mission and Exploited Children estimates that 100,000 – 300,000 children are at risk for being trafficked in the United States, and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the University of Alabama identified 1,167 human trafficking victims within the state of Alabama with 57% of those being minors; and

WHEREAS, Polaris estimates that the national age of entry into the sex trade is 17 years old, here in Alabama, Homeland Security has identified victims as young as 9 years old; and,

WHEREAS, the first step in eliminating human trafficking is to educate the community. We must work to ensure that all residents are aware of this problem, how to spot it, and how to report it. We must work together as a community to bring victims to safety and to punish human traffickers; and

WHEREAS, we ask all residents of this community to join us in raising the visibility of this crime whose victims are all too often invisible. Together, we can become more informed and work to combat its injustices.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Ricky Morris, Mayor of the Town of Wilsonville do hereby proclaim January 2021, as “Human Trafficking Awareness Month” in Wilsonville, Alabama.

_____, MAYOR
TOWN OF WILSONVILLE, AL

DATE

Larry Lowe made a motion to adopt the above Proclamation; Melissa Rosetta seconded. The motion passed with the following vote: Richard Atchison, yes; Mavis Cohill, yes; Lauren Kennamer, yes; Larry Lowe, yes; Blake Ray, yes; Melissa Rosetta, yes.

Council Comment

Larry Lowe asked about the dead tree on Hebb Road. He asked if volunteers could remove the tree. The tree is on private property, and this would not be a good idea. Councilman Lowe stated, according to the Shelby County maps, the tree is on the county right-of-way. The clerk stated it is her understanding there is no county right-of-way along Hebb Road. Roger Perry stated the county website maps are not always accurate concerning rights-of-way.

Councilman Ray asked about progress on the sidewalk project. No work has been done since the last council meeting.

The Food Distribution Program was discussed. If the program has been extended, all future expenditures must be approved ahead of time by the town council. If these expenditures are not pre-approved, they will not be reimbursed.

Public Comment – There was none.

There being no further business to come before the council, Richard Atchison made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Larry Lowe seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 P. M.

Ricky Morris, Mayor

Attest