

Town of Wilkeson
Regular Council Meeting
March 22th, 2023

Public Hearing: Opened at 6pm by Mayor Jeff Sellers..

ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 6:00- presided by Mayor Sellers. Council members Murphy, Thawsh, Sellers and Farmer were present. Clerk Marie Wellock and Christina Erickson were also present. Absent from the meeting was council member Summers. Motion to excuse Summer's absence was made by council member Murphy, seconded by Farmer. Motion voted on and carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the regular meeting held March 08, 2023
2. Approval of the bills for March 22nd 2023, as budgeted
3. Resolution 2023.06 to enter into contract with Gray and Osborn for the Watershed improvements Project, funded by the Washington State Department of Commerce through an appropriation from the State Legislature.
4. Motion to approve up to \$2000.00 to complete the fence at Town Hall as well as a section of the fence along the sidewalk at 307 Church Street where there is a significant drop in grade next to the sidewalk.

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

CITIZENS PRESENT/ COMMENTS:

1. John Hilding – Complimented on the new photos hung up in the meeting room at the Town Hall. He followed up with council member Thawsh about the cemetery project, asking if Thawsh had spoke with Chris Wilde about quotes for plants, trees, and shrubs. Council member Thawsh stated that she had not spoke with Chris Wilde and that no quotes on cost had been gathered since their last committee meeting. It was expressed by Mayor Sellers that it was undesirable to plant big trees again, blocking the highway from the view of the cemetery.
John also brought up the weekend of Wilkeson days. On the 2nd day of Wilkeson days, Sunday July 30th 2023, there will be a rock band to be set up in the frying pan at the skate park, no time available yet. The cost of the band is \$300.00. There is also a skateboard shop in Puyallup that is donating prizes for the occasion. John also brought up wanting to set up a book reading that morning for the kids in town too. Asked if he should be going through the Town Hall, or the PTA, for such a thing. Suggested mats be set out for the kids and would be fun to have cooked bacon to hand out, considering they would be hanging out in a frying pan.
2. Wilkeson residents, Jill and John, came in to state a complaint about the new business utilizing the old Chuck's gas station. The noise (loud music, pounding, delivery of steel product, machines, employees cussing), especially when their shop door is open, and the smells of cigarette smoke and chemicals (paint, acetone, etc.), is disturbing them. It was expressed that this starts at 6 AM to whenever they close. Being outside in their own yards, especially for their children, is un-feasible due to air quality and constant noise. John brought forward concern if the business is even commercially zoned for industrial, to conduct such business and work. Are they OSHA/WISHA compliant? John also stated that he had already contact Buckley PD to address the issue of noise, along with the cussing and smoking. Town clerk Wellock, moving forward with trying to find a solution, stated that the Town will contact the city planner, review the business's application, and review zoning documents entailed to the business and

start from there. Both citizens agreed that was a good start. Wellock also suggested to advise the business and the owner of the property of the Town's noise ordinance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Historic Sidewalk Project- Final walk through with the contractor and SCJ on 03/24.
2. 3 Grants have been submitted in the last 2 weeks.
 - a. AARP for the Fire Station, Sen Cantwell for Town Hall Phase 1 and Rep Schrier for the Water Tank interior and exterior resurfacing project.
3. Fire Station Gravel Lot- We need to have this completed this year for public use. We need to get some costs, and not depend on it being grant funded. We have been promising the businesses that it would be ready and we need to make good on that. Quotes for cost still pending.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Wilkeson Spring Yard Sale & Clean-Up: Council member Murphy proposed to have a local town wide event wanting to do a yard sale set up at the Town's fire station. Proposed that community members may drop off items at this location for a \$40 donation fee, and that all monies collected from selling items will go back into the Town. Council member Murphy made a motion for the Town to match monies collected from this event, no more than up to \$1,000.00. Seconded by Krista Farmer, motion voted on and carried.

MAYORS REPORT:

1. Meeting with Congresswoman Schrier on Thursday March 16th went well. As it was a beautiful day, Mayor Sellers, Clerk Wellock, and Council member Murphy walked Schrier to the Davis Rousher Project (AARP), came back to the town hall to have snacks and chat, along with a walkthrough of the downstairs of the Town Hall. Schrier's top question was asking about crime in our area, surrounding areas, and how it impacts the town. Schrier also met with several surrounding businesses within the Town of Wilkeson. Schrier wants to come back and re-visit the town this Summer.
2. Meeting with Senator Fortunato on Friday, March 17th 2023, accompanied by council member Murphy, at the Capital went well. On behalf of the Town of Wilkeson, Senator Fortunato will be visiting Wilkeson on Monday March 27th 2023 at 2pm. There will be a discussion held in regards to the National Park Services location closing in Enumclaw. A suggestion will be made by Mayor Sellers to utilize the Park's building in town, with hopes that the National Park Services and Department of Forestry will be able to team up and open a new location here in the town, being able to provide services and park permits to locals and visitors.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Parks & Trails/ Emergency Services, Krista Farmer- nothing at this time

Community Development, Ashley Murphy- See attached memo-

Murphy is hoping that the new website platform will be completed and available for use in 1 month.

On 03/22/2023 Murphy met with Chief Skogen and Olson in regards to the Wilkeson Community Hub project.

Logos supporting the Carbon River Coordinating Cooperative Council – CRCCC were voted on, with suggestions to the wording and art layouts.

Motion made by Murphy to match monies collected from the Spring Yard Sale & Clean-Up event, up to \$1,000.00, coming from her Budget Fund and to also spend \$200.00 from this fund for hanging baskets for the Town. Seconded by Krista Farmer, motion voted on and carried.

Council member Thawsh requested that 4 dumpsters be ordered this year for the Spring Yard Sale & Clean-Up.

Cemetery & Emergency Services, Bambi Thawsh- Plant layout at the cemetery is still being discussed. Looking into speaking to a landscape professional about a design layout.

On April 1st 2023 from 10am-12pm, East Pierce Fire and Rescue, Pierce Conservation District, Buckley and Orting Fire & Rescue, will be hosting a Wildfire and Disaster Info Fair located at the Wilkeson Elementary School. Thawsh stated that East Pierce asked for her to present her story of the work she put into her own yard, depleting a concern for possible fire danger, in hopes that it would inspire others to do the same. She invited the other council members over for the occasion.

Streets/Sidewalks, Bill Summers- Absent

Utilities, Rick Sellers- A warning letter from the Department of Ecology was just received via courier mail in regards to testing dated back in October of 2022. Rick Sellers will be reviewing the logs at the treatment facility, along with following up with the Department of Ecology.

ADJOURNMENT- Council member Farmer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm, seconded by council member Sellers, voted on and carried.