

REGULAR MEETING

July 11, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Jennings City Council was convened on the 11th day of July, 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; Clifton LeJeune, District C; Stephen VanHook, District E

Jennings City Council Members Absent: Anthony LeBlanc, District D

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 June 22, 2023 Special Meeting.

Resolution No. 1800A – a resolution authorizing the mayor to correct a clerical error on the Pay Plan for fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Mr. Armentor to introduce and adopt Resolution No. 1800A. Mayor Henry Guinn stated that the budget had the correct hourly rate for Tupper Museum part time employees. However, their rate should have been updated to \$10.00 per hour on the pay plan. This resolution would clarify and authorize the correction on the pay plan. After no public comments or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of roll call voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE & ADOPT** Resolution No. 1800A.

Ordinance No. 1801 – an ordinance authorizing the City of Jennings to annex immovable property into the Sunshine Addition; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Ms. Simon to introduce Ordinance No. 1801. Mayor Henry Guinn stated that Old River has requested to be annexed by the City. Mayor Guinn explained that this will be a new 18-wheeler dealership. After no other questions or comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of roll call voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1801.

Next was to elect the City Council President for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeJeune and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **RE-ELECT** Mr. Stephen VanHook as Jennings City Council President for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeJeune to authorize the mayor to enter into a lease agreement with Blackwater Gun Company, LLC. Mr. Rusty Sonnier, owner of Blackwater Gun Company, LLC, explained that this lease would enable his company to provide public training courses including gun safety as well as technical services to law enforcement in a controlled environment. Mayor Guinn explained that the lease involved a shooting range owned by the City. Mr. Sonnier stated that his company has committed to maintaining the property. After a few comments and questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **AUTHORIZE** the mayor to enter into a lease agreement with Blackwater Gun Company, LLC.

Mayor Henry Guinn gave a brief update concerning the permanent closure of North Avenue as a result of the Water Plant expansion project. No council action was taken.

Mr. LeJeune motioned and Ms. Simon seconded to discuss the demo & cleanup of the property located at 203 S. Louise St. belonging to Louisiana Guest House, Inc. (Acadiana Concern for Aids Relief). The structure has been declared unsafe and in need of condemnation. Michael Adley, attorney for Acadiana Concern for Aids Relief, addressed the Council about this property. Mr. Adley explained that the organization is currently trying to sell the property. Mr. Adley stated that the property was currently being used for storage. Mayor Guinn explained that this property would need to be brought up to code before the electrical could be turned back on. Mayor Guinn also explained that the property may require rezoning depending on its intended use when sold. 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 203 S. Louise St. to the Mayor's office for continued follow up as well as a request for the representative's presence at the September 12, 2023 meeting.

With no further business on the agenda, it was moved by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Mr. Armentor and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to ADJOURN this Regular Meeting on July 11, 2023 of the Jennings City Council at 6:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/Chad Crochet

Chad Crochet, Secretary
Jennings City Council

Stephen VanHook, President
Jennings City Council