

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 14, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Jennings City Council was convened on the 14th day of August, 2018 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; Stephen VanHook, District E

Jennings City Council Members Absent: Clifton LeJeune, District C; Anthony LeBlanc, District D

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

It was moved by Ms. Simon, seconded by Mr. Armentor and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the July 10, 2018 Regular Meeting.

Resolution No. 1740B – a resolution affirming support for application to the Governor’s Office of Community Development, 2018-2019 Local Government Assistance Program for a grant to be used for the replacement of turnout coats and pants and the purchase of a new pick-up truck for the Jennings Fire Department and to authorize the Mayor of the City of Jennings to enter and to be administrator of any grant monies received. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Ms. Simon to introduce Resolution No. 1740B. With no public comments or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE & ADOPT** Resolution No. 1740B.

Resolution No. 1740C – a resolution authorizing Mayor Henry Guinn of the City of Jennings to enter into and execute a professional services agreement with Archon Information Systems, LLC, d/b/d *Civicsource*, for the administration of an online auction and sale of adjudicated properties program. It was motioned by Ms. Simon and seconded by Mr. Armentor to introduce Resolution No. 1740C. City Attorney Kevin Millican answered a question about adjoining property owners being allowed first choice at acquiring adjudicated properties. Millican stated that Civicsource follows whatever LA State law allows. With no other public comments or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE & ADOPT** Resolution No. 1740C.

Ordinance No. 1741 – an ordinance to assess a collection fee on debts referred to a collection agency. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Ms. Simon to introduce Ordinance No. 1741. Mayor Henry Guinn clarified that this ordinance will allow a Louisiana Municipal Association entity to collect outstanding debts for not only the Utilities Department, but for City Court as well. With over \$14,000 and \$19,000 of outstanding debts in the last two years, this agency will help steer the city in the right direction. With no public comments or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1741.

Ordinance No. 1742 – an ordinance amending the City of Jennings Code of Ordinances regarding garbage, trash and refuse 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. 1742. Mayor Henry Guinn stated that this ordinance will help keep our roadways clear of obstructions for vehicle and pedestrian traffic and allow our neighborhoods to have an orderly and clean appearance. City Attorney Kevin Millican clarified that the reason for an introduction of an ordinance is to allow the public time to

read the ordinance that will be published in its entirety in the Jennings Daily News Public Notice Section. This gives the citizens a month to examine and to express an opinion either at the council meeting or to their council person. An introduction of an ordinance does not mean that their council person is for or against the ordinance. It is to allow time for public input. This is why an ordinance has a two month window. Discussion followed from residents with concerns that the city needs more stringent rules with trash in yards also. Residents & council were also concerned about which department would enforce the ordinance and how would warnings be tracked. Guinn stated that it would most likely fall under the city inspector's office. Guinn also stated that this ordinance was by far the most relaxed trash can ordinance that he had read. A concerned citizen said that the city should hire an enforcement person to deal with this issue. With no other public comments or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1742.

The Council recognized the new Police Chief Danny Semmes. Mayor Guinn praised Chief Semmes for his wealth of knowledge and experience; that he was tough on crime and would raise the level of expectation of employees and citizens of Jennings.

Next was to approve and confirm a beer and liquor permit to *John Kermit Guillory, (Guill's LLC) - d/b/a Betty's Restaurant & Bar* for retail sales – Class A – drinking on premises – located at 203 E. Nezpique Street, Ste. 105. Mayor Henry Guinn stated that all the paperwork was in order with a clear background check. The council recognized Mr. & Mrs. Guillory. After no comment or discussion, it was moved by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **approve and confirm** the beer/liquor permit to *Betty's Restaurant & Bar* for retail sales – Class A – drinking on premises – located at 203 E. Nezpique Street, Ste. 105.

Next was to have a presentation of a plan of action on how bidders would revitalize and use the old City Hall facility at 324 North Broadway Street. The only bidder was *Partners Real Estate, LLC* (Mr. Joel Oustalet) & *Percipoles* (Dr. Ben Sabbaghian) with a bid of \$5,500.00. Mr. Oustalet stated that their portion would be the Zigler Annex side of the building. Their plan would be to demo and use this area to display an extra sixty cars which would increase visibility and sales for this family organization. The back side facing the courthouse would be used for parking for the residents of the proposed residential renovation. Dr. Sabbaghian stated that his portion would be the historical multi-story complex which could possibly be used for commercial or business offices on the bottom floor and residential flats for the other floors. Demo would be fairly quick but revitalization would take some time. After a few comments and discussion, it was moved by Ms. Simon, seconded by Mr. Armentor and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **accept the bid** of \$5,500.00 of *Partners Real Estate, LLC* (Mr. Joel Oustalet) & *Percipoles* (Dr. Ben Sabbaghian) for the revitalization of the old City Hall located at 324 North Broadway Street.

Next was to vote whether to go into executive session to discuss negotiations with respect to litigation. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **move into executive session**. Motion was made by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **move out of executive session** and return to regular session. Motion was made by

Mr. Armentor, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **authorize the city attorney** to file the necessary claims and **authorize the mayor** to execute the necessary affidavits with perspective litigation as discussed.

With no further business, it was moved by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas voice vote of those in attendance to ADJOURN this Regular Meeting on August 14, 2018 of the Jennings City Council at 6.27 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/Barbara Lantz

Barbara Lantz, Secretary
Jennings City Council

Stephen VanHook, President
Jennings City Council