

REGULAR MEETING

February 11, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Jennings City Council was convened on the 11th day of February, 2025 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 January 14, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Resolution No. 1817D – a resolution of condolences to the family of Clarence Levy Jr. former City Councilman, who passed away on January 11, 2025. It was motioned by Mr. LeBlanc and seconded by Mr. LeJeune to introduce and adopt Resolution No. 1817D. Mayor Henry Guinn and the City Council expressed their condolences and acknowledged Mr. Levy's sixteen-year commitment serving on the City Council. City Attorney, Wendell Miller, explained that Mr. Levy's family members were not able to be present, but thanked the Council. A copy of the resolution will be forwarded to Mr. Levy's family. After no other comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE & ADOPT** Resolution No. 1817D.

Resolution No. 1817E – a resolution affirming support for an application to the Governor's Office of Community Development, 2024-2025 Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) for a grant to be used for water system improvements, including but not limited to water wells, pumps, and waterlines and hydrants for the City of Jennings. It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon to introduce and adopt Resolution No. 1817E. Mayor Guinn stated that this is a state issued grant that the City applies for every year. Mayor Guinn explained that the maximum grant is \$50,000 and would be used toward water system improvements. After a few questions and comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE & ADOPT** Resolution No. 1817E.

Resolution No. 1817F – a resolution affirming support for application to the Governor's Office of Community Development, 2024-2025 Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) for a grant to be used for sewer system improvements including but not limited to manhole rehabilitation. It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon to introduce and adopt Resolution No. 1817F. Mayor Guinn explained that every year the city applies to the Governor's Office for the LGAP grant. Mayor Guinn stated that this is a state issued grant with a maximum of \$50,000 to be used for sewer improvements. After no other comment or questions, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to **INTRODUCE & ADOPT** Resolution No. 1817F.

Ordinance No. 1818 – an ordinance to approve the amendment to the charter of the Jefferson Davis Parish Economic Development Commission relative to adding the Town of Lake Arthur and the Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury as members, and removing the Jefferson Davis Parish Tourist Commission from membership in the Jefferson Davis Parish Economic Development Commission, and providing authority for the Mayor to sign such on behalf of the City of Jennings and otherwise

providing with respect thereto. It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Mr. Armentor to introduce Ordinance No. 1818. Mayor Henry Guinn explained that there has been ongoing discussion to amend the Jefferson Davis Parish Economic Development Commission. Mayor Guinn explained that any changes would be presented prior to adoption at the next City Council meeting. Parish Administrator, Ben Boudreaux, explained that this has been a joint effort between parish entities and would allow the Police Jury as well as the Town of Lake Arthur to participate. Financial consultant, Greg Marcantel explained that this would allow the Economic Development Commission to have a budget and employees separate from the Jefferson Davis Parish Tourist Commission. After a brief discussion, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote to **INTRODUCE** Ordinance No. 1818.

It was motioned by Mr. Armentor and seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to reject the bid for the Water Plant Upgrade Project. Bids were opened on December 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. *Volute* had the low base bid of \$21,200,000. Mayor Henry Guinn recommended rejecting the bid because it is well over budget. Mayor Guinn explained that a change of scope has been issued eliminating items from the project to reduce the cost and will be rebid. Mayor Guinn stated that he is working with the state water sector program to request more grant money for the project. After a few questions and comments, it was carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to reject the bid for the Water Plant Upgrade Project.

It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Mr. Armentor to discuss the charter provisions for selecting the City of Jennings attorney. After much discussion, no action was taken.

Next, it was motioned by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon to discuss the damage to City Property from snow storm including but not limited to the Pavilion at Marcus Cain Park. After a few comments and questions, no action was taken.

It was motioned by Mr. LeJeune and seconded by Ms. Simon to hear the presentation regarding the City of Jennings audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 by Ms. Sarah Werner of the Langley, Williams, & Company, LLC Accounting Firm. Ms. Werner stated that they issued an Unmodified Opinion which is the best opinion a governmental entity can receive. There were no internal control or compliance findings reported. The auditor highlighted the assets, liabilities, net position, changes in net position for the year. The entire audit can be found on the LA Legislative Auditor's website: (www.la.state.la.us). After a few comments and questions, Mayor Guinn thanked the auditor and the financial staff.

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

With no further business on the agenda, it was moved by Ms. Simon, seconded by Mr. LeJeune and carried by unanimous yeas of voice vote of those in attendance to ADJOURN this Regular Meeting on February 11, 2025 of the Jennings City Council at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/Chad Crochet

Chad Crochet, Secretary
Jennings City Council

Stephen VanHook, President
Jennings City Council