

CITY OF WILLARD  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 14, 2023  
7:00 p.m.

Staff present: Director of Finance, Carolyn Halverson; Police Officer, JD Landon; Project Engineer, Steve Bodenhamer; Chief of Police, Tom McClain; Police Officer Mark Cole; and City Clerk, Dona Slater.

Attorney Jake Spindler was in attendance.

Citizens in attendance: Jim Vaughn, Joshua Breeze, Steve Cobb, and Debbie Ihrig.

**Call to Order.**

Mayor Snider called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Roll Call.**

The City Clerk conducted the Roll Call.

Alderman Smith-present, Alderman Swatosh-present, Alderman Hendrickson-present, Alderman Hall-present, and Mayor Snider-present. Alderman Keene-not present, Alderman Baird-not present.

**Agenda Amendments/Approval of Agenda**

Motion was made by Alderman Swatosh and seconded by Alderman Smith to approve the Agenda.

Motion carried with a vote of 4-0. Voting aye: Aldermen Hendrickson, Smith, Hall, and Swatosh.

**Consent Agenda**

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and seconded by Alderman Hall to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion carried with a vote of 4-0. Voting aye: Aldermen Hendrickson, Smith, Hall, and Swatosh.

**Current and Outstanding Invoices, and Draft and Check Paid Invoices for July/August 2023. Discussion/Vote**

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and seconded by Alderman Hall to approve the Current Outstanding Invoices, and Draft and Check Paid Invoices for July/August 2023.

Motion carried with a vote of 4-0. Voting aye: Aldermen Hendrickson, Smith, Hall, and Swatosh.

**Citizen Input**

Debbie Ihrig – 511 Osage St. – She thanked City employees and the Board of Aldermen for their support and help in getting additional speed limit signs put up in her neighborhood.

Jim Vaughn – 199 Sparrow Ln. – He saw in the last packet about debt service and doesn't understand what the City is doing. He feels the City is making no attempt to pay the debt on the pool and is only paying the interest. He said the City is thinking about spending millions of dollars for a sewer system that the City doesn't have. He thinks something is being hidden and wants a City audit of all finances. Ms. Halverson, Director of Finance addressed his concerns. The City has a financial audit each spring.

**Appointment of Joshua Breeze to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Discussion/Vote**

Joshua Breeze applied for appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The next P&Z meeting is to be held August 22, 2023. The Commission needs at least seven (7) members and currently only has six (6) members.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and seconded by Alderman Hendrickson to appoint Joshua Breeze to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion carried with a vote of 4-0. Voting aye: Aldermen Hendrickson, Smith, Hall, and Swatosh.

**Recommendation of new employee by Chief Tom McClain. Discussion/Vote**

Chief Tom McClain stated that the Board passed a recruitment agreement in June. He took this agreement to police students at the academy. His tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) open position has been filled by a graduate so there are no academy costs to the City for that employee. He interviewed potential candidate Danielle Cale. She is doing well at the academy, and he feels she will be a great fit for the Willard Police Department. He recommends hiring her while she is completing the academy under the recruitment agreement. The Department of Justice recommends 2.5 officers per one thousand (1,000) citizens and we are currently at 1.5. Hiring an eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) officer puts us at 1.7. Chief McClain believes we need twelve (12) officers. This would put us at 1.85 officers per one thousand (1,000) citizens.

He pursued a universal hiring grant, but it was not awarded. Alderman Smith asked if it is in the budget for a twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) officer. Ms. Halverson, Director of Finance, said it is in the budget.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and seconded by Alderman Hendrickson to approve the hiring of Danielle Cale under the recruitment agreement.

Motion carried with a vote of 4-0. Voting aye: Aldermen Swatosh, Hendrickson, Smith, and Hall.

**Approval of agreement with Lumix Electrical, Inc. for Variable Frequency Drive installation at Lift Station 94.**

**Discussion/Vote**

Mr. Bodenhamer said a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) was ordered and paid for with ARPA funds a year ago. It has now arrived and needs to be installed. It is more complicated than wiring a house. Alderman Swatosh asked if Lumix would do concrete and Mr. Bodenhamer responded yes.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and seconded by Alderman Hendrickson to approve the agreement with Lumix Electrical, Inc. for installation of a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) at Lift Station 94.

Motion carried with a vote of 4-0. Voting aye: Aldermen Hendrickson, Smith, Hall, and Swatosh.

**Withdrawal of State Revolving Fund Application. Discussion/Vote.**

Mr. Bodenhamer said that former Director of Planning and Zoning, Randy Brown made application to the State Revolving Fund (SRF) in April 2022 for financing two (2) sanitary sewer projects. Application was also made through Congressman Billy Long's office for community grant funding. The community grant for this project was awarded. Therefore, currently, State Revolving Funding (SRF) is not required.

Motion was made by Alderman Smith and seconded by Alderman Hendrickson to withdraw the application to the State Revolving Fund (SRF) at this time.

Motion carried with a vote of 4-0. Voting aye: Aldermen Hendrickson, Smith, Hall, and Swatosh.

**Sanitary Sewer Projects Status Report**

Mr. Bodenhamer distributed a memorandum of the "94" Lift Station Upgrade and Force Main Replacement Project detailing the inadequacies of the current system and the proposed measures to upgrade. The project has an estimated cost of \$3,722,900. He gave a breakdown of the funding sources and said to proceed the City needs a \$750,000 match. He stated the City may need to re-finance Certificates of Participation (COP) and could re-finance for short-term and try for an early pay-off. Alderman Hendrickson asked what is short-term and Mr. Bodenhamer said ten (10) years.

**New Business**

None.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**Adjourn Meeting**

Motion was made by Alderman Hall and seconded by Alderman Smith to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried with a vote of 4-0. Voting aye: Aldermen Swatosh, Smith, Hall, and Hendrickson.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

  
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Dona Slater, City Clerk

  
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Samuel Snider, Mayor