

City of Willow Springs

Regular Council Meeting **Thursday, October 19, 2023** **City Hall Council Chambers, 5:30 pm**

Present: Mayor Brooke Fair, Alderman Danny Bradley, Alderman Kim Rich, Alderman Tyler Morris, Alderman Phill Knott, City Attorney Zane Privette, City Administrator Beverly Hicks, City Clerk Heather Tooley, Police Chief Wes Ellison

Guest: Dean Aye, Amanda Wade, Kelli Neel, Vance Farmer, Nick Tooley, Scott Stilley, Brent Lovelace, Shane Collins, Robert Hollis, Wendell Bailey, Ann Hines, John Bailey, Steve Schwandt

ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM

City Clerk Heather Tooley called the roll.

Mayor Brooke Fair opened the meeting of the Board of Alderman at 5:30 pm with a quorum present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Alderman Knott, second by Alderman Rich to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Alderman Knott, second by Alderman Bradley to approve the Consent Agenda which included Approval of Minutes – (RM 9/21), Approval of Bills for Payment, Receipt of Financial Reports, and YMCA, Department Head’s & Board’s Reports. Motion carried 4-0.

VISITORS

Willow Springs Electric and Fire Departments: Fire Chief Vance Farmer gave a brief presentation of the new pumper tanker truck for the fire department. Electric Supervisor Nick Tooley gave a brief presentation of the new bucket truck for the electric department.

No action was taken by Council.

Christos House: Kelli Neel and Amanda Wade from Christos House presented information regarding the mission of Christos House and domestic violence awareness. Mayor Brooke Fair signed a Proclamation declaring October 2023 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. A photo was taken of the Board of Aldermen, Kelli Neel, and Amanda Wade.

Wendell Bailey: Wendell Bailey was present to discuss a potential city park on Turner Drive. Bailey informed Council that he visited with Trent Courtney of SCOCOG, understanding that once the houses were demolished and the ground was smooth the properties belonged to the City.

Bailey further stated that he met with Terri Elmore of the YMCA regarding their needs, such as soccer fields, tennis courts, baseball fields, and restroom facilities.

City Administrator Beverly Hicks stated that the City is in total support of what the YMCA needs. Hicks also stated that her understanding is that the Department of Economic Development (DED) will eventually have grant funding available to facilitate parks and recreation in the areas that were purchased through the flood buyout program. Hicks added that the current process must be completed to receive a notice from the DED to proceed and have a solid plan rather than piecing it together.

No action was taken by Council.

EXISTING BUSINESS

104 E Main McClellan Building Discussion and Update: Dean Aye was present on behalf of the Willow Springs Community Foundation (WSCF), informing the Council that he recently met with representatives from Rio Contracting and MTS Contracting. Aye stated that a plan was outlined to build an interior wall to support each floor, disconnect the exterior wall and replace the roof. Work is anticipated to begin around the first of December, with completion by the end of January 2024.

Then in the spring, Aye stated that the brick exterior wall would be replaced, and the building entrance size would be reduced to provide more support for the upper wall. Aye added that this renovation will be similar to how the Ferguson Building was repaired. Aye further stated that he believes this project can be done well within WSCF's budget.

No action was taken by Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Hay Bids: City Administrator Beverly Hicks informed Council that the City went out for bid on a 5-year hay lease and sealed bids were opened on October 13, 2023 at 4:00 pm. Hicks stated that the City received bids from Stoney Creek Ranch at \$4,350.00 annually and Stolba Farms at \$2,375.00 annually. Hicks added that it was her recommendation to sign the lease with Stoney Creek due to having the highest bid and being familiar with FAA regulations with mowing hay at the airport due to being the hay lease holder for the last 5 years.

Motion by Alderman Rich, second by Alderman Morris to read Bill No. 102-23 as Resolution No. 23-102. Motion carried 4-0 and the clerk read Bill No. 102-23 as Resolution No. 23-102.

BILL NO. 102-23

RESOLUTION NO. 23-102

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WILLOW SPRINGS, MISSOURI AND STONEY CREEK RANCH FOR HAY HARVESTING

Motion by Alderman Rich, second by Alderman Morris to adopt Resolution No. 23-102. A roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Bradley, Rich, Morris, Knott
Nays: None.

Establishment of Public Safety Advisory Committee: Alderman Kim Rich stated that she didn't feel it was right for PSAC to meet until there was an official ordinance establishing PSAC, outlining their duties and outlining terms of office. Rich added that she prepared the ordinance based on the City's ordinance regarding Planning & Zoning, along with PSAC samples from other cities and the aid of City Attorney Zane Privette.

Motion by Alderman Bradley, second by Alderman Knott to read Bill No. 97-23. Motion carried 4-0 and the clerk read Bill No. 97-23.

BILL NO. 97-23

ORDINANCE NO. 1597

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLOW SPRINGS REVISING
CHAPTER 123: BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
OF THE WILLOW SPRINGS MUNICIPAL CODE**

Motion by Alderman Bradley, second by Alderman Morris to read Bill No. 97-23 as Ordinance No. 1597. Motion carried 4-0 and the clerk read Ordinance No. 1597.

BILL NO. 97-23

ORDINANCE NO. 1597

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLOW SPRINGS REVISING
CHAPTER 123: BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
OF THE WILLOW SPRINGS MUNICIPAL CODE**

Motion by Alderman Bradley, second by Alderman Knott to adopt Ordinance No. 1597. A roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Rich, Morris, Knott, Bradley
Nays: None.

Initial 2024 Budget Discussion: City Administrator Beverly Hicks presented the first draft of the proposed 2024 Budget, stating that after the first calculation she was within \$3,000.00 of balancing. Hicks highlighted some areas of focus, such as continuing to stay involved with the Missouri Public Utility Alliance (MPUA) with electric grid planning.

Hicks stated that water and sewer rates will be evaluated due to the continuous change in regulations from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), causing sewer expenses alone to increase by 31%. The last increase to water and sewer rates was by \$0.50 on the base rate and \$0.14 for every 1000 gallons each year from 2017 to 2019.

Hicks further stated that more smoke testing of the sewer main will be conducted in 2024, along with the replacement of the Sunshine Drive lift station.

A special budget work session was scheduled for Monday, November 6, 2023 at 5:30 pm to discuss the 2024 draft budget in more detail. No further action was taken by Council.

Public and Media Questions: There were no questions from the public and there was no one from the media present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

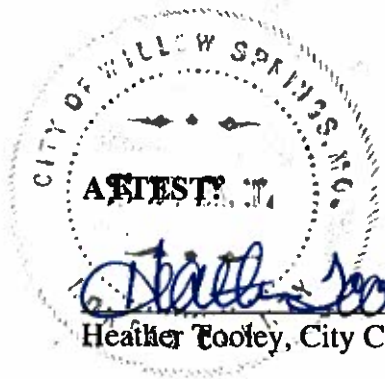
Motion by Alderman Morris, second by Alderman Knott to move to executive session for (1) Legal, (2) Real Estate, (3) Personnel pursuant to §610.021. A roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Morris, Knott, Bradley, Rich

Nays: None.

The meeting moved into Executive Session at 6:36 pm and adjourned at 7:33 pm with no action taken.

Motion by Alderman Rich, second by Alderman Morris to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 pm. Motion carried 4-0.



Heather Tooley, City Clerk

CITY OF WILLOW SPRINGS



Brooke Fair, Mayor