

REGULAR MEETING

January 12, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Jennings City Council was convened on the 12th day of January, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Jennings City Council Chambers, 154 N. Main Street, Jennings, Louisiana with President Stephen VanHook presiding and a quorum present.

Jennings City Council Members present: Carolyn Simon, District A; Johnny Armentor, District B; Clifton LeJeune, District C; Anthony LeBlanc, District D; Stephen VanHook, District E

Jennings City Council Members Absent: None

The Prayer was led by Mr. LeJeune and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Armentor.

It was moved by Mr. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Armentor and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the December 8, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Resolution No. 1767A – a resolution affirming support for application to the Governor’s Office of Community Development, 2020-2021 Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) Program for a grant to be used for valve replacements along the main water line. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Ms. Simon to introduce and adopt Resolution No. 1767A. Mayor Henry Guinn stated that this is a grant that we apply for every year. Our water lines need constant maintenance and if we obtain this grant, it will be used toward valve replacements along the main water line. In the event of a break, crews can isolate the water line and not affect as many people to be out of water. After no other comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote to **INTRODUCE & ADOPT** Resolution No. 1767A.

Resolution No. 1767B – a resolution affirming support for application to the Governor’s Office of Community Development, 2020-2021 Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) for sewer rehabilitation for storm water infiltration. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeJeune to introduce and adopt Resolution No. 1767B. Mayor Guinn explained that every year the city applies to the Governor’s Office for the LGAP grant and this year we are requesting the grant to be applied for smoking lines in order to identify leaks and to do rehab services on sewer lines. The money will assist in further assessment of sewer issues. After no other comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote to **INTRODUCE & ADOPT** Resolution No. 1767B.

Ordinance No. 1767 – an ordinance to authorize the City of Jennings to rezone the property of Brossette Properties and Investments, LLC from A-3 to A-5; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Ms. Simon to adopt Ordinance No. 1767. Mayor Guinn stated that there was no negative feedback from anyone. After no other public comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of roll call voice vote to **ADOPT** Ordinance No. 1767.

Yeas: Johnny Armentor, Anthony LeBlanc, Clifton LeJeune, Carolyn Simon & Stephen VanHook

Nays: None Abstained: None Absent: None

Ordinance No. 1768 – an ordinance to authorize the City of Jennings to rezone the property of Carlton Soularie from C-1 to C-2; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith. It was motioned by Mr. LeBlanc and seconded by Ms. Simon to introduce Ordinance No. 1767. Mayor Guinn stated that the Zoning Board met prior to the meeting and recommended

that the Council approve the rezoning request. Mayor Guinn stated that there were no calls or complaints received at City Hall and no reason not to accept this rezoning. Mr. LeBlanc stated that this property was an old gas station and they have made many improvements to the building. It would be good to bring businesses back to that area. After no other public comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1768.

Mr. LeJeune motioned and Mr. LeBlanc seconded to authorize the Mayor to sign to accept the South Street Lift Station Improvements Project (*Construction Pro, Inc.*) as substantially complete. Mayor Guinn stated that this project was completed in anticipation of the need to increase the capacity of the pumps when the new elementary school will be built. The pumps now move about 50% more than previously and we are happy with the results thus far. After no other public comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote to **authorize the Mayor** to sign to accept the South Street Lift Station Improvements Project (*Construction Pro, Inc.*) as substantially complete.

Mr. LeJeune motioned and Ms. Simon seconded to authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with *Bluewing Civil Consulting, LLC* for engineering services to enhance drainage around airport road (Airport Road Drainage Improvements Project). Mayor Guinn stated that homes had flooded in that area during Hurricane Delta. Mr. LeJeune asked if this project would help drainage around Cathy Lane, Kimberly Lane, etc. Mayor Guinn assured him that it would definitely help those streets to drain better. The engineer will prepare all the necessary paperwork to acquire servitude and easement to enlarge the ditch. Mayor Guinn stated that he is in conversation with the Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury to continue the project on their side. After no other public comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote to **authorize the Mayor** to sign an agreement with *Bluewing Civil Consulting, LLC* for engineering services to enhance drainage around airport road (Airport Road Drainage Improvements Project).

Ms. Simon motioned and Mr. LeBlanc seconded to discuss the demo & cleanup of the home located at 410 Syers Street adjudicated to the Parish at 80% & City 20%. Mayor Guinn stated that the city owns the equipment to demolish the houses and this work can be done by city crews. Our intent is to remove blighted properties especially when owned by governmental entities. Mr. LeJeune inquired how people could purchase these adjudicated properties once they are cleaned up. City Attorney Derek Bisig stated the demolition cost is added onto the property along with the taxes owed and he will process all of this work from now forward. *Civic Source* would no longer be used. After no other discussion or comments, it was moved by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote to **refer the demolition and cleanup** of the property at 410 Syers Street to the Mayor's office to proceed.

Ms. Simon motioned and Mr. LeBlanc seconded to discuss the demo & cleanup of the home located at 211 Mulkern Street adjudicated to the City 100%. Mayor Guinn commended Mr. Charles R. Willridge, Jr. who is contracted to mow all the adjudicated properties for his excellent work in keeping these properties looking so good. Mr. LeBlanc asked if this home could be first on the list to be demolished. Mayor Guinn assured him this could be done. After no other discussion or comments, it was moved by Ms. Simon and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc and carried by unanimous yeas of voice

vote to **refer the demolition and cleanup** of the property at 211 Mulkern Street to the Mayor's office to proceed.

Mr. Armentor motioned and Mr. LeJeune seconded to discuss the demo & cleanup of the home located at 1010 W. Clara Street adjudicated to the Parish 34% and the City 66%. Mr. Armentor stated that he had been requesting demolition of this home for about 6 years. After no other discussion or comments, it was moved by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote to **refer the demolition and cleanup** of the property at 1010 W. Clara Street to the Mayor's office to proceed.

Mr. Armentor motioned and Mr. LeBlanc seconded to discuss the demo & cleanup of the home located at 900 Cecile Street adjudicated to the City 100%. Mr. LeJeune asked the number of adjudicated homes yet to be on the list to demolish. City Inspector Phil Arceneaux stated that these were the last of those that are adjudicated. He stated that there are hundreds more blighted properties that are not adjudicated. After no other discussion or comments, it was moved by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote to **refer the demolition and cleanup** of the property at 900 Cecile Street to the Mayor's office to proceed.

Mr. LeJeune motioned and Ms. Simon seconded to discuss the demo & cleanup of the home located at 715 W. Jefferson Street adjudicated to the City 100%. After no discussion or comments, it was moved by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeJeune and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote to **refer the demolition and cleanup** of the property at 715 W. Jefferson Street to the Mayor's office to proceed.

Ms. Simon motioned and Mr. Armentor seconded to discuss the demo & cleanup of the home located at 1005 Grace Street adjudicated to the Parish 80% and the City 20%. Mayor Guinn stated that this home in particular was used to stash drugs. After no other discussion, it was moved by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote to **refer the demolition and cleanup** of the property at 1005 Grace Street to the Mayor's office to proceed.

Mr. Armentor motioned and Mr. LeBlanc seconded to discuss the demo & cleanup of the home located at 949 Grace Street adjudicated to the Parish 79% and the City 21%. Mayor Guinn stated that none of these homes were salvageable. After no other discussion or comments, it was moved by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote to **refer the demolition and cleanup** of the property at 949 Grace Street to the Mayor's office to proceed.

Ms. Simon motioned and Mr. LeBlanc seconded to discuss the demo & cleanup of the home located at 638 E. First Street adjudicated (house only) to the Parish 80% and the City 20%. Mayor Guinn stated that this house had a hole in the roof which allowed a lot of rain water into the house and it is not salvageable. After no other discussion or comments, it was moved by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote to **refer the demolition and cleanup** of the property at 638 E. First Street to the Mayor's office to proceed.

Mr. LeBlanc stated that he would like to add an item to the agenda. The item would be to discuss an update of a community meeting held the previous night which discussed the flooding on Hwy 102 due to debris in the ditches from Hurricane Delta. Mr. Armentor motioned and Mr. LeBlanc seconded to add this item to the agenda. The Council was polled and all agreed by unanimous yeas of voice vote to add the item to the agenda. There was no opposition. Representative Troy Romero who was

invited to the community meeting assured the council that he would be in conversation with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury to get the ditches cleaned of debris. Representative Romero also discussed all that he was doing to help the people he serves. There were no other comments or questions from the public.

With no further business on the agenda, it was moved by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote to ADJOURN this Regular Meeting on January 12, 2021 of the Jennings City Council at 6:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/Barbara Lantz

Barbara Lantz, Secretary
Jennings City Council

Stephen VanHook, President
Jennings City Council