

City of Wilmont
Regular Council Meeting
September 9th, 2025

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by Mayor, Josh Balster at 6:00 pm in the Wilmont Community Center, 316 4th Avenue. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council Present: Alicia Entinger, Tom Slater, Isaac Joens, Carolyn Penning & Mayor Josh Balster

Guests and Staff: Chuck Vaske, Gene Bertrand, Amber Bertrand & Steve Joens

Absent:

Agenda: Alicia Entinger moved to accept the agenda with additions and was seconded by Tom Slater. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Minutes: Isaac Joens made a motion to approve the minutes from August 13, 2025 and was seconded by Alicia Entinger. All in favor. Motion carried.

Time Sheets: Time sheets look good and no questions arose. Carolyn Penning made a motion to approve time sheets, seconded by Tom Slater. All in favor, Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Amber Bertrand presented the treasurers report – All looked like normal transactions and no questions arose. Isaac Joens made a motion to accept the financial report along with Bank Statements and to pay the remaining bills and also to pay the operating bills that are received after the council meeting including the fire department bills. Motion seconded by Carolyn Penning. All in favor. Motion carried.

Nobles County Sheriff Report: No one present – nothing to discuss.

Maintenance Report: Steve Joens gave the report – Steve got a quote from AJ's Tree Service for removing the tree in the alley behind the Community Center/Fire Hall area and that came in at \$750 and he is getting quotes from other companies. Amber is looking into available grants that might help with removing Ash Trees & planting new trees on City Property & Boulevards. Alicia Entinger made motion to go ahead with the Ash Tree Grant and was seconded by Tom Slater, all in favor, motion carried. Steve will need to go around and mark all Ash Trees on City Property and in the Boulevards. Old Plow Truck did get sold on Auction. Steve hasn't heard about the big tractor for snow removal yet but did call and leave them a message. Isaac Joens made motion to approve the maintenance report and was seconded by Tom Slater. All in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department Report: Working on the truck yet to get it completed for use. The Fire Department did receive a Grant from State Farm for \$10,000 to go towards new gear. Alicia Entinger made motion to approve the Fire Department Report and was seconded by Isaac Joens. All in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk Report: Amber gave the Clerk report – Amber had received a letter from the State in regards to the Connection Fee for residents will be increasing 1/1/26. New rate will be \$15.22 per year and will be divided by 12 so residents will see a small increase on their Utility billings. This is not something the City can opt out of so Amber was just informing the Council of that change. Tom Slater made motion to approve the Clerks Report and was seconded by Alicia Entinger All in favor. Motion carried.

On a motion by Carolyn Penning and seconded by Alicia Entinger it was duly passed to approve Resolution 2025-12 Authorizing Charitable Gambling for OLGC, all in favor, motion carried.

On a motion by Tom Slater and Isaac Joens it was duly passed to accept the updated Sheriff Contract with the City. Monthly fee will stay the same the only thing that was updated was some liability wording stating that the Sheriff Office is liable for themselves and not the City. This was brought on by the insurance company.

Chuck Vaske was present to ask if the City was aware that Steve Joens was using City Property for personal use. Chucks complaint is in regards to Steve removing a bush for a family member. Steve stated that he thought the Council approved

that if an elderly person needed help with picking up trees that he could do that and he stated he was in the area with the JCB and it was hot outside so just grabbed the bush that was needing to be removed. Chuck also mentioned that he has seen Steve swoop into another family members driveway during winter time to help remove snow from the driveway and that he has seen and has pictures of Steve using the JCB to move a water heater(s) from a residential house up to the business. Alicia has had complaints of some of these things as well from other people in the community. Council told Steve that City property can only be used for City work. If there is a storm and people put large branches to the curb then Steve can go around and pick those up. If someone else asks for help with things like this going forward they need to contact Amber at City Hall.

Gene Bertrand was present to discuss Cyber Security and the risks it can pose. He asked the Council if they would be willing to let him look into dual factor login. Gene plans to look into grants that may be available to get dual factor or if no grants will let City know what it would cost. On a motion by Alicia Entinger and seconded by Tom Slater it was duly passed to have Gene look more into the Cyber Security safety measures which includes the dual factor login and to still do a monthly hard copy backup of the City computer. All in favor, motion carried.

Budget – Council started with employee reviews so on a motion by Tom Slater and seconded by Alicia Entinger it was duly passed to close meeting at 6:32pm to do the reviews. On a motion by Carolyn Penning and Tom Slater it was duly passed to open meeting back up at 7:29 pm. Council did approve a raise for Amber (which Lismore had approved at their meeting) and a raise for Steve. Council went through the budget and came up with a 20% increase from last years Levy amount. This is just the preliminary budget and levy so could possibly decrease when the final budget is set in December but for now on a motion by Tom Slater and seconded by Isaac Joens it was duly passed to increase the levy/budget by 20%. All in favor, motion carried.

Old Business: Windows: Amber gave the cost of windows to Brian and is just waiting to hear back from him.

Chicken Ordinance – no new updates.

Cemetery Land – Nothing has been heard back from the Church, will leave on agenda until final decision is made.

There being no further business, Tom Slater made a motion to adjourn.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Amber Bertrand, City Clerk

Note: These minutes are proposed and are subject to change.