

VILLAGE OF WILSON

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Arthur Lawson, Mayor
Carey L. O'Connor, Clerk-Treasurer
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Village of Wilson Board of Trustees Minutes - October 17, 2024

PRESENT

Mayor Arthur Lawson, Trustee Greg Martin, Trustee Gary Darnell, Trustee Ellen Hibbard, Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, Clerk Treasurer Carey O'Connor, Attorney P. Andrew Vonda, Esq., Superintendent Shawn Galyen, CEO Travis Evans

ABSENT

Deputy Clerk Treasurer Nicole Martin

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawson called the Village Board meeting to order at 7:00pm. We then proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Mayor Lawson reminded everyone that you can find a copy of our previous minutes on our Village website and in the Village office. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from September 19, 2024. Motion was made by Trustee Gary Darnell, seconded by Trustee Greg Martin. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS

Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to approve payment of all vouchers, on all abstracts, located with the agenda at the back of the room (attached). Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to approve payment of all vouchers. Motion was made by Trustee Ellen Hibbard, seconded by Trustee Gary Darnell. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

BUSINESS

Discuss tabled new Local Law - Chapter 178 - Battery Moratorium: Trustee Martin stated that we tabled it from last month to look into it more. We've looked into more restrictions. Trustee Darnell stated that it's not to be more restrictive for resident's but to be safer for large sized installations. This is also a temporary moratorium until more information comes out. It will be ever evolving because it's a new field. Mayor Lawson asked if anyone else has any additional questions. Trustee Martin stated this moratorium is for twelve (12) months, and we can extend it for an additional six (6) months. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion. Trustee Gary Darnell made the motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor. Mayor Lawson asked Clerk Carey O'Connor to take roll call. Arthur Lawson, yes; Greg Martin, yes; Ellen Hibbard, yes; Gary Darnell, yes; Joanne Seefeldt, yes. Clerk O'Connor thanked the Village Board.

Jeremy Clement from the Zoning Board of Appeals: He stated that he is here to ask for help interpreting the Village code. The property for Northern Light's of Niagara is asking for a Special Use permit to operate at 268 Young Street which is zoned central commercial. They are a licensed Microbusiness through NYS Office of Cannabis Management. Attorney Andy Vona took a look at the documentation that was provided by the zoning board and the sections 170-15 and 170-42 of the Village code that governs that Special Use permit. As of now our opinion is that it is not a permitted use of a central commercial district. He has spoken to the board and reviewed the paperwork and as of now, we do not believe it is. Jeremy Clement thanked the board for their time.

Celebrate Wilson's request to decorate Martin Park for Christmas: Mayor Lawson read the request then asked for a motion. Trustee Greg Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Gary Darnell. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

Celebrate Wilson's event request for Christmas in the Park on Saturday, December 7, 2024: Mayor Lawson read the request. Attorney Vona has reviewed and insurance is in place. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion. Trustee Gary Darnell made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

Legacy Plan: Mayor Lawson read the VOW Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator Legacy Plan. Trustee Martin stated that this was a recommendation from the DEC. We are required to have two licensed operators for the treatment plant. We have Shawn Galyen that is licensed and Rob Siegmann is working on his license. Mayor Lawson stated that it is crucial to have one of these on record.

Permission request from WCS Teacher Brett Sippel to send to the Pomeroy Foundation to install a Legends & Lore marker at 350 Ontario as previously discussed and voted on at our August Board meeting. Mayor Lawson read the letter (attached). Mayor Lawson asked for a motion. Trustee Joanne Seefeldt made the motion and Trustee Ellen Hibbard. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

Letter from Wilson Harbor Park resident requesting a sewer credit from their September bill: Mayor Lawson read letter submitted to the board for consideration. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion. No motion was heard. Mayor Lawson asked if we'd like to discuss. Trustee Greg Martin stated that this is a slippery slope as this could open up other requests. Trustee Martin stated that we can sympathize but it was not an error on the Village's side but it's ultimately the owners responsibility. Trustee Gary Darnell agreed with Trustee Martin. It is the homeowners responsibility to ultimately know what's going on with their home. Mayor Lawson also agreed that this was not a Village issue. Discussion ensued. Mayor Lawson asked if any Trustee would like to make a motion. No Trustee made a motion to approve request, request denied.

REPORTS

Mayor Lawson opened reports.

CEO Travis Evan's has issued 50 permits, 27 businesses have passed their fire inspections. He has dealt with 5 property complaints and have been able to handle them all. Sent out 40+ property violations. All but 4 have complied and 3 will be coming to court. Travis explained some issues he is having with some of our codes and would like to look into making some updates. Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Shawn Galyen wanted to congratulate Merle Wiltse as he retired yesterday and he wishes him a long and happy retirement. Tree Man Tom took down the tree on Chestnut that posed a potential threat to the Village. They have been continuing with tree trimming and readying the sidewalks. Trucks are oiled and ready for winter. He and Rob attended water classes for their water license. Rob's paperwork has been submitted for his wastewater license. May have to wait until spring to take his exam. Ditch projects are finished with a combined effort with the Town of Wilson. He has also decorated the corner for Halloween.

Trustee Joanne Seefeldt wanted to also congratulate Merle on his retirement and his service here in the Village. He is going to be missed by the residents. The corner sign is no longer working and we are looking into a replacement. If we decide not to replace the sign, we are looking into other ideas for the corner.

Trustee Ellen Hibbard also wanted to state that we will miss Merle here in the Village and wishes him success. The decorations in front of the sign looks great. She also stated that the work done on Haner street sidewalk where the tree caused the sidewalk to heave, they found a temporary fix until they can take out the tree.

Attorney Andy Vona has nothing at this time.

Clerk Treasurer Carey O'Connor stated that we have a Village election on March 18, 2025 for Mayor and the term will be three (3) years.

Trustee Gary Darnell also wanted to congratulate Merle on his retirement. He has been an astute employee that made sure the Village came first every time. He wanted to remind everyone that Trick or Treating will be on Halloween and the Lion's Club is having their Halloween Party at 7pm on October 31st.

Trustee Greg Martin discussed a couple messages that came in through FB about something Dave Godfrey said at the informational meeting. 3.7 million dollars in revenue come in through our harbors over 5 million after labor. These numbers came in through the Legislator's position with the County and the Dredging Commission. We've looked into it again but Mawhiney's windmill is in the town. He would like to welcome our new business owners to the Village and it's vital for our community to have a grocery store and would like to welcome them. He also wanted to thanks Merle, after 20 years, he was a vital employee to our community and is the epitome of what a Village employee should be and would like to thank him for his dedication. He has been working on Wander around Wilson Bike share, he did receive an email after the article went out in the newspaper and he would like to help us with the bikes. Hoping to have a kick off in the Spring.

Mayor Lawson also wanted to thank Merle for his service and state that the employee is who brings value back to us and would like to congratulate Merle on his retirement. He would also want to urge everyone to continue to support our businesses, including our grocery store and our other businesses.

Mayor Lawson closed reports.

RECESS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Mayor Lawson opened recess for public input.

Jill Rohring asked Trustee Martin asked how the bikes would be secured. They tried this before and all the bikes went missing. Trustee Martin stated that he's hoping local businesses will help us secure them and we are putting a lot of trust in the community.

Trustee Gary Darnell also wanted to remind everyone, along with a new grocery store, we have a new automotive shop, Kyle Sharkey has opened it and he recommends giving him a chance. Resident Jeremy Clement stated he also has a log splitter for rent. Resident Mr. Morgan also stated he has other small equipment for rent.

Public Input closed by Mayor Lawson.

CLOSING

Mayor Lawson stated that our next employee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, here at the Town Hall at 2:30pm, and our Board meeting will be on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 7:00pm. Mayor Lawson requested a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 7:48pm. Trustee Gary Darnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carey L. O'Connor

Carey L. O'Connor
Village Clerk-Treasurer