

## REGULAR MEETING

June 11, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Jennings City Council was convened on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024 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: Johnny Armentor, District B; Clifton LeJeune, District C; Anthony LeBlanc, District D; Stephen VanHook, District E

Jennings City Council Members Absent: Carolyn Simon, District A

The Prayer was led by Mr. LeJeune 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 14, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Resolution No. 1805C – a resolution to adopt procedures for placing items on the City Council Agenda and the length of time for presentation to the council; and repealing all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict therewith was postponed for three months in the March 2024 meeting. It was motioned by Mr. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. LeJeune and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to place Resolution No. 1805C **ON HOLD** due to being incomplete and to continue working out details.

Ordinance No. 1808 – an ordinance to adopt the Pay Plan and the Operating & Capital Outlay Budget for FYE 06/30/2025. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeJeune to introduce Ordinance No. 1808. 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. 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. 1808.

Ordinance No. 1809 – an ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 1590, Sec 26-39, changing the amount of the meter deposit. It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Mr. Armentor to introduce Ordinance No. 1809. Mayor Guinn stated that this would increase the deposits for new accounts to \$200 due to amounts of unpaid accounts. After no public questions or comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1809.

Ordinance No. 1810 – an ordinance to adjust the solid waste collection and disposal rates to the CPI Index for FY 2024-25. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to introduce Ordinance No. 1810. Mayor Guinn stated that the contract with our provider for curb side trash pickup allows an increase based on the consumer price index. The mayor explained that a 3% increase was negotiated which is less than the actual increase of the consumer price index. After no other comments and questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1810.

Ordinance No. 1811 – an ordinance to authorize the mayor to adopt the annual Joint Service Agreements for FY 2024-25. It was motioned by Mr. LeBlanc and seconded by Mr. LeJeune to

introduce Ordinance No. 1811. Mayor Henry Guinn stated that passage of this ordinance allows him to enter into agreements each year with a variety of agencies operating day to day. Mayor Guinn explained that there was one new joint service agreement with Water District No. 4 to provide temporary water service to new developments within the city north of Interstate 10. After no public comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1811.

Ordinance No. 1812 – an ordinance to increase the salary of the Mayor of the City of Jennings, LA. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeJeune to introduce Ordinance No. 1812. Financial consultant, Greg Marcantel, explained that the salaries of the Mayor and City Council can only be changed after each election cycle which is every four years. Marcantel stated that he did a comparison study of city council and mayors' salaries of cities comparable to the size of Jennings. Based on that survey he suggested that the mayor's salary be increased by \$10,000 to \$85,000 which would be in the middle of the other cities surveyed. Marcantel reminded everyone that this increase does not go into effect until July 1, 2025. Therefore, the increase does not apply to the current mayor, it applies to the position of mayor to be voted in by the people in the next election. After a few comments and questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1812.

Ordinance No. 1813 – an ordinance to increase the salary of the members of the City Council of the City of Jennings, LA. It was motioned by Mr. LeBlanc and seconded by Mr. LeJeune to introduce Ordinance No. 1813. Greg Marcantel, explained that this would increase the city council members' salary to \$9,600 annually. Marcantel stated that even after the increase, this would be on the low side compared to similar cities that were surveyed. This increase does not go into effect until July 1, 2025. Therefore, the increase does not apply to the current city council members, it applies to the positions of city council to be voted in by the people in the next election. It was also noted that the salaries of the members of the City Council had not been changed since the 1980s. After a few comments and questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1813.

Ordinance No. 1814 – an ordinance to adopt budget amendments for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeJeune to introduce Ordinance No. 1814. Mayor Guinn stated that there were no budget amendments for fiscal year end June 30, 2024. Therefore, no council action was taken.

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to authorize the mayor to sign an amended joint service agreement with Jennings Industrial Development Board (JIDB) to allocate an additional \$35,000 for insurance associated costs. Mayor Guinn stated that an additional \$35,000 is necessary to cover increased property insurance costs of buildings insured through the Jennings Industrial Development Board. After no other public comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of roll call voice vote to **AUTHORIZE** the Mayor to sign an amended joint service agreement with Jennings Industrial Development Board (JIDB) to allocate an additional \$35,000 for insurance associated costs.

Mr. LeBlanc motioned and Mr. Armentor seconded to discuss whether to approve and confirm a beer & liquor permit to Hardy & Pelloquin Real Estate LLC (d/b/a Gumbeaux's Bar & Grill), for retail sales – Class A – drinking on premises – located at 919 N. Lake Arthur Ave.

Mayor Guinn stated that all the paperwork submitted was in order with a clear background check. Mr. Kevin Hardy was in attendance to answer any questions. After no other comments or questions, it was carried by yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to approve and confirm the beer/liquor permit to Hardy & Pelloquin Real Estate LLC (d/b/a Gumbeaux's Bar & Grill), for retail sales – Class A – drinking on premises – located at 919 N. Lake Arthur Ave. Yeas: Johnny Armentor, Anthony LeBlanc, & Stephen VanHook Nays: None Abstained: Clifton LeJeune Absent: Carolyn Simon

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to authorize the mayor to enter into an agreement with LA Public Service Commission Energy Efficient program for tennis court lighting. Mayor Guinn explained that the city received a small grant of \$14,720 from Public Service Commission to put new LED lights for the tennis and pickle ball courts. After no public comments or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to authorize the mayor to enter into an agreement with LA Public Service Commission Energy Efficient program for tennis court lighting.

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. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc 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 2024-25.

President VanHook reminded everyone of the Special Meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. which was called for by the City Clerk at the request of the council members.

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 11, 2024 of the Jennings City Council at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/Chad Crochet

Chad Crochet, Secretary  
Jennings City Council

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Stephen VanHook, President  
Jennings City Council