

REGULAR MEETING

March 14, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Jennings City Council was convened on the 14th day of March, 2023, 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; Anthony LeBlanc, District D; Stephen VanHook, District E

Jennings City Council Members Absent: Clifton LeJeune, District C

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

It was moved by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the February 14, 2023 Regular Meeting.

Resolution No. 1791S – a resolution to honor and congratulate the Jennings High School Jazzers Contest of Champions National Winners. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to introduce and adopt Resolution No. 1791S. Mayor Henry Guinn congratulated the Jennings High School Jazzers for their accomplishment and recognized the hard work and dedication that it takes to win a national championship. Mayor Guinn thanked the Jazzers for representing the City and wished them luck in their future endeavors. Council President, Stephen VanHook also congratulated the Jazzers and read the resolution aloud. Jazzer sponsor, Ms. Martinez thanked the community for their support. After no further questions or comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE & ADOPT** Resolution No. 1791S.

Resolution No. 1791T – a resolution in support for a traffic impact analysis on Highway 26 resulting from economic development; and repealing all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict therewith. It was motioned by Ms. Simon and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to introduce and adopt Resolution No. 1791T. Mayor Henry Guinn stated that this study involves a dangerous intersection at Highway 26 and the service road. Mayor Guinn explained that the City is also considering expanding Zigler Memorial Drive westward and intends on partnering with DOTD for funding. According to Mayor Guinn, the project already has tremendous economic development interest. Mayor Guinn explained that this study includes hiring a traffic engineer to perform the traffic analysis as required by DOTD. After no other questions or comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE & ADOPT** Resolution No. 1791T.

Ordinance No. 1793 – 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. Armentor and seconded by Ms. Simon to introduce Ordinance No. 1793. Mayor Henry Guinn stated this was regular housekeeping the City had to do each year and the millage rates will be exactly the same as the previous year. After no other public comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1793.

Ordinance No. 1792 – an ordinance creating the “City of Jennings Economic Development District No. 1, State of Louisiana;” defining the boundaries thereof from which area local sales tax and hotel occupancy tax increments will be determined and used to finance economic development projects in accordance with and as authorized by Part II of Chapter 27 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; and providing for other matters in connection with the foregoing. It was motioned by Ms. Simon and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to adopt Ordinance No. 1792. Mayor Henry

Guinn stated that the City has worked closely with Mr. Lynwood Hebert of *Hebert's Boudin & Cracklins, LLC* to relocate a lift station and water lines to accommodate the development of his new business on the property. Mr. Hebert was very understanding of the costs associated with this project and agreed to allow the City to place an additional one cent sales tax on retail sales within his specific parcel of land. Mayor Guinn explained that this would only affect the *Hebert's Boudin & Cracklins, LLC*. After a few questions and comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **ADOPT** Ordinance No. 1792.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Carolyn Simon, Anthony LeBlanc, Johnny Armentor & Stephen VanHook

Nays: None Abstained: None Absent: Clifton LeJeune

Mr. LeBlanc motioned and Ms. Simon seconded to discuss whether to approve and confirm a beer & liquor permit to Taqueria DF2, LLC (Francisco Campuzano), d/b/a Restaurant Mexicano DF & Monterrey for retail sales – Class A – drinking on premises – located at 203 E. Nezpique St., Ste. 105. Mayor Guinn stated that all the paperwork was in order with a clear background check. Mayor Henry Guinn stated that this location already had a permit and this was a change in ownership. After no other comment or discussion, it was carried by yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to approve and confirm the beer/liquor permit to Taqueria DF2, LLC d/b/a Restaurant Mexicano DF & Monterrey for retail sales – Class A – drinking on premises – located at 203 E. Nezpique St., Ste 105. Mayor Guinn thanked them for starting a business in the City of Jennings. Yeas: Anthony LeBlanc, Carolyn Simon & Stephen VanHook Nays: Johnny Armentor Abstained: None Absent: Clifton LeJeune

Mr. LeBlanc motioned and Ms. Simon seconded to discuss whether to approve and confirm a beer & liquor permit to Family Dollar Stores of Louisiana, LLC, (d/b/a Family Dollar #29102) for retail sales – Class B – no drinking on premises – located at 414 W. Plaquemine Street. Mayor Guinn stated that Family Dollar has not sold alcohol in the past at this location and this is a new permit. Mayor Guinn explained that all the paperwork was in order with a clear background check. After no other comment or discussion, it was carried by yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to approve and confirm the beer/liquor permit to Family Dollar Stores of Louisiana, LLC, (d/b/a Family Dollar #29102) – Class B – no drinking on premises – located at 414 W. Plaquemine Street. Yeas: Anthony LeBlanc, Carolyn Simon, Johnny Armentor, & Stephen VanHook Nays: None Abstained: None Absent: Clifton LeJeune

Mr. LeBlanc motioned and Mr. Armentor seconded to discuss whether to approve and confirm a beer & liquor permit to Daiqs of Jennings, LLC, (d/b/a Daiquiris Supreme) for retail sales – Class A – drinking on premises – located at 103 W. Fred & Ruth Zigler Memorial Dr. Mayor Guinn stated that all the paperwork was in order with a clear background check. Mayor Henry Guinn stated that this location already had a permit and this was a change in ownership. After no other comment or discussion, it was carried by yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to approve and confirm the beer/liquor permit to Daiqs of Jennings, LLC, (d/b/a Daiquiris Supreme) for retail sales – Class A – drinking on premises – located at 103 W. Fred & Ruth Zigler Memorial Dr. Mayor Guinn thanked them for starting a business in the City of Jennings. Yeas: Anthony LeBlanc, Carolyn Simon, Johnny Armentor & Stephen VanHook Nays: None Abstained: None Absent: Clifton LeJeune

It was motioned by Ms. Simon and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to authorize the mayor to accept the lowest responsible bidder for the Street Scape Project. Bids were opened on March 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. *Womack and Sons Construction Group, LLC* had the low bid of \$768,053. Mayor Henry Guinn explained that the project would be an enhancement to downtown and consists of removing &

replacing the sidewalk, LED lanterns, concrete planter boxes with irrigation and electrical boxes. Mayor Guinn stated that this includes the east and west sides of Main Street from Plaquemine Street to Nezpique Street. After a few comments and questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to authorize the mayor to **ACCEPT** the lowest responsible bidder for the Street Scape project.

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to go into executive session with respect to litigation with insurance regarding Hurricane Damage.

It was motioned by Ms. Simon, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to move back into regular session.

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Ms. Simon to add to the agenda the request by Mayor Henry Guinn to accept a contract with Stutes & Lavergne, LLC for ongoing litigation pertaining to property damages sustained from Hurricanes Laura and Delta. After no comments or questions, the council unanimously voted to add Mayor Guinn's item to the agenda. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to authorize the Mayor to accept a contract with Stutes & Lavergne, LLC for litigation with insurance in regards to hurricane damage. Mayor Guinn explained that this contract would assist in recovery of property damage. City Attorney Derek Bisig explained that this contract is based off of how much is recovered. After no further comments and questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to authorize the mayor to **ACCEPT** a contract with Stutes & Lavergne, LLC for litigation with insurance regarding hurricane damage.

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to add to the agenda the request by Rosalyn Ardoin to receive an engineer update on drainage issues. After no comments or questions, the council unanimously voted to add Ms. Ardoin's item to the agenda. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Ms. Simon to introduce discussion regarding drainage updates. Mayor Henry Guinn explained that he had met with the engineer and contractors to look at clearing drainage laterals and the City may seek additional servitudes to better enable maintenance of the drainage.

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Ms. Simon to add to the agenda the request by Carolyn Barker to discuss the issue with the rice drier. After no comments or questions, the council unanimously voted to add Ms. Barker's item to the agenda. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Ms. Simon to introduce discussion regarding the rice drier. Ms. Barker expressed concern for public safety at the location. Mayor Henry Guinn explained that he would have the City Inspector go out to the location and ask the owner to secure the property. Mayor Guinn stated that there is potential development at this site.

With no further business on the agenda, it was moved by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **ADJOURN** this Regular Meeting on March 14, 2023 of the Jennings City Council at 6:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/Chad Crochet

Chad Crochet, Secretary
Jennings City Council

Stephen VanHook, President
Jennings City Council