

**CITY OF WILLERNIE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 18, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Parent, Miller, Siver, Soderlund, Baglio, Attorney-Susannah Torseth,  
Maintenance Superintendent-Rick Paulson and Clerk-Vickie Keating.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Miller moved to approve the agenda as presented. Baglio seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2019 MEETING**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments in December.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

The law enforcement officers did not attend the December meeting.

**BILL BEDELL**

Mr. Bedell introduced himself to the Council and explained that the Kindross lot he owns with Mr. Lohr needs clarification on the restrictions. The builder that submitted the plans when the variance was requested has moved on and everyone interested in purchasing the lot reviews the restrictions causing loss of interest.

The assessed value on the lot is \$77,000 and taxes have doubled in the last two years. The lot is listed for \$55,000 and the interested buyers do not want to use the footprint allowed by the variance. Mr. Bedell is asking the Council to remove the restrictions and allow the same setbacks on this lot that are allowed on conforming lots.

The Mayor explained the variance was granted because this is a non-conforming lot and the footprint required in the variance is appropriate for the size of this lot. One of the reasons a variance is granted is due to the uniqueness of the lot.

The attorney explained any person purchasing the lot at this time can build on this lot, it does not restrict the building or selling of the lot. It is possible to build any building as long as it meets the setbacks.

Variances remain with the property no matter who purchases it.

### **UTILITIES TO BE PAID BY OWNERS**

Due to the number of rental houses in the City the Council would like to pass an ordinance requiring the owners of the rental properties to pay the utility bills each quarter.

This issue was tabled until the January meeting.

### **ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH UTILITY RATE FOR YEAR 2020**

The Mayor read the proposed ordinance changing the utility rate for 2020.

The Council suggested changing user to property owners in the ordinance and after the change was made Miller moved to approve the ordinance. Baglio seconded the motion.

During the discussion of the motion Andrew Dejong, a resident, asked for an explanation of the amount assessed for the repaired water main.

The Mayor explained the original bill was \$80,000 with a contingency. The project included sidewalk repairs, sewer line repairs, and fire hydrants that were moved or replaced. The City has been applying for grants to help with the cost and has received a matching grant from Rice Creek Water Shed along with some grant money from the state. The Council continues to apply for grants to decrease the cost of the repairs to the City.

After the discussion and explanation, the Council passed the motion.

### **REQUEST TO REPLACE TOWER BY NORTHERN STATES POWER**

The Mayor read the request to replace a pole on Wildwood Road that is deteriorating. There is currently a streetlight on this pole and due to weather and woodpecker problems this pole needs to be replaced.

Parent moved to replace the pole, Miller seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **YARDS IN VIOLATION**

317 Wildwood Road-Patraw is on hold until March

317 Milford – Patraw – will be reviewed  
Gibson, Hague and Olson are on hold until January  
Tveit- nothing new to report

The resident's status will be reviewed again in March.

### **RICK REPORT**

Rick had an accident in the truck while snowplowing this month, has already received an estimate on the repairs. They are currently looking for a taillight that will fit on the truck. The damages will be repaired in the spring.

Due to the weather and the amount of snow and ice the county has used over half of their supply of salt for the year. Hopefully, the weather will improve, and the City will have enough salt for the rest of the winter.

Miller informed the Council that Denny Martin received an accommodation for the work Rick has done and wanted to recognize the good work of our maintenance superintendent.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Miller moved to approve the bills, Siver seconded the motion and the bills were approved.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Soderlund moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Baglio seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria R. Keating  
Clerk-Treasurer