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## **City Council forgives liens; *Date set for city clerk hiring workshop;* **Sidewalk policy on the horizon****

**Williston Mayor Emeritus R. Gerald Hethcoat enters the City Council Chambers Tuesday night. Mayor Hethcoat provided input at a couple of points that night.**



### **Story and Photos**

**By Jeff M. Hardison © July 18, 2019 at 8:29 p.m.**

**WILLISTON** – The five voting members of the Williston City Council on Tuesday night (July 16) made progress on a number of fronts – including wrapping up a multi-year code violation case; moving forward on selecting a new city clerk; and initiating a process to form a sidewalk-installation policy.



**Williston  
City  
Manager  
Scott  
Lippmann  
works  
during the  
regular City  
Council  
meeting.**

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**City Council President Nancy Winger and City Councilman Charles Goodman are seen Tuesday night.**



**City Councilman Elihu Ross reads information on a matter he must vote upon that night.**

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**Williston City Attorney Frederick L. Koberlein Jr. looks at a laptop computer screen as he serves the residents and visitors of Williston by advising the City Council in regard to legal questions.**

## **Forgiving Liens**

Pam Vamosi owns a couple of pieces of property that accumulated \$54,750 worth of liens due to violation of City Codes during the past few years. When one of those properties became on the verge of selling, the city was approached seeking forgiveness.

After some discussion about the cost for the city to seize the property and sell it and the loss to the city from that procedure, a unanimous vote to approve the motion by Councilman Charles Goodman, seconded by Council Vice President Marguerite Robinson resulted in the \$54,750 worth of liens being forgiven – as long as the applicant paid a \$250 administration charge.

## **Picking A Clerk**

Latricia Wright has served as interim city clerk for Williston after the departure of former City Clerk Fran Taylor.

A workshop to begin narrowing down the field of applicants had been slated for Monday night (July 15), but due to the city not providing the public with enough proper notice, that meeting could not be held.

Therefore, the City Council unanimously agreed to hold a workshop on July 25 starting at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. This workshop is to begin the process to pick the next city clerk.

## **Sidewalk Policy**

City Manager Scott Lippmann asked each member of the City Council to tell him their

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preferences for creating a policy to determine where sidewalks should be built.

As noted in Florida law, Lippmann will not be communicating with one Council member to say what some other member told him. Instead, he simply wants a starting point to schedule a policy-making set of session with the City Council as a whole in the public view.

Each City Council member will share with the city manager, for instance, if they believe certain parts of the city should or should not have sidewalks.

Currently there is no policy.

For instance, unless there is a defined safety issue, a subdivision developer is not required to create sidewalks.

Another aspect of this sidewalk construction idea for Williston will be how to fund it. Should property fronting sidewalks pay a per-linear-foot fee for the addition? Should the funds come only from the General Fund of the city?

The City Council also learned about utility matters at the meeting Tuesday night, including the potential of a big natural gas customer who would be bigger than Williston Peanut in consumption of that fuel source.

If this customer is connected, it shows promise for more gas utility revenue to help the city.