

Town of Wilkeson
Regular Council Meeting
June 8th, 2022

Executive Session- Called to order called to order at 5:30 PM, extended 10 minutes and closed at 5:50pm

ROLL CALL: Called to order at 6:00- presided by Mayor Sellers. Council members Murphy, Thawsh, Sellers, Summers and Farmer were present. Clerk Marie Wellock was also present.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of the regular meeting held May 25th, 2022
2. Approval bills as budgeted for June 8th, 2022
3. Request for 12 month building permit extension for the permits issued for Ash Church and bridge.

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

CITIZENS PRESENT/ COMMENTS: Comments limited to 3 minutes

1. Felisha F- NOMAD- Pride flag support/ concerns with it being moved away from the intended location and the decision makers behind that. full speech attached
2. Jack W- POW/ MIA Flag- concerns with taking it down and the need to show support for veterans each and every day- Speech attached
3. Daryl D.- Pride Flag- Concerns over the actions of moving the flag and the decisions behind it. Full speech attached.
4. Deb G- Two things: 1. concerns over the logging at the cemetery and that she is disappointed with the look of the cemetery and that it isn't what she wanted for her final resting place. Would like the plots refunded or the option to move them to another location once the cemetery work is completed. 2. Would like to add the flag conversation. We honor soldiers each day when we raise the US flag, and the Pride flag is important for the people who identify as such.
5. Sara S.- was approached by the mayor about painting the cornerstone on the town hall building. Would like to offer 3 community movie nights and sell concessions to raise money for various things around town.
6. Jan W- There are 2 kids riding on motorcycle on the sidewalks and speeding around town. The police are aware, but it's important to get them educated about what the rules are and keeping them and citizens safe.
7. Megan S- Pride Flag- It is (the flag display) incredibly important for the community and our youth. All kids matter and all kids count. LGBTQ youth are 4 times more likely to commit suicide than non LGBTQ. We all have family or friend in the LGBTQ community. It is one month to show them that we all have their backs and that they matter.
8. Rhaejean W- Logging- why is this logging being done. What is the money going to fund. Neighbors are experiencing an increased rodent issue, will the town be doing anything to assist with rodent control.
 - a. Mayor explained that there will be replanting, just not fir trees or cedar. It will be smaller trees like flowering/ blossoming trees, things that are more manageable.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Flag Policy- Draft #2 was submitted to the council for review. Desired changes should be forwarded to the clerk.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mayor is working to hire a weekend testing person to assist Mike with the current staffing shortage
2. Police Report Reviewed- significant increase in written infractions. Council is very happy about this
3. The Wilkeson Community Garden received a grant from WSU for watering system features and a composting bin. Clerk to review if town is able to administer the grant as the Booster Club is listed as the awarded agency

MAYORS REPORT:

1. Letters of support for the reelection of Sen. Fortunato and Pierce County Council Member Dave Morrell are ready if council members would like to sign their support.
2. Mayor attended another TIB funding workshop. We are not eligible to apply for additional funding for streets and sidewalks with TIB until the Historic Sidewalk project breaks ground. However we can submit requests for crack sealing.

COUNCIL REPORTS

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

Community Development, Ashley Murphy-

1. All Along the Riverwalk festival fliers were presented. The town will be involved in this event, it is free and all are welcome to attend.
2. The Town of Wilkeson and Buckley fire are partnering for a “summer of safety series. It will happen monthly beginning in July and run through September. This will also be a free event and it will include an “exchange” for old/ damaged/ or out of date equipment.

Cemetery & Emergency Services, Bambi Thawsh- Cemetery- council member Thawsh wanted to add to the concerns brought up previously in the meeting regarding the cemetery logging efforts. We had our forester come out and look at the trees with DNR. They looked at the option of selectively logging versus clearing. It is not feasible to selectively log timber of this age, it poses a greater risk of trees falling and endangering lives on the highway or the cemetery grounds. Much of the tree bases had many feet of center rot, that made them more hazardous. This was done as an added protection for the cemetery and was not a hasty decision.

Streets/Sidewalks, Bill Summers- Council member Summers made a motion to move forward using Attorney Olbrechts for the abatement process necessary for dangerous structures, seconded by council member Thawsh, voted on and carried.

Utilities, Rick Sellers- nothing

ADJOURNMENT- Council member Summers motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:38pm, council member Farmer seconded, motion carried.