

City of Willow Springs

Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, March 16, 2023
City Hall Council Chambers, 5:30 pm

HEARING

104 E Main – Main Street Willow Springs:

Mayor Fair opened the public hearing at 5:30 pm.

City Administrator Beverly Hicks announced that after numerous meetings with Main Street Willow Springs (MSWS) and the Willow Springs Community Foundation (WSCF), she believes that a solution has been reached with a funding package to immediately secure the building. Hicks further stated that the parties have signed a Memorandum of Understanding as a letter of intent. Hicks added that the City is concerned for public safety and that the dangerous building declaration would move with the building, regardless of the owner.

Dean Aye appeared on behalf of WSCF. Aye informed the Building Commission that they are having difficulty securing funding and the repair will take some time to complete. Aye also stated that the WSCF is pursuing other vendors and requesting bids for work to begin May 1, but will be present at each meeting to provide updates.

Jeff Conger appeared on behalf of MSWS, giving a brief explanation of why MSWS is not satisfied with where they are with the building, but it was the overall goal of MSWS to save the building for public safety and preserve the downtown area. Conger further stated that the main issues for MSWS being unsuccessful in securing funding is that the organization is not old enough and does not have enough money flow to satisfy banks.

Hicks added if the City took on the project, the current timeline couldn't be met. City Attorney Zane Privette proposed the Building Commission table making a formal decision for 90 days.

The Building Commission unanimously agreed to table the matter to June 15, 2023, at 5:30 pm.

Mayor Fair closed the hearing at 5:50 pm.

Present: Mayor Brooke Fair, Alderman Danny Bradley, Alderman Kim Rich, Alderman David Collins, Alderman Phill Knott, City Attorney Zane Privette, City Clerk Heather Duddridge, Police Chief Wes Ellison, Assistant Police Chief Alan Lewis.

Guest: Dean Aye, Jeff Conger, Christy Graves, Emmy Jenson, Frank Vanhorn, Adam Webb, Nick Tooley, Vance Farmer, Dustin Roberts, Susan Rackley, Amanda Mendez, Kimberly Langston, Shane Mayberry, Anna Mayberry, Mary Jones, Hanna Borchard.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM

City Clerk Heather Duddridge called the roll.

Mayor Brooke Fair opened the meeting of the Board of Alderman at 5:51 pm with a quorum present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

City Administrator Beverly Hicks requested an amendment to the agenda under New Business to reschedule the April meeting due to an alderman being absent.

Motion by Alderman Knott, second by Alderman Bradley to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Alderman Rich, second by Alderman Collins to approve the Consent Agenda which included Approval of Minutes – (RM 2/16), Approval of Bills for Payment, Receipt of Financial Reports, and YMCA, Department Head's & Board's Reports. Motion carried 4-0.

VISITORS

Christy Gaves – Downtown Beautification: Christy Graves appeared before the Council as a member of Main Street Willow Springs (MSWS), a citizen, and a business owner. Graves posed the question of who is holding the City accountable for downtown revitalization, beautification, and economic development.

Graves stated that she received information from Main Street America regarding the impact of empty buildings downtown. Alderman Kim Rich stated that a database was built to list all empty buildings downtown for future new businesses. City Administrator Beverly Hicks added that most new businesses coming to Willow Springs are looking for an empty lot, not an existing building.

Graves gave a general overview of obstacles that MSWS has faced, including fundraising, startup costs, and what she believed to be a lack of support from the City. With the City already supporting the Chamber, YMCA, and Library, she was also present to request financial support from the City on behalf of MSWS. City Administrator Beverly Hicks encouraged her to put together a proposal and come back to Council.

Graves further addressed the issue of a welcome sign or a sign directing visitors to the downtown area. Alderman Kim Rich stated that it was included in a chamber grant that was denied. Susan Rackley was present as part of an outside committee and stated that the group felt defeated after seeing the pricing for a sign. School Board Member Adam Webb was present and stated that the school can make signs. Frank Vanhorn was also present and stated that he also has the ability to make signs.

Graves concluded by asking the Council to take downtown into consideration. No action was taken by Council at this time.

Shane & Anna Mayberry – Downtown Parking: Shane Mayberry was present regarding the removal of eight parking spaces near the 4-way stop, which was approved in the October council meeting, and requested the Council's reconsideration.

General discussion took place regarding the issue of semi-trucks downtown, incorrect GPS, and the City revisiting the issue. City Administrator Beverly Hicks informed Mayberry that it would

be brought back to Council once an alternate plan was in place after obtaining the input of downtown business owners. No action was taken by Council at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Willow Springs Fire Department Air Pack Demonstration: Fire Chief Vance Farmer, along with firemen Adam Webb and Nick Tooley were present to provide a demonstration with the new air packs. Chief Farmer informed Council that five air packs were purchased with the \$50,000.00 they were awarded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Safety features provided by the new air packs include thermal imaging cameras, Bluetooth capability to provide hands-free communication with new radios, fewer steps to change tanks resulting in faster times to return to the fire, share air with other firefighters, built-in temperature sensors that alarm when the fire is too hot, and a heads-up in the mask to show alerts directly in the firefighter's line of sight.

Electric Department Truck Bids: Electric Supervisor Nick Tooley informed Council that he reached out to three vendors for quotes, but only received bids from two companies.

Drake-Scruggs 40-foot versalift	\$186,982.00	
Drake-Scruggs 47-foot versalift	\$197,765.00	
Altec 40-foot, guaranteed in 2023	\$181,461.00	(exclusive offer to City of Willow Springs)
Altec 40-foot, guaranteed in 2025	\$200,496.00	

Tooley stated that all trucks include a crane and a material handler, which will take the load off other trucks in the current fleet to extend longevity. Tooley stated that the oldest truck is a 1999 model and is beginning to show age in the specialties, but the general truck operation is still in good condition. Tooley added that an advantage to purchasing a truck from Altec is that their parts arrive next day.

Motion by Alderman Collins, second by Alderman Knott to purchase the Altec 40-foot truck at \$181,461.00. Motion carried 4-0.

Recreational Marijuana Ordinance Revisions: City Administrator Beverly Hicks informed the Council that this is a continuation from discussions that took place in the February meeting regarding the passage of Amendment 3 in the November 2022 general election. Hicks also stated that all cities are going through the adoption of updated ordinances to define and include certain restrictions for the usage of recreational marijuana.

Hicks also briefly discussed other issues with the passage of amendment 3 and informed Council that more ordinance updates would come in following months.

Motion by Alderman Collins, second by Alderman Knott to read Bill No. 90-23. Motion carried 4-0 and the clerk read Bill No. 90-23.

BILL NO. 90-23

ORDINANCE NO. 1590

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLOW SPRINGS RESTRICTING PUBLIC SMOKING AND CONSUMPTION OF MARIJUANA

Motion by Alderman Collins, second by Alderman Knott to read Bill No. 90-23 as Ordinance No. 1590. Motion carried 4-0 and the clerk read Ordinance No. 1590.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLOW SPRINGS
RESTRICTING PUBLIC SMOKING AND CONSUMPTION OF MARIJUANA**

Motion by Alderman Collins, second by Alderman Knott to adopt Ordinance No. 1590. A roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Bradley, Rich, Collins, Knott

Nays: None.

Reschedule April Meeting: After brief discussion, the meeting was rescheduled to April 18, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

Public and Media Questions: Kimberly Langston was present from the West Plains Daily Quill, but did not have any questions. Amanda Mendez was present from the Howell County News with questions, which were addressed by Council, City Administrator Beverly Hicks, and City Clerk Heather Duddridge. There were no questions from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Alderman Bradley, second by Alderman Knott to move to executive session for (1) Legal pursuant to §610.021. A roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Rich, Collins, Knott, Bradley

Nays: None.

The meeting moved into Executive Session at 7:07 pm and adjourned at 7:30 pm with no action taken.

Motion by Alderman Rich, second by Alderman Collins to adjourn closed session at 7:30 pm. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Alderman Rich, second by Alderman Collins to adjourn open session at 7:31 pm. Motion carried 4-0.




Heather Duddridge, City Clerk

CITY OF WILLOW SPRINGS



Brooke Fair, Mayor