

REGULAR MEETING

June 14, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Jennings City Council was convened on the 14th day of June, 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. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the May 10, 2022 Regular Meeting.

Ordinance No. 1779 – an ordinance to amend the Jennings City Code, Chapter 20, Article IX; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Ms. Simon to adopt Ordinance No. 1779. Since the City now has a full-time attorney on staff, this ordinance will allow the city's attorney to serve as the city prosecutor. After no comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **ADOPT** Ordinance No. 1779.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Johnny Armentor, Anthony LeBlanc, Clifton LeJeune, Carolyn Simon & Stephen VanHook Nays: None Abstained: None Absent: None

Ordinance No. 1780 – an ordinance to add to the Jennings City Code, Chapter 20, Article IV, Sec. 20-39, Chapter 20, Article VII, Sec. 20-138; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith. It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to adopt Ordinance No. 1780. This ordinance will allow the city's attorney to serve as city prosecutor. After no questions or comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **ADOPT** Ordinance No. 1780.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Johnny Armentor, Anthony LeBlanc, Clifton LeJeune, Carolyn Simon & Stephen VanHook Nays: None Abstained: None Absent: None

Ordinance No. 1781 – an ordinance authorizing the City of Jennings Mayor to enter into negotiations, sign conveyances, perform sewer construction and demolition as needed; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith. It was motioned by Mr. LeBlanc and seconded by Ms. Simon to adopt Ordinance No. 1781. Mayor Henry Guinn stated that Mr. Lynwood Hebert of *Hebert's Boudin & Cracklins, LLC* was requesting the city to move the city's right-of-way to the outer portions of their property in order to build a new convenience store and restaurant. The city's lift station and utility easement are interfering with the engineering plan of the construction. This ordinance will allow the city to hire an engineer to find out the cost of moving the lift station and utility easement. After no questions or comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **ADOPT** Ordinance No. 1781.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Johnny Armentor, Anthony LeBlanc, Clifton LeJeune, Carolyn Simon & Stephen VanHook Nays: None Abstained: None Absent: None

Ordinance No. 1782 – an ordinance to authorize the Mayor of the City of Jennings to execute contracts; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to adopt Ordinance No. 1782. Mayor Guinn stated the first agreement was to partner with the Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury for contracting with a certified contractor to mow all the adjudicated properties in the city limits of Jennings. There are approximately 140 adjudicated properties that will be mowed monthly. The city and parish will split the cost. The second agreement was also to partner with the Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury for the LED lighting system at the I-10 ramps of LA 26

& LA 97. After no questions or comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **ADOPT** Ordinance No. 1782.

Roll call vote: Yeas: Carolyn Simon, Clifton LeJeune, Anthony LeBlanc, Johnny Armentor & Stephen VanHook Nays: None Abstained: None Absent: None

Ordinance No. 1783 – an ordinance to adopt the Pay Plan and the Operating & Capital Outlay Budget for FYE 06/30/2023. It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon to introduce Ordinance No. 1783. Mayor Guinn stated that a hearing for public participation of the Proposed Budget was held just prior to the Council Meeting at 5:00 pm in compliance with LRS 39:1306-07 and the proposed budget was presented. There were no questions or comments at the Public Hearing. Mr. Gregory Marcantel, CPA stated that Mayor Guinn had instituted a significant increase of 25% for entry level positions of police and fire personnel. The total cost of the raises and benefits was about \$400,000. This was the single largest pay raise ever and hopefully will attract and keep quality people. The floor was then opened for any public questions or comments. After no comments or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1783.

Ordinance No. 1784 – an ordinance to adjust the water & sewer connections and to set the schedule of fees and charges for services for FY 2022-23. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to introduce Ordinance No. 1784. Mayor Guinn stated that price increases are necessary due to rising costs of all equipment and parts of the water and sewer systems. After no questions or comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1784.

Ordinance No. 1785 – an ordinance to adjust the solid waste collection and disposal rates to the CPI Index for FY 2022-23. It was motioned by Ms. Simon and seconded by Mr. LeJeune to introduce Ordinance No. 1785. Mayor Guinn stated that the city had a great relationship with Republic Services to provide curb side trash pickup and in that contract, they are allowed a 2% increase based on the Consumer Price Index. The actual increase of the Consumer Price Index was 8%. Ms. Tiffany Jones from Republic Services introduced herself to the council and stated that she was available for any concerns. After no comments and questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1785.

Ordinance No. 1786 – an ordinance to authorize the mayor to adopt the annual Joint Service Agreements for FY 2022-23. It was motioned by Ms. Simon and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to introduce Ordinance No. 1786. Mayor Guinn stated that passage of this ordinance allows him to enter into agreements with a variety of agencies operating day to day. After no public comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1786.

President Stephen VanHook stated that the renaming of Isabelle Street was taken off of the agenda due to the request of Mr. Edwin Ray.

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Ms. Simon to discuss the renaming of Peters Street. Ms. Carolyn Simon stated that she would like to rename Peters Street to Martin Luther King Street. She had looked at all areas of the city to find the best street that would not affect resident's addresses. She did not want to put an extra burden and lots of red tape on residents. Mayor Guinn stated that the only address it would affect would be Marcus Cain Park's electric meters. Mr. Armentor stated that Marcus Cain Park was a beautiful park that was utilized by everyone. After a few comments regarding the street to be in a more prominent area which would affect more residents, it was moved by Ms. Simon and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to move this request to the Mayor's office for further discussion.

It is mandated each year by the State of Louisiana that the City of Jennings assigns an Official Municipal Journal. It was moved by Mr. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Armentor and carried by unanimous

yeas of voice vote of those in attendance **TO NAME** the *Jennings Daily News* as the City's Official Municipal Journal for the year 2022-23.

President VanHook reminded everyone of the Special Meeting to be held on June 28, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. which was called for by the City Clerk at the request of the council members.

The council unanimously voted to add to the agenda the request of Danielle White to discuss high juvenile crime in the community. Mayor Guinn stated that he is very aware of the problem of juvenile crime. About 5 months ago a meeting was held at City Hall with two council members and governmental agencies including the state police to discuss juvenile crime in the area and what could be done to address the problem. There are no quick fixes, but Mayor Guinn encouraged the public to contact the parish to partner with other rural parishes to possibly build a juvenile detention facility in our area.

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 June 14, 2022 of the Jennings City Council at 6:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/Barbara Lantz

Barbara Lantz, Secretary
Jennings City Council

Stephen VanHook, President
Jennings City Council