

**CITY OF WILMORE MINUTES**  
**May 15, 2023**

The Wilmore City Council met in a regular session on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Harold L. Rainwater presiding. Council members present were: Andy Bathje, Jim Brumfield, Kim Deyer, Leonard Fitch and Wes Metcalfe.

Attorney Robert L. Gullette III was present.

Not present: Councilmember Riel

**MAYOR REPORT/PRESENTATIONS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember Deyer made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Brumfield to approve the minutes of May 1, 2023. There being no discussion, all members voted aye.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE 2023-1 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILMORE, KENTUCKY, ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024, BY ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT.**

**Revenues**

Anticipates a 2% increase in water & sewer rates.

Anticipates a donation from AU, ATS, etc for the fire truck purchase.

Proposes an increase in garbage rates to help offset the losses we absorb every year.

**Expenses**

Funds a 4% rate increase in medical insurance.

Funds a 5% cost of living increase for all employees.

Funds increase in police starting salary from \$18/hour to \$20/hour.

Funds increase in starting salary from \$14/hour to \$15/hour.

Funds a 6.5% increase for property/liability/work com insurance.

Funds the payment of the USDA loans for WWTP.

Funds the payment on the KIA loans for the Water Tower Painting.

Funds additional costs for the new History Center – 10K requested in prior year and an additional 3K requested.

Funds landscaping at the N. Lexington Ave. entry island (5K).

Funds the purchase of a new bridge at Centennial Park (12K).

Funds the migration of our utility, general ledger, and payroll software to the Cloud for added security and the addition of a purchase order module (48K).

Funds purchase of a new truck for Utilities (35K) carried over from FY23.

Funds purchase of a new truck for Public Works (35K).

Funds installation of High Bridge Master Meter (13K).

Funds fire truck loan (138K).

Funds to revamp website (15K-20K).

Funds sidewalk project out of Municipal Road Aid (300K).

Funds a portion of the remodel of old JC jail building (10K).

Funds Phase 2 of the CDBG Granary Project match (200K) using ARPA funds.

Funds Downtown Renovations for trees/planters/electrical/lighting (250K) using ARPA funds.

Funds parking improvements in rear of Municipal Center (70K) using ARPA funds.

Funds Fitch's/Dollar General Sewer Project (300K) using Beshear/State Funds.

Councilmember Brumfield stated that it would be in the city's best interest to outsource the garbage and what steps will be taken to get the ball rolling. Mayor Rainwater met with Dave Carlstedt and he said that would be a 6-12 month process to get with the county and bid with the county to get the lowest bid possible. Attorney Gullette said that we may not have to have a bid process since Central Kentucky Hauling has bid it with the county and they were the low bid. It may be that we can adopt their existing contract and see if CKY will honor it.

Councilmember Bathje would like to see a comparison with Nicholasville. Councilmember Metcalfe said that it is \$14.50 per month for one can and \$3.50 per month for recycling. They will take 6 grass clippings bags at no additional charge and \$15 or \$17 for large items. Wilmore charges \$17 per month for garbage pickup.

Dave Carlstedt stated that something has shifted in solid waste. We have an 8-year-old truck and the model was not good for us. We are having a hard time with the increase in landfill costs. We are having a hard time getting people to apply for the sanitation pickers who ride the back of the garbage truck. The morale of the public works employees is very low because they do not want to ride on the back of the garbage truck. They are quitting because they do not want to ride the back of the garbage truck.

Councilmember Bathje would like to know the background of the 2% water and sewer rates. Dave Carlstedt stated that for the last 15 years we have raised it 2%. If we have a project going on, it will be raised more than 2%.

Councilmember Bathje would like a pay rate comparison for the police officers for other cities. Mayor Rainwater stated that we compete with Lexington, Nicholasville and Versailles. Nicholasville pays \$51,000 per year. Sheriff's Office pays \$25 per hour.

Lori Vahle talked about the migration to the cloud and purchase order system. She found out that it is not a requirement that we move to the cloud. If we decide not to go to the cloud our purchase order system would be a one-time fee of \$8500 and the annual fee would be \$1500. We have 2 nightly full backups now.

**ORDINANCE 2024-2 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILMORE, KENTUCKY, RELATING TO THE AMENDING OF FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023.**

No discussion on the amended budget.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**INCREASE WATER AND SEWER RATES**

Councilmember Brumfield moved to increase the water and sewer rates by 2%. Dave Carlstedt stated that we are already behind the eight ball because we are paying for debt service out of 2% unemployment, and the budget currently consists of a 5% payroll increase for all employees. It is not even close to paying for services.

Councilmember Brumfield clarified that it is paying for operations, it's not paying for new projects.

**INCREASE GARBAGE RATES**

Councilmember Brumfield asked how long it might take to outsource the garbage. Dave Carlstedt said it would take every bit of 6 months and it depends if we can piggyback on the county's contract. Dave will meet with Judge West and CKY to see if that is a legal option. If we do not do that, then we have to get proposals.

After a discussion on the process and the different rates, we will discuss it at the next council meeting.

**RFH AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER**

The rate is \$23,900 - \$26,900 not to exceed \$26,900.

Mayor Rainwater moved this to the next council meeting.

Finance Director Lori Vahle

Police Chief Bill Craig

Fire Chief Jimmy Powers

Director of Utilities and Public Works - Dave Carlstedt

Director of Facilities & Cemetery- Vince Lewellen

Director of Community Development - Judy Woolums

Director of Parks and Recreation – Amy Fitch

### **COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS**

Councilmember Bathje had a retired resident asking about code violations on certain homes and is concerned about the safety. Mayor Rainwater asked Andy to address Attorney Gullette about it.

### **MAYOR COMMENTS**

### **ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND GUEST SPEAKERS**

### **REPORTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Heather Dongell spoke about the parks and playgrounds in Wilmore. She loves the amount of parks that we have, but the parks need repairs. Grimes Park is very small and needs more additions to it. The Braden Park is very dangerous, hazardous and not useful. She has seen a sign that improvements are coming. Centennial Park, Sims Park and the Mini park all have lots of pieces that are missing. Since we are talking about the budget she would like to see improvements and repairs and to improve the parks that are in existence in more imaginative ways. She would love to come to another meeting and discuss this more. She was on a walk and saw more 5 mothers and some of their suggestions include, canopies, trees, new slides, more seating for adults, bathrooms, fresh mulch and fresh paint. One mom said that she drives to other playgrounds in other towns due to dangerous conditions of our structures and because so many sections are out of use due to safety. Playgrounds are super fun spaces for parents to say yes to small kids wishes and desires but when they are not maintained it becomes another no and that is hard. Long term she would love to have more parks but if it is too hard to maintain all of them I she would prefer to have less of them that are well-maintained. Parks are wonderful places for parents and communities to connect but if families are driving to other cities we lose

opportunities to grow our Wilmore families communities. Ideas could be brought in that would not be too expensive. She would love to be apart of any input to improve the parks.

Christian Clour spoke about the new EV charger. He is one of the people that uses it. There is a study that raise property values up from 3% to 6%. The city is currently paying \$300 monthly so he feels that this number is very high. He would like to see it continue. Lor Vahle asked if people would respect it if we put a limit to how many hours they can use it. He said yes, they would respect it.

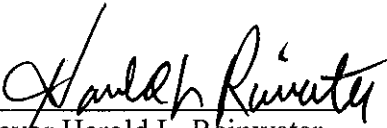
Councilmember Bathje talked to another person who owns 2 Tesla's and they use it frequently. We are not on the apps that will draw different people to our town.

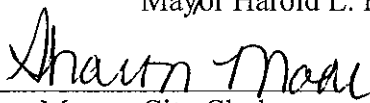
Christian said that people might donate money towards it.

Mayor Rainwater thanked Christian for coming and giving his input.

Motion by Councilmember Brumfield to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**   
Mayor Harold L. Rainwater

**ATTEST:**   
Sharon Moore, City Clerk