

REGULAR MEETING

August 13, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Jennings City Council was convened on the 13th day of August, 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: 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 Mr. LeJeune and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Armentor.

It was moved by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the July 9, 2024 Regular Meeting.

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 July 23, 2024 Special Meeting.

It was motioned by Ms. Simon and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to authorize the mayor to accept the lowest responsible bidder for the Historic District Sign Project. Bids were opened on July 31, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. *Highway Safety Systems, LLC* had the low bid of \$637,165.39. Mayor Henry Guinn stated that this project consists of changing street signage in the Historic District to new ornamental signs. Mayor Guinn explained that the bids were approximately fifty percent over budget and the project should be reviewed with the engineer so that changes can be made to reduce the price. After a few questions and comments, by unanimous yeas of roll call voice vote of those in attendance, the motion to authorized the mayor to accept the lowest responsible bidder for the Historic District Sign Project **FAILED**. Roll call vote: Yeas: None Nays: Carolyn Simon, Clifton LeJeune, Anthony LeBlanc, Johnny Armentor, & Stephen VanHook Abstained: None Absent: None

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeJeune to authorize the mayor to accept the lowest responsible bidder for the 2024 Street Improvement Project. Bids were opened on August 8, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. *Elliot Construction, LLC* had the low bid of \$3,962,412.00. The mayor explained that this project consists of many roads throughout the city. Mayor Guinn stated that the engineer recommends awarding the contract to the low bidder, Elliot Construction, LLC. After questions and comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **AUTHORIZE** the mayor to accept the lowest responsible bidder for the 2024 Street Improvement Project.

Mr. LeBlanc motioned and Ms. Simon seconded to discuss whether to approve and confirm a beer & liquor permit to Jaspal Sing and Lakhwinder Kaur (d/b/a A & J Bar), for retail sales – Class A – drinking on premises – located at 409 S. Main St. Mayor Guinn stated that all the paperwork submitted was in order with a clear background check. Mr. Singh was in attendance to answer any questions. After a few questions and comments, it was carried by yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to approve and confirm the beer/liquor permit to Jaspal Sing and Lakhwinder Kaur (d/b/a A & J Bar), for retail sales – Class A – drinking on premises – located at 409 S. Main St. Yeas: Johnny Armentor, Anthony LeBlanc, Carolyn Simon & Stephen VanHook Nays: None Abstained: Clifton LeJeune Absent: None

Mr. LeBlanc motioned and Mr. Armentor seconded to discuss/update the demo & cleanup of the property located at 502 Railroad Ave. belonging to ERI-JD, LLC. The structure has been declared unsafe and in need of condemnation. The owner of the property, Omar Edwards was present to answer questions. Mr. Edwards asked the council to allow six months to secure and continue cleanup the property. After a few questions and comments, it was motioned by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to allow the owner six months to further secure and continue cleanup of the property at 502 Railroad Ave.

Mr. Armentor motioned and Ms. Simon seconded to review and discuss off-road vehicles, utility terrain vehicles and golf carts regarding safety equipment requirements, exemptions, and regulations. Several citizens expressed concern for public safety especially for children. The mayor explained that there are state laws in place and would require enforcement. After much discussion, no action was taken.

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc and carried by unanimous voice vote of those in attendance to add to the agenda the request of Councilwoman Carolyn Simon to discuss unleashed stray and vicious dogs and grass being mowed with clippings and trash being thrown into neighbors' yards and roadways. Mayor Guinn explained that the police department governs animal control and citizens should report the presence of unleashed vicious dogs to the police department when they are seen. Mayor Guinn also explained that concerns for grass clippings should be reported to code enforcement.

Resolution No. 1805C is **ON HOLD**.

Ordinance No. 1814 is **ON HOLD**.

With no further business on the agenda, it was moved by Mr. LeJeune, seconded by Ms. Simon and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to ADJOURN this Regular Meeting on August 13, 2024 of the Jennings City Council at 6:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/Chad Crochet

Chad Crochet, Secretary
Jennings City Council

Stephen VanHook, President
Jennings City Council