

Town of Wilkeson
Regular Council Meeting
November 8th, 2023

Public Hearing- Opened at 6:00 Seeking public comment regarding the following ordinances, 2023.04 establishing the tax levy amount for FY 2024 and Ordinance 2023.05 establishing the EMS tax levy amount for FY 2024. The citizens present, did not have comment, meeting closed at 6:03

ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 6:03- presided by Sellers. Council members Farmer, Thawsh, Murphy and Sellers were present. Clerk Wellock was also present.

Motion to excuse council member Summers made by council member Farmer, seconded by council member Sellers and carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the regular meeting held October 25th, 2023
2. Approval of the bills for November 8th, 2023, as budgeted.
3. Approval of the minutes from the 10/25 budget meeting
4. Approval of Ordinance 2023.04 establishing the tax levy amount for FY 2024
5. Approval of Ordinance 2023.05 establishing the EMS tax levy amount FY 2024

Motion made by council member Farmer to approve consent agenda, seconded by council member Murphy voted on and carried.

CITIZENS PRESENT/ COMMENTS:

Chris Wilde:

- a. She would like to volunteer to be on the planning commission/ committee. She believes that the planning commission is an important layer and research group to assist the council with decision making. We need to look into the requirements for this to get re started and report back.
- b. She would like to speak with other tree farms for planting the cemetery. She thinks that the quotes for the trees we have received are too high.

Pierce County Council Member Dave Morrell- wanted to share the news that he was able to get an allocation for Wilkeson in the FY 2024-2026 budget in Pierce County, for \$90k for the updates to the Hub.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Arch Log-** no updates
2. **Cemetery-** Council member Thawsh: met with NW Tree Farm about her ideas for replanting, and how the layout should be with the planned renovations as with PSE's temporary substation. Some concerns were raised over when to plant the trees, what warranties are involved and how to keep the deer and elk away from them. This will be ongoing and we will get more information. Bambi, John Hilding and Chris will reconvene the Cemetery Committee to discuss all of these pieces.
3. **The Bus Turn Around-** bus turn around documents will be ready to go on MRSC on Thursday Nov 9th.
4. **Weyerhaeuser Property-**
 - a. Ashley Britschgi provided an update on this. There are concerns from the appraisal person because the BLA is not recorded by the county and doing this without legal documentation would be a speculative appraisal. We need to track down additional documents to be able to move forward. We also need to follow up with Dan Bruhner regarding the timber values.

NEW BUSINESS:

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor attended a statewide Mayors meeting. AWC brought up the lobbying efforts they do on our behalf and that we can bring ideas to them for lobbying purposes. Something that the Mayor would like to do, is to have the lobbyist delegate funds to small cities with different requirements than larger cities. Things like lower match requirements, different income levels/ parameters for rural areas with limited commerce and tax bases.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Parks & Trails/ Emergency Services, Krista Farmer- we did not receive the RCO parks maintenance grant. **Motion to spend up to \$700 for the emergency backpacks, seconded by council member Thawsh. This will include a 4th backpack and trauma kits for each bag curated by the fire chief. Motion voted on and carried.**

We should have a C.E.R.T. information table at the tree lighting to see if there is interest in holding a C.E.R.T. training group for Wilkeson specifically.

Community Development, Ashley Murphy- The town was awarded a 10k grant from the Ben Cheney Foundation. They are willing to give another 5k if we will commit 5k ourselves or through another funding source. **Council member Murphy motioned to allocate 5k to the Hub, seconded by Krista and carried.** The Town also applied for 12k from the white river home town's fund for the Hub flooring project and a separate \$2k for historic preservation projects. **Motion made by council member Murphy to spend up to \$150 on grant conference fees for Marie and council member Murphy, seconded by council member Farmer and carried.**

Cemetery & Emergency Services, Bambi Thawsh- discussed above

Streets/Sidewalks, Bill Summers-

Utilities, Rick Sellers- lift station on Rousher continues to be an issue. We are working with multiple vendors to get it working properly, however, with the rains coming, we are running out of time.

ADJOURNMENT- Council member Farmer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 pm, seconded by council member Murphy, voted on and carried.