

REGULAR MEETING

September 14, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Jennings City Council was convened on the 14th day of September, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Jennings City Council Chambers, 154 N. Main Street, Jennings, Louisiana with President Stephen VanHook 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 Ms. Simon and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Armentor.

It was moved by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the August 10, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Resolution No. **1775A** – a resolution to adopt a compliance questionnaire for fiscal year 2020-2021 audit per request by the Legislative Auditor. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to introduce and adopt Resolution No. **1775A**. Mayor Henry Guinn explained that this was a questionnaire required each year for the beginning stages of the audit. Mayor Guinn stated that we have an extensive audit each year with no stone left unturned. After no other comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE & ADOPT** Resolution No. **1775A**.

Resolution No. **1775B** – a resolution to authorize the City of Jennings to declare the Jennings Police Department 400 Series Radios as surplus equipment and to authorize the Mayor of the City of Jennings to donate the radios to the Town of Welsh. It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon to introduce and adopt Resolution No. **1775B**. Mayor Henry Guinn explained that the City was transitioning to a 700 Series which is utilized by cell towers. It is a different type of radio system and the Fire Department of the Town of Welsh has requested the donation. After no other comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE & ADOPT** Resolution No. **1775B**.

The next item on the agenda was an ordinance to authorize the City of Jennings to rezone the property of Mitchell & Virginia Sonnier from A-2 to C-2, but the attorneys contacted the Mayor and expressed to have this rezoning deferred to a later period due to significant damage to their office in New Orleans because of Hurricane Ida. The Mayor agreed to defer the rezoning to a later date. Notifications will be published in the newspaper and certified letters will be sent again to all when that date is determined.

It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon to declare the Drainage Improvements Project from the East Side of Davis Addition to LA 97 and the Drainage Improvements Project along Magnolia Drive, Sherman Street & Davis Addition as substantially complete. Mayor Guinn stated that these projects went out for bids in February 2020 and just completed. These projects take significant time to complete. The punch list has been finalized and there is no reason not to accept these projects as substantially complete. After no other comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **DECLARE** the Drainage Improvements

Projects from the East Side of Davis Addition to LA 97 and Along Magnolia Drive, Sherman Street & Davis Addition as substantially complete.

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to discuss the acquisition of a utility servitude and drainage in the proposed Logan Nichols subdivision. Mayor Guinn stated that the city was working with the engineers to set up a water servitude and drainage to these land parcels if the council agrees. Some of these parcels are not inside the city's limits. Mr. Logan Nichols discussed with the council all the specifics on his proposed subdivision. Mayor Guinn also stated that the easement will be at the developer's expense. Each future landowner will determine whether they would annex into the city. After no other comments or discussion, it was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **ACQUIRE A UTILITY SERVITUDE AND DRAINAGE** in the proposed Logan Nichols subdivision.

It was motioned by Ms. Simon, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to discuss the demo and cleanup of the home at 1015 Wilbert D. Rochelle Avenue belonging to the Freddie Norman Estate. The structure has been declared unsafe and in need of condemnation. No one from the Freddie Norman Estate was in attendance. After no discussion and comments, it was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeJeune and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **REFER** this property to the mayor's office for the cleanup and potential demolition of the home at 1015 Wilbert D. Rochelle Avenue belonging to the Freddie Norman Estate.

It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Mr. Armentor to discuss the demo and cleanup of the home at 134 Spencer Street belonging to Hugh McKinnis. The structure has been declared unsafe and in need of condemnation. No one from the Hugh McKinnis property was in attendance. After a question about how the demolition list was obtained, Mayor Guinn explained that he works closely with City Inspector's office as to potential health hazards or crime on the properties. After discussion and no other comments, it was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **REFER** this property to the mayor's office for the cleanup and potential demolition of the home at 134 Spencer Street belonging to Hugh McKinnis.

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Ms. Simon to discuss the demo and cleanup of the home at 227 West South Street belonging to Melva McKinnis. The structure has been declared unsafe and in need of condemnation. No one from the Melva McKinnis property was in attendance. Mayor Guinn stated the Jennings Housing Authority has complained about this property. After no other comments or questions, it was motioned by Ms. Simon, seconded by Mr. Armentor and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **REFER** this property to the mayor's office for cleanup and potential demolition of the home at 227 West South Street belonging to Melva McKinnis.

It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to discuss the demo and cleanup of the home at 919 North Cutting Avenue belonging to Daniel Kirk, Jr. (name corrected). The structure has been declared unsafe and in need of condemnation. Attorney David Marcantel represented Daniel Kirk, Jr. who was in attendance. Mr. Marcantel stated that Mr. Kirk recognized that the home was in need of substantial repair, roof repair and needed to have running water to provide a safer living environment. Marcantel asked that the council work with his client to give him time to fix these issues. Mayor Guinn stated that the city is always willing to work with homeowners to clean up their property but if properties in the city are not maintained it affects neighbors and surrounding property values. Mayor Guinn asked

that Mr. Kirk first cleanup of the vegetation around the home and the sidewalk. After other comments and questions, it was motioned by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **REFER** this property to the mayor's office to work with the homeowner for the cleanup, repair and up to demolition of the home at 919 North Cutting Avenue belonging to Daniel Kirk, Jr.

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 of those in attendance to ADJOURN this Regular Meeting on September 14, 2021 of the Jennings City Council at 6:12 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/Barbara Lantz

Barbara Lantz, Secretary
Jennings City Council

Stephen VanHook, President
Jennings City Council