

REGULAR MEETING

April 12, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Jennings City Council was convened on the 12th day of April, 2022 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. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Armentor and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the March 8, 2022 Regular Meeting.

Ordinance No. 1778 – an ordinance wherein the City Council approves the levying of millage rates not to exceed the Prior Year's Maximum. It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon to adopt Ordinance No. 1778. Mayor Henry Guinn stated that rates will remain the same for 2022. After no questions or comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **ADOPT** Ordinance No. 1778. Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None Abstained: None Absent: None

It was motioned by Ms. Simon and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to authorize the mayor to accept the lowest responsible bidder for Hydrate Chemical Bulk Lime for FY 2022-23. Bids were opened on April 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Mayor Guinn stated the water plant uses this substance for the treatment of drinking water. The only bidder was *Carmeuse Lime & Stone* out of Baton Rouge. The bid amount was an increase of 36.88 per ton from last year. The bid amount was \$293.06/ton with freight, administrative fees and delivery/fuel surcharge included. Mayor Guinn stated that this was about a 13% increase from last year and the city will have to factor in the increases during the budget process for next year. After no other comments or discussion, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to authorize the mayor to **ACCEPT** the lowest responsible bidder for Hydrate Chemical Bulk Lime for FY 2022-23.

It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon to authorize the mayor to accept the lowest responsible bidder for Chlorine Gas for FY 2022-23. Bids were opened on April 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Mayor Guinn stated this specialty item was used at the water plant for the treatment of drinking water. This product is also used at the Sewer Plant. The only bidder was *Hawkins, Inc.* out of Sulphur. The bid amount was a substantial increase of .62699 cents per pound from last year. The bid amount was 1.4969/pound with a fuel charge increase of 4.50 (from 35.00 to 39.50) per delivery, \$4.50 per delivery handling fee and \$7.50 rental per cylinder. Mayor Guinn stated that this significant increase will also be factored in during the budget process. After no other comments or discussion, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to authorize the mayor to **ACCEPT** the lowest responsible bidder for Chlorine Gas for FY 2022-23.

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to discuss the demo and cleanup of the home at 418 E. Academy Avenue belonging to Darrell Hicks, Jr. The home/structure has been declared unsafe and falling down and in need of condemnation. No one representing the Hicks' property was in attendance. Mayor Guinn stated that the owners had been contacted many times about the condition of their property prior to the hurricanes and post hurricanes there was major structural damage due to a tree falling on the home. All of the notices that were sent to the property owners have gone unanswered. After a question about how properties are selected to be condemned, Mayor Guinn explained that these

properties have been on the radar for many years with no attempts by the homeowners to repair the property. Mayor Guinn said that the properties that are not adjudicated are treated differently. He also stated his objective is not to demo homes, but to allow the homeowners to make the structures sound. There is a legal process that the city has to follow before any action is taken on a home. The home will not be demolished until all of the proper procedures are completed. After discussion and then no other 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 to monitor the cleanup, renovation and up to and including demolition of the home at 418 E. Academy Avenue belonging to Darrell Hicks, Jr.

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to discuss the demo and cleanup of the home at 107 Church Street belonging to Dennis Doherty. The home/structure has been declared unsafe and falling down and in need of condemnation. No one representing the Doherty property was in attendance, but City Attorney Derek Bisig stated that the owner had called to inform the city that he had contracted with a company to demolish the structure. After discussion and then no other comments, 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 monitor the cleanup, renovation and up to and including demolition of the structure at 107 Church Street belonging to Dennis Doherty.

It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Ms. Simon to discuss the demo and cleanup of the home at 434 E. Academy Avenue belonging to Vincent Broussard. The home/structure has been declared unsafe and falling down and in need of condemnation. Mr. Vincent Broussard who was in attendance stated that he has a permit to repair the property and will do so. Mayor Guinn stated that his administration is to beautify and enhance our city, not to demolish homes. Many factors are included to make sure properties are tidied up and are safe. When businesses and industry are interested in coming into our city, the appearance of the city is factored into whether they want to locate in Jennings. After no other discussion or comments, it was motioned by Mr. LeJeune, 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 to monitor the cleanup, renovation and up to and including demolition of the structure at 434 E. Academy Avenue belonging to Vincent Broussard.

It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to discuss the demo and cleanup of the home at 923 W. Nezpique Street belonging to Ashley Thibodeaux. The home/structure has been declared unsafe and falling down and in need of condemnation. Ms. Ashley Thibodeaux Jennings who was in attendance stated that she lives in California, received the letter and she had hired a contractor to tear down the home. Mayor Guinn thanked her for coming and acknowledging the letter and was happy to work with her so that the taxpayer does not incur the costs of demolition. After no other discussion or comments, it was it 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 to monitor the cleanup, renovation and up to and including demolition of the home belonging to Ashley Thibodeaux.

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 April 12, 2022 of the Jennings City Council at 5:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/Barbara Lantz

Barbara Lantz, Secretary
Jennings City Council

Stephen VanHook, President
Jennings City Council