

REGULAR MEETING

April 11, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Jennings City Council was convened on the 11th day of April, 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; Clifton LeJeune, District C; Johnny Armentor, District B; 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 Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the March 14, 2023 Regular Meeting.

Resolution No. 1792A – a resolution revoking the dedication of surplus equipment belonging to the City of Jennings to make available for sale, donation, or for disposal. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeJeune to introduce and adopt Resolution No. 1792A. Mayor Guinn explained that the city has been updating police department technology and this is general housekeeping to dispose outdated items. After no further questions or comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE & ADOPT** Resolution No. 1792A.

Ordinance No. 1794 – an ordinance authorizing the City of Jennings to annex the Sunshine Addition; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to introduce Ordinance No. 1794. Mayor Henry Guinn stated that the City has been working closely with Sunshine Equipment to accommodate a new agriculture dealership located on the northern side of the service road. The property is approximately ten acres and contiguous with the existing City boundary. Mayor Guinn explained that the City has been working closely with Sunshine Equipment to get water and sewer available to accommodate this site and future development. After a few questions and comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1794.

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. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon to adopt Ordinance No. 1793. Mayor Henry Guinn stated the millage rates will remain the same for 2023. After no comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **ADOPT** Ordinance No. 1793. Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None Abstained: None Absent: None

It was moved by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **MOVE** the presentation of the City Audit to the end of the meeting.

Mike Hefner of Geographic Planning & Demographic Services presented information regarding the 2020 census and reapportionment. Mr. Hefner explained that reapportionment or redistricting is required every ten years if the population within each district is not within the allowable range. Mr. Hefner stated that he will do workshops with the public and council to look at the plan and make any necessary changes. Mr. Hefner explained that once there is a consensus on a redistricting plan, there will be an introduction ordinance, then a public hearing, and finally the adoption of the ordinance.

City Council President, Stephen VanHook stated that the next item of business was to approve and confirm a beer & liquor permit to Alexa LeJeune (d/b/a Two Two One) for retail sales – Class A – drinking on premises located at 221 N. Main St. No motion was obtained therefore the approval for the beer & liquor permit **FAILED**. City Council President, Stephen VanHook, explained that the item was no longer open for discussion.

Mr. Armentor motioned and Ms. Simon seconded to discuss the demo & cleanup of the property located at 1303 W. D. Rochelle Avenue (former James Ward Elementary School) belonging to Janine A. Coleman Community Development. The structure has been declared unsafe and in need of condemnation. There was nobody affiliated with the property present. City Attorney, Derek Bisig explained that the owner contacted his office and stated that she received the packet and is working with a contractor to fix the issues as soon as possible. Mayor Henry Guinn explained that issues with this property dated back to 2014 and the owners have been given ample time to correct the problems with the site. Mayor Guinn explained that this property affects the City's fire rating. After much discussion and comments, it was moved by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to refer the property at 1303 W. D. Rochelle Avenue (formerly James Ward Elementary School) belonging to Janine A. Coleman Community Development which has been declared unsafe and in need of condemnation to the Mayor's office to monitor the cleanup and repair up to code being at least fifty percent complete by January 1, 2024 and/or including demolition.

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to discuss the demo and cleanup of property at 208 S. Main belonging to Rita Ellison. The structure has been declared unsafe and in need of condemnation. Mayor Guinn explained that the property sustained hurricane damage including a tree falling through the structure, and is deteriorating. No one representing the property was in attendance, but City Attorney Derek Bisig stated that the owner had called to inform the city that she could not make the meeting since she lives in California. After a few questions and comments, it was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Ms. Simon, and carried by yeas of voice vote of those in attendance, with Mr. LeJeune voting nay, to REFER this property to the mayor's office to send one more notification letter to the owner and if there is no response then to move to demolition.

Ms. Jessica Lott of the Langley, Williams, & Company, LLC Accounting Firm presented the City of Jennings' Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/22. The auditor highlighted the assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues, and expenditures of the funds for the year and compared to the previous year. Ms. Lott stated that they gave an Unmodified Opinion on the City's governmental activities, business-type activities, and each major fund. There were no findings for the year. The entire audit can be found on the City of Jennings' & LA Legislative Auditor's websites: (www.cityofjennings.com & www.la.state.la.us). The mayor thanked the auditor and the financial staff for the time and energy spent working on the audit. The council thanked the auditors, the mayor and the financial staff.

With no further business on the agenda, it was moved by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeJeune and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to ADJOURN this Regular Meeting on April 11, 2023 of the Jennings City Council at 6:44 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/Chad Crochet

Chad Crochet, Secretary
Jennings City Council

Stephen VanHook, President
Jennings City Council