

CITY OF WILDER, KENTUCKY

June 19, 2023

City Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Wilder City Council was held on Monday, June 19, 2023 at the Wilder City Building, 520 Licking Pike, Wilder, Kentucky 41071.

Lords Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Roll Call:

Roll call was answered by Councilwoman Kelly Meiser, Councilwoman Sandy Decker, Councilman Jim Proffitt, and Councilman Bob Blankenship.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion of Councilwoman Decker, seconded by Councilman Blankenship to approve the minutes of June 5, 2023 Regular Meeting. Mayor Jones called for a vote. Motion carried.

Mayor Jones opening comments:

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Thanked Councilwoman Meiser for sharing her knowledge on the insurance industry and meeting with her and City Administrator Vance last week regarding the budget.
- Mayor Jones gave an overview of her strategy for the FY24 budget. Mayor Jones stated her job as Mayor is to prepare a budget. She feels she has prepared a fiscally and sound budget. She has taken a conservative approach on the revenue. Mayor Jones wanted to remind everyone the areas which influenced this conservative strategy.
 - Last year the NKADD recommended a much higher tangible tax rate because of the loss of tangible assessments. The city had to make a variance of over \$200,000 resulting in a 64% hike on the businesses. The current tangible tax rate is the highest the city has had to impose in 6 years.
 - Tenaris has filed on time this year but their assessment is down over \$40 million. This will have an impact on the tangible tax rate.
 - Some councilmembers have shown interest in lowering the tangible and real tax rates. This can only be accomplished with conservative numbers to offset any adjustments.
 - Pay is typically a personnel matter and is set in compliance with the established pay ranges, input from the leadership team, the personnel policy and the extensive analysis she did to make sure all pay for all employees is fair and comparable. It is up to the leadership team to adjust their departments pay.
 - The city has made great strides with the retention agreement for all first responders; the fire fighters have all signed their agreements, and a nice raise has been budgeted for all employees. She revised and increased the contractual pay for the police.

- Establish a Recruitment Strategy Plan.

Mayor Jones adjustments can be made to the budget, as needed.

City Administrator Vance reminded council that the debt service payment for the firehouse and quint was moved to capital. In order to fund that every year, the city will need to use the carryover from general to pay the debt service bills. If there is no carryover, funds will have to be set aside for the debt service payments.

Attorney's Report:

Attorney Verst presented Ordinance No. 23-0601: **An Ordinance adopting the City of Wilder, Kentucky's annual budget for Fiscal Year 07/01/2023 through 6/30/2024 by estimating revenues and appropriating funds for the operation of City Government. (Second Reading)**

Councilwoman Meiser proposed an idea to council regarding the budget. She stated based off the salary survey there are a few employees that are on the low end of their salary.

Councilwoman Meiser met with City Administrator Vance and Mayor Jones last week and asked them to raise the insurance premium \$22,323. She stated based off of her research the insurance premium's revenue could be as much as \$1,000,000 next year. She asked council to increase the insurance premium and she proposed that five individual's salaries be increased.

Discussion ensued regarding making a change to the budget.

Councilman Blankenship asked since there has already been one reading; if there are changes does there have to be another first reading.

Attorney Verst stated if there isn't substantial changes to the budget, they would not have to have another first reading.

Council and Attorney Verst agreed that \$22,323 was not substantial changes and they could use the first reading from the last meeting.

Councilman Profitt agreed with Councilwoman Meiser that adding \$23,323 wasn't a substantial change and he would like to see the five employees on the low end of their yearly salary receive the extra money. Councilwoman Meiser and Councilwoman Decker agreed with Councilman Profitt.

City Administrator Vance stated the changes to the budget; the new budgeted amount is \$5,150,295. City Administrator Vance stated if the changes are approved by council this was the number they were approving.

Upon motion of Councilwoman Meiser, seconded by Councilman Profitt to approve Ordinance No. 23-0601: **An Ordinance adopting the City of Wilder, Kentucky's annual budget for Fiscal Year 07/01/2023 through 6/30/2024 by estimating revenues and appropriating funds for the operation of City Government. (Second Reading) Mayor Jones called for a vote.**

Councilwoman Decker	Yes
Councilman Profitt	Yes
Councilwoman Meiser	Yes
Councilman Blankenship	Yes

Motion carried.

The budget was approved with changes proposed by Councilwoman Meiser.

Attorney Verst presented Ordinance No. 23-0602: An Ordinance of the City of Wilder, in Campbell County, Kentucky, amending previously adopted Ordinances imposing regulations and taxes on those engaged in franchises, trades, occupations, professions and other businesses. (Second Reading)

Upon motion of Councilman Blankenship, seconded by Councilwoman Decker to approve Ordinance No. 23-0602: **An Ordinance of the City of Wilder, in Campbell County, Kentucky, amending previously adopted Ordinances imposing regulations and taxes on those engaged in franchises, trades, occupations, professions and other businesses. (Second Reading) Mayor Jones called for a vote. Motion carried.**

Attorney Verst presented Ordinance No. 23-0603: An Ordinance amending the personnel policy by adopting, updating and revising the pay plan for the City of Wilder, Kentucky. (First Reading)

Discussion ensued regarding the new pay plan.

Councilwoman Meiser compared the 22/23 pay plan to the 23/24 pay plan and she thought some salaries could be higher. She also said the high end salary for firefighter/paramedic is the starting pay for other departments. Councilwoman Meiser stated there were a couple salaries on the pay plan that were lower than what the position is paying today.

City Administrator Vance stated changes need to be made to the pay plan. A new pay plan will be sent to council before the next meeting.

Upon motion of Councilwoman Decker, seconded by Councilman Blankenship to approve Ordinance No. 23-0603: **An Ordinance amending the personnel policy by adopting, updating and revising the pay plan for the City of Wilder, Kentucky. (First Reading) Mayor Jones called for a vote. Motion carried.**

Attorney Verst presented Ordinance No. 23-0604: An Ordinance amending the City of Wilder personnel policy by adding the position of crew leader for the Public Works Department for the City of Wilder, Kentucky. (First Reading)

Upon motion of Councilman Proffitt, seconded by Councilwoman Decker to approve Ordinance No. 23-0604: **An Ordinance amending the City of Wilder personnel policy by adding the position of crew leader for the Public Works Department for the City of Wilder, Kentucky. (First Reading)**

City Administrator Report:

- Nothing to report.

Assistant City Administrator Report:

- The tenant at 521 Licking Pike moved out.
- Public Works is moving the sand from the sand volleyball court.
- There has been progress on the landscaping project.
- Campbell County Library visited the splash pad on June 14. It went very well.
- Thanked the fire department for their help with setting up for active aging.
- Updated the TV monitor with new rules and added audio.
- There are new signs around the splash pad. Thanked Juanita for her help with the signs.
- Thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers in the loss of Mary Ann's brother.

Department Reports:

Treasurer Report:

- Paul Maddox, the City's Auditor, will be coming in the week of September 11, 2023 to start the FY23 audit.

Upon motion of Councilman Blankenship, seconded by Councilwoman Meiser to approve the financial reports and authorize payment of the bills for General Fund ending May 2023. Mayor Jones called for a vote. Motion carried.

Police Chief Comments:

- A Cybersecurity event will be held at the city on September 13; 2023 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Ryan Wielgus is continuing his field training and doing very well.
- Sergeant Collins shared an alert from the FBI regarding a car scam; be cautious when purchasing a car from a private party.

Mayor Jones thanked Chief Martin for organizing the cybersecurity event.

Fire Chief Comments:

- A volunteer with the fire department will be selling discounted cards through Wilder.

Mayor Jones comments:

Old Business:

- Matt Elberfeld from the Campbell County Fiscal Court will be attending the October meeting to discuss the partnership with the city.
- Fischer update was published to the community.
- Municipal Power Hour is Tuesday from 11:00 to 12:00.

New Business:

- Mayor Jones and City Administrator Vance will be meeting with Fred Macke, commercial real estate agent, regarding the property across the street. This does involve economic development. Mayor Jones will be reaching out to Councilman Murphy and Councilman Blankenship regarding the meeting.
- Mayor Jones is exploring some seasonal flags around the city.
- Thanked Councilman Profitt for his input on the road repairs.
- Opioid Settlement update - There will be another disbursement to the city by the end of 2023.

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Meiser:

- Thanked everyone for all of their work on the budget.
- Councilwoman Meiser would like council to approve a new pay scale each year.

Councilwoman Decker:

- No comment.

Councilman Blankenship:

- Thanked everyone for all their work on the budget.

Councilman Murphy:

- Not in attendance.

Councilman Williams:

- Not in attendance.

Councilman Profitt:

- Thanked everyone for all their work on the budget.
- Councilman Profitt stated he would like to hold off on some of the capital improvements; especially the improvements to the council chambers.


Open Forum:

- Tom Everson - 98 Three Mile Road. Mr. Everson asked council if they have heard anything from Family Worship Center.
 - Assistant City Administrator Norris stated he has not heard back from Family Worship Center. He will reach back out to them.
- Tom Asher – 450 Lakeview Drive. Mr. Asher asked if there was a tax deferment on the Fischer Development.
 - Mayor Jones and City Administrator Vance stated there is no tax deferment on the Fischer Development at this time.
- Darlene Spicer – Bentwood Hills. Ms. Spicer asked City Administrator Vance if there was any way to get a turn lane at Bentwood Hills at Mook Road. Ms. Spicer feels there is enough room to have a right and left turn lane marked on the street.
 - City Administrator Vance stated he will look into it.

Adjournment:

Upon motion of Councilwomen Decker, seconded by Councilman Blankenship to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Jones called for a vote. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m. The next meeting of the Wilder City Council will be held on Monday, July 10, 2023.



Valerie A. Jones, Mayor

ATTEST:



Juanita Schultz - City Clerk