

CITY OF WILDER, KENTUCKY

September 18, 2023

City Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Wilder City Council was held on Monday September 18, 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 Sandy Decker, Councilwoman Kelly Meiser, Councilman Brad Murphy and Councilman Jim Profit.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Mayor Jones opening comments:

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Welcomed Senator Frommeyer to the meeting. Senator Frommeyer will be recognizing Bobby Mackey for 45 years of business in Wilder, Kentucky.
- Thanked RJ for his help pulling the Music Fest together.
- Mayor Jones stated that council chambers was converted to a Radio Station last Friday. The MC for the Music Fest was HD Ainsworth; he was also the radio host. Mayor Jones thanked HD for everything he did for the city and the Music Fest.

Attorney's Report:

Attorney Verst was not in attendance.

City Administrator Vance presented Ordinance No. 23-0902: An Ordinance levying an ad valorem tax rate for the year of 2023 on all property real and personal in the City of Wilder, KY, setting the waste collection/recycling rate for 2024 on properties receiving curb side collection, levying an ad valorem tax rate on motor vehicles for 2023 in the City of Wilder, KY, establishing the rates therefore and adopting the Campbell County tax commissioner's assessment on said property and providing for a tax lien against all taxable property in the City of Wilder, Kentucky to secure the payment of said taxes. (Second Reading)

Upon motion of Councilman Profitt, seconded Councilwoman Decker to approve Ordinance No. 23-0902: **An Ordinance levying an ad valorem tax rate for the year of 2023 on all property real and personal in the City of Wilder, KY, setting the waste collection/recycling rate for 2024 on properties receiving curb side collection, levying an ad valorem tax rate on motor vehicles for 2023 in the City of Wilder, KY, establishing the rates therefore and adopting the Campbell County tax commissioner's assessment on said property and providing for a tax lien against all taxable property in the City of Wilder, Kentucky to secure the payment of said taxes. (Second Reading) Mayor Jones asked Juanita to take a roll call.**

Councilwoman Decker -	Yes
Councilwoman Meiser -	Yes
Councilman Murphy -	Yes
Councilman Profitt -	Yes

Motion carried.

The rate of taxation for the City of Wilder, Kentucky for year 2023 shall be 0.231 percent of each \$100 of assessed valuation for real estate, and 0.148 percent of each \$100 assessed valuation of motor vehicles, and 0.513 percent of assessed valuation for other personal property. All of said amount shall be and is hereby taxed for the general fund of the City.

Mayor Jones read a Proclamation to Celebrate the Constitution of the United States of America. Constitution week is September 17th through September 23rd. The Proclamation is filed with the City Clerk's office.

City Administrator Report:

- Pickleball courts are completed.
- Update on the streets – Colonel, Guardian, Town and Plum. We have engineer estimates and will be putting them out to bid.
- Campbell County Occupational License Department will attend the October 2nd meeting to present to council the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the County. They will also be attending the next Business Association Meeting.
- Fischer Update – Fischer is a little behind schedule. They will start putting streets down some time in October. The Earth work will be completed sometime in November. They hope to have construction started on the buildings in December. The next phase will be submitted in the next few months.

Discussion ensued regarding the Fischer Development.

Presentation to Bobby Mackey.

Mayor Jones thanked Bobby Mackey for an awesome event on Saturday.

Bobby Mackey was recognized for 45 years of business in Wilder, Kentucky. Senator Frommeyer presented Bobby Mackey with a plaque and Mayor Jones presented Bobby with a trophy.

Bobby Mackey thanked everyone for the kind words and the awards.

Department Reports:

Treasurer Report:

- Citywide yard sale – September 22nd, 23rd, and 24th.
- Delinquent taxes update – around \$1,300.
- Music Fest was very nice. Juanita thanked everyone who helped plan the event.

Mayor Jones thanked everyone for their help with the Music Fest. She stated there was a nice turnout and it was a big hit.

Police Chief Comments:

- A couple of police vehicles are down and need maintenance. The cost to fix the vehicles are high and not in the budget. Due to cars being unavailable we may be better purchasing new vehicles.
 - Mayor Jones stated the cost to the vehicles is not listed on the capital budget. Once a decision has been made regarding the vehicles, Mayor Jones will update council.
 - Councilwoman Decker stated several years ago the police would purchase 2 vehicles one year and the next year 1 vehicle. She asked why the city doesn't continue with this rotation of vehicles.

Mayor Jones stated she spoke to Chief Martin and City Administrator Vance regarding the city going back to this rotation of police vehicles.

Chief Martin will search for police vehicles to purchase.

Fire Chief Comments:

- Chief Neyman was not in attendance. Captain Lang was in attendance.
- Turkey Raffle is November 18, 2023.
- Thanked Council and Mayor Jones for hiring Firefighter/Paramedic Cruze. He is a great addition to the department.

Mayor Jones stated that Chief Neyman thanked everyone involved in the hiring of Firefighter/Paramedic Cruze. Chief Neyman also stated the first shift moral is off the charts. Mayor Jones stated Chief Neyman would be applying for the Safer Grant. The Safer Grant is a Federal Grant through FEMA. The grant application opens in October. Mayor Jones stated her goal is to hire two more Firefighter/EMT's.

Mayor Jones comments:*Old Business:*

- Capital Replacement Schedule is in your mailbox.
- Personnel Policy is almost complete.
- Mayor Jones and City Administrator Vance had a very good business meeting with Maxim. It was immediately clear when the CFO received Wilder's tangible tax bill last year, Maxim had to take a look at fleet management. Mayor Jones stated she does not expect an increase in their assessments over the next couple years. Our 2023 tangible assessment amount could be the new normal in years to come. The city will definitely need to take this into consideration next year in setting the new budget.
- City Tour update – Councilwoman Meiser stated she was interested in the tour. Mayor Jones stated to see City Administrator Vance to set up a time and date.

Mayor Jones stated there are no longer liaisons in the city. She wanted to clear this up. Mayor Jones also stated she came up with the title "Officials" based on areas of interest with each person on council. She thinks this is clouding matters on council, especially when it comes to separation of duties. Effective tonight there will no longer be Officials.

Councilwoman Meiser asked about the Budget Official. Mayor Jones stated there will not be a budget Official. She stated it is up to the Mayor to prepare the budget. Mayor Jones stated KLC told her to not have anyone in the budget area because it could confuse the roles and responsibilities.

Mayor Jones stated her door is always open if anyone on council would like to talk to her.

Mayor Jones is working with KLC to follow best practices. KLC offers a two hour training. They will come to the city to do the training.

New Business:

- Mayor Jones and City Administrator Vance met with Jason Reser regarding the Licking River Greenway Trail and Bike Trail. It was a great meeting. There will be another meeting in the next week.

Mayor Jones stated the funding for the new hire in fire was set aside and earmarked in the budget but was for a Firefighter/EMT, not a paramedic. The city hired a paramedic. The add-on money council approved for salary increases will be used to offset the money for the new hire. That money has been spent.

Councilwoman Decker asked if she was referring to the money that was allocated in the budget for the five individuals.

City Administrator Vance stated when council approves the budget it is the budget that is on the Ordinance. He said council does not approve a line item budget.

Councilwoman Meiser asked if the city will be saving money on overtime with the new hire and will the city save money on Assistant City Administrator Norris's salary.

City Administrator Vance stated there will be money saved in overtime and on Chuck's Salary.

Business tour update – Mayor Jones is meeting with businesses across the city. She is happy to report that businesses are contacting her to meet also.

Council Comments:

Councilman Murphy:

- Councilman Murphy will sit on the SWEMS board. The next meeting will be October 10th.
- Councilman Murphy stated he agrees with council and you cannot skimp on vehicles especially police vehicles.
 - Mayor Jones agreed.

Councilman Blankenship:

- Not in attendance.

Councilwoman Decker:

- Councilwoman Decker questioned the motion that was made by council when the budget was approved to increase the salaries of 5 individuals; she stated they deserve the money. She asked what would happen to the money.
 - Mayor Jones stated the budget was amended and money was put in the budget but it is up to the Mayor to spend it, manage it and enforce it. Mayor Jones stated she does not want people going around her chain of command. Mayor Jones stated before she signed the Budget Ordinance she did go to the individual's in the chain of command and they did not want the money to be spent on the individuals at that time. She said she has to take that into consideration.
- Congratulated Bobby Mackey on 45 years.

Councilwoman Meiser:

- Councilwoman Meiser echoed Councilwoman Decker's comments on the amended budget. She stated she did a lot of research on the 5 employees and she feels they are underpaid. She stated council was unanimous in approving the motion to increase the salaries for 5 employees. She stated she is happy the fire department hired a paramedic but sad for the 5 employees that are underpaid. Councilwoman Meiser stated it put the department heads in a tough spot to ask them if they wanted the money spent since some of that money was for them.
 - Mayor Jones stated again the budget got amended and the money went into each department. She stated if anyone on council wanted to come in and meet with her to let her know.
- Thanked the Fire Department for letting her do a ride along last week. She also thanked Lieutenant Krentz and Firefighter Rowland for showing her around.

Councilman Williams:

- Not in attendance.

Councilman Profitt:

- Councilman Profitt asked for more information regarding the tangible rate. He would like to see a graph or a chart of the monies the businesses would actually save.
 - City Administrator Vance stated he would get him some more information.
- Congratulated his good friend Bobby Mackey on 45 years in Wilder.
- Music Fest was great.

Open Forum:

- Tom Everson stated the city needs to make sure their employees are paid enough so they don't go somewhere else. If council approved money, the money should be paid to them.
 - Mayor Jones stated all employees were given a COLA raise and fire was given even more. They were also given a retention contract. Mayor Jones also stated she personally created the merit increase and she started a hiring incentive for new hires. She stated there has been a lot of attention to salaries, merit, and retention agreements. Mayor Jones stated she is working hard and she has 22 employees she has to worry about at the city. She has to balance that with what is affordable; she said the city is going to have lower revenues and there is discussion regarding purchasing new police cars. There is a lot to juggle. She stated if anyone wants to come in and look at any of her data, her door is always opened. Mayor Jones stated she compares cities that are comparable to Wilder when preparing the budget.
 - Tom also stated if you are only giving COLA raises and not COLA and merit, your employees will fall behind and you are always playing catch up.

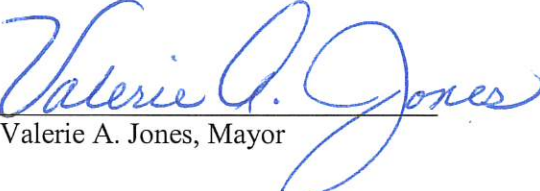
Mayor Jones thanked Tom for his comments.

Mayor Jones congratulated Bobby Mackey on 45 years of business in Wilder.

Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Wilder City Council will be held on Tuesday October 2, 2023.


Valerie A. Jones, Mayor

ATTEST:


Juanita Schultz - City Clerk