

**CITY OF WILLERNIE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2021**

PRESENT: Parent, DeJong, Baglio, Soderlund, Siver, Attorney-Susanah Torseth, Maintenance Superintendent-Rick Paulson and Clerk-Vickie Keating.

RESIDENTS ATTENDING MEETING:

Tim and Liz Jawor, Patrick Miller, Mike Henry, and attorney, Yanzia Cheng along with her interpreter.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Washington County Sheriff was added to the agenda. After the addition was made Baglio moved to approve the agenda, Soderlund seconded the motion and the motion passed.

WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF

Officer Jared attended the meeting and explained that nothing concerning is happening at the present time in Willernie. There was some damage to property at East Shore Auto, a few neighbor disputes and lack of observing the stop signs in the city.

The council asked Officer Jared to saturate the corner of Wildwood and Paddington, and Chatham and Warner.

The Willernie Beach has had several calls about closing the park at 10:00 p.m. and cars parking at the beach overnight. Officer Jared will check on the beach and enforce the stop signs that are being abused.

APPROVAL OF THE 2022 BUDGET

Soderlund moved to approve the 2022 budget with the recommended increases for employees. Baglio seconded the motion, and the budget was approved.

XCEL PERMIT

Xcel requested to install a new gas main on Wildwood Road, Stewart Road and Charing due to the age of the current main.

Siver moved to approve the permit, Soderlund seconded the motion, and the permit was approved.

BUSINESS LICENSE APPROVAL

Soderlund moved to approve the following business licenses as long as the fire codes are met, and all paperwork required from the fire department is in order. Siver seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Mike Breault Barbers
Mark Ashby-Real Estate
Domino's Pizza
Lakeside Floral
Paragon Pools
Thrivent Financial
Skyline Cleaners
O'Leary's Hideaway Shop
Earle of Sandwiches
Valerie's Asian Cuisine
Gordy's Steak House
Wildwood Wine and Spirits
Frigaard's
Mold Craft
Roman Market
Kiel Brothers Ventures
East Shore Auto

GORDY'S AND EARLE OF SANDWHICHES

Rick from Earle of Sandwiches asked if the city would subsidize their parking lot since the resident's use them.

The city does not subsidize the business parking lots even if used by the public.

THE MEETING WAS SUSPENDED AT 7:08 P.M. FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING ON KENMARE STREET VACATION

Susannah handed out the map with the location on Kenmare that is to be vacated. She also explained this was discussed at an earlier date, but a public hearing was not scheduled.

There were no public comments concerning the vacation of Kenmare.

The public hearing closed at 7:10 p.m.

KENMARE STREET VACATION

Parent moved to vacate Kenmare Street as outlined on the map. DeJong seconded the motion and the motion passed.

YANZIA CHENG – BUSINESS LICENSE

Yanzia would like to apply for business license to open a massage business on Stillwater Road. She would be renting half of the downstairs to accommodate her business.

Ms. Cheng has a certificate with 650 hours of massage from the school in Roseville. Her license is currently held in Blaine and Bloomington. She has had many years of experience with massage therapy.

The council asked if the language barrier would be a problem with the customers and she explained she knows some English, however, she is not confident enough in the language to speak at a public meeting.

The timeline for opening the business is September, with two employees and hours of operation will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Ms. Cheng presented her papers to the council for review and explained she does not intend to alter the structure of the building. She currently lives in Bloomington but will moving to this area as soon as possible.

A motion to approve the business license for Yanzia Cheng as long as she understands this is a commercial, not residential license was made by Baglio. The motion was seconded by Siver, and the motion passed.

LEGION – PATRICK MILLER

Patrick handed out the annual report to the council. The legion donates to education, veterans, and the community.

The Legion has pull tabs at Roma and Frigaard's which enables them to donate funds to the community.

Parent asked Patrick about a sign for the Willernie Park, and he suggested submitting a request for the sign.

TIM JAWOR

Mr. Jawor explained that he found out today about the City Ordinance passed in April concerning the limitation of rental licenses.

He has sold one unit to an investor and has another offer made by the same investor on another unit, however, this investor wants the unit as a rental and if they cannot obtain the license, they will cancel the sale. Since the renter is moving August 31, they thought this was a good time to sell the unit.

Parent went back in time when the bottom had fallen out of the economy and Mr. Jawor approached the council with a request to rent the units because he could not sell them. One of the conditions agreed to by White Horse was that the units would not become rentals.

It has also been discovered that the community is overburdened with rentals.

The rental licenses belongs to White Horse but the license does not stay with the units as they are sold.

Mr. Jawor came to the council during the recession. His bank was going to foreclose on the units unless he could meet monthly payments. Every penny went to the bank. In 2009 until 2016 when the economy started turning around and then the road construction happened and more issues arose.

The last three years 3 units have been sold and some of them are rental units.

These are not typical apartments, there is a homeowner's association, these properties are well maintained and look nice.

He does feel these buildings are impacting the city as rentals. They own 5 and oversee the association. There will be nine units left when the Jawor's are no longer involved, then an election will take place and a president and secretary will take over.

The buildings sit on a busy street, they are desirable because of the school district and if someone moves out there are 10 to 20 applicants waiting for a townhouse.

Most of the renters that move leave because they want a yard, not because they object to the house.

Susannah understands the personal issue; however, ordinances were passed within the city. There were public hearings, publications and a newsletter outlining the new ordinance.

Mr. Jawor did not feel like the landlords were notified in a timely manner.

Mr. Jawor will need a variance to sell the unit as a rental at this time.

MIKE HENRY

Larry Stevens, Mike Henry's attorney, attended the meeting to represent Mike.

Mike would like a temporary variance for an elderly lady that has lived in Willernie most of her life. Mike rented 413 Warner to this lady and would like to continue with the lease.

Parent reviewed the history on 312 Chippenham and told Mike about the review of the rental license and not to remodel the house on Chippenham, however, he proceeded with remodeling and renting of the premises.

The house on Warner was rented without a rental license, information on the rental license ordinance and requirements were sent to Mike's lawyer and he was told not to rent this house. So far Mike has rented three units without a rental license. There was a public hearing on Chippenham and no license was applied for on either house.

Mr. Stevens explained that two renters have moved out of the Chippenham residence, but the third renter refuses to move. She has been evicted but she is not moving due to the moratorium enacted by the state.

413 Warner was rented without requesting a rental license.

Mike feels the city is against him and he thinks it is unfair.

Susannah explained that the council could take action to prepare a conjunction if they proceed with the complaint. If an injunction is filed, the house cannot be rented. Mike is not following city ordinances and this process takes 30 days after service of complaint for the person to respond.

If the variance request is submitted to the council, it can be reviewed at the September meeting.

Parent reviewed the situation. Start the process, Mike has the right to submit a variance request so two processes could be going on at the same time.

There are two issues. A right to a variance, public hearing, rental in violation of ordinances. Mike has had information at least three times and chosen to ignore the information. The injunction can be filed and a request for a variance can be submitted.

Parent made the motion to move forward with the conjunction. Baglio seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Mike can submit a request for a variance hearing in the meantime.

SPEED LIMIT ON WARNER

Parent received information on Warner Ave from Mahtomedi concerning the studies on this street. The speed limit signs are 30 mph. Mahtomedi has done a traffic study on Warner Road and the question now is if Willernie can accept their study. Susannah informed the council that the study done by Mahtomedi can be accepted by the City of Willernie.

Soderlund moved to accept Mahtomedi's traffic study and lower the speed limit to 25 mph on Warner Road South. Siver seconded the motion. Everyone voted to pass this motion with the exception of DeJong who voted no.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Parent thanked Patrick Miller for the tremendous amount of work he did to make the golf tournament a success. She also thanked Baglio, Soderlund and Celeste Klein for the volunteer hours they spent at the tournament.

Parent wanted to thank the players for making the golf tournament a great success. Willernie made approximately \$2000. This money goes for fire hydrants which cost \$8000 for each unit.

The date for next year's tournament is August 13th, 2022, so mark your calendars for another fun event.

ORDINANCE MEETING

The next ordinance meeting will be August 25th at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

ZOOM OR NOT

The ruling right now is that a public location must have the meetings in that building. Since Willernie owns the building and it is a public location the council should meet at that location. Zoom can also be done for the residents and council members if they cannot attend the meeting.

BOND REQUEST

Parent explained that she met with Les and Rick to start the paperwork on the bond application. It is very complicated and will take some time to complete the process.

YARDS IN VIOLATION OF ORDINANCES

Siver wrote up six cars on grass and hasn't heard from any of them. 307 Stewart has 2 sheds on the property, and it has been sold so the new owner should be notified that one shed will need to be removed. Soderlund will notify the new owner of this problem.

The other residents are working on their problems. Langseth and Tschida are removing the items requested before the pretrial. They are both aware of the time frame and have committed to completing the clean up in that time frame.

Patraw did not appear at the hearing. They did not issue a warrant, but if he does not appear at the next hearing a warrant will be issued.

RICK REPORT

There is a bill for the extra asphalt from Schifsky's due to the drain on Faversham. The drain on Chippenham seems to be working well and the asphalt is complete.

Parent moved to pay the extra \$2500 for the asphalt. Soderlund seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The roof at City Hall needs to be replaced and Rick asked permission to acquire bids on the roof from the Council. The leaf vac motor is fixed and now it needs to be put together, so Rick is working on that project. Hopefully the leaf vac will be up and running before the leaves start falling.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Soderlund moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Baglio seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria R. Keating
Clerk-Treasurer