

TOWN OF MANY

June 16, 2020

Regular Session

Public Hearing was held at 5:15 p.m., June 16, 2020 prior to the Regular Council Session for the purpose of public comments on the Adoption of Ordinance #4 of 2020, Franchise Agreement with SWEPCO; the Adoption of Ordinance #5 of 2020, Amend Budget Changes for FY 2019-2020; and the Adoption of Ordinance #6 of 2020, Annual Budget for FY 2020-2021. With no comments from the public, hearing was closed at 5:16 P.M. with a motion by Jackson; seconded by Corley. Vote unanimous.

The Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Many met in regular session, Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 5:16 p.m. at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Ken Freeman, Mayor Pro-Tem James Kennedy, Council Members Gay Corley and Bobbie Jackson. Absent were Council Members Mary Brocato and Anita Darwin. Also present were Town Clerk Amie Brown, Police Chief Roger Freeman, Asst. Chief of Police Kyle Cook, Officer Carla Nicks, Payroll Clerk/HR Manager Karla Williams, Operations Manager Mark Oxley and Grant Writer Suzanne Williams.

Mayor Freeman called the meeting to order. Prayer was offered by Alderwoman Jackson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Freeman.

Minutes: Minutes for February 18, 2020 regular session was approved with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Corley. Vote unanimous.

Minutes for March 16, 2020 special called session was approved with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Corley. Vote unanimous.

Minutes for March 25, 2020 special called session was approved with a motion by Jackson; seconded by Corley. Vote unanimous.

Minutes for April 1, 2020 special called session was approved with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

Minutes for April 7, 2020 special called session was approved with a motion by Corley; seconded by Kennedy. Vote unanimous.

Minutes for April 29, 2020 special called session was approved with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Corley. Vote unanimous.

Minutes for May 7, 2020 special called session was approved with a motion by Corley; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

Minutes for May 13, 2020 special called session was approved with a motion by Jackson; seconded by Kennedy. Vote unanimous.

Minutes for June 1, 2020 special called session was approved with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

Minutes for June 11, 2020 special called session was approved with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

Amend Agenda: Motion to amend the agenda to add as #24 Gulf States Engineering Proposal to provide maintenance for this coming year for the five lift stations by Alderman Kennedy; Approved to add with a motion by Kennedy, seconded by Corley. Vote unanimous.

Motion to amend the agenda to add as #25 Congressman Mike Johnson Town Hall Meeting by Phone by Alderwoman Corley; Approved to add with a motion by Corley, seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

Open to Public Comments relating to items on agenda: Larry Alford had several concerns that he spoke about which include: a.) The trash problem in Sabine Parish, specifically on Middlecreek Road, to which Mayor Freeman stated that we are members of the Parish-Wide Litter Committee and also that we can issue tickets for littering and asked Mr. Alford if he had any suggestions to which Mr. Alford suggested a controlled burn if possible or maybe kill the grass. Alderman Kennedy stated that trash is a big problem and asked for cameras to be put up so that when someone throws trash out we can get their license number and fine them to which Mayor Freeman said was a good idea and asked the police department if they could get those type of cameras and Assistant Chief of Police Kyle Cook said he would research it but does not think they would be cheap to which Mayor Freeman asked him to get costs. Alderman Kennedy stated that William Ruffin with the Police Jury could help us buy these cameras. Mayor Freeman asked how many cameras are needed to which Alderman Kennedy stated at least three because the worst areas are Middlecreek, Highland and Washington. Alderwoman Corley asked Grant Writer Suzanne Williams to search for a grant for cameras; b.) The contractors that are putting in the new gas lines and meters are supposed to come back and repair the damage they do to the yards but have not repaired some including his. Mayor Freeman asked Operations Manager Mark Oxley if

they had been notified and Mark explained that we have notified them of many and was told that once they get through they will go back and do the dirt work then they have to come back and re-seed everything but that hasn't taken place yet either. Mayor Freeman said he would get our attorney to write them a letter giving them 30 days to get the repairs done, or, for Mark to get with the company and tell them that we will fix it and send them a bill. Mayor Freeman asked Mark to give him a list of all properties that need attention so they can be included in the letter; c.) Will there be discussion in the future about re-routing 18 wheelers from San Antonio Avenue to which Mayor Freeman stated that one option would be to re-route 18 wheelers down Church Street like it used to be; d.) Mary Brocato asked him to look at the Veterans Memorial which he has and reported that Katie Lombardino with DAR has an idea of placing a disposal box for old, worn flags that would be painted with stars and stripes. Mr. Alford asked if he could get permission to install it in the median to which Mayor Freeman said it was ok just let us know before installation because our people need to be included due to insurance reasons.

Guest(s): None

Old Business:

- 1. Adopt Ordinance #4 of 2020 – Franchise Agreement with SWEPCO:** Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Jackson. Vote Unanimous.
- 2. Adopt Ordinance #5 of 2020 – Amend Budget Changes for FY 2019-2020:** Passed with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Jackson. Vote Unanimous.
- 3. Adopt Ordinance #6 of 2020 – Annual Budget for FY 2020-2021:** Passed with a motion by Jackson; seconded by Kennedy. Vote Unanimous

New Business:

- 1. Resolution #1 of 2020 – Approval to purchase a used garbage truck:** Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Kennedy. Vote Unanimous.
- 2. Review and Award Bid: Asphalt for fiscal year 20-21:** Awarded to Williams Equipment of Anacoco, LA as lowest responsible bidder of \$124.10 per ton for 2" depth with a 300 ton minimum or \$118.99 per ton for 2" depth for 400 tons plus for overlay; and \$330.76 per ton for a 20 ton minimum or \$218.38 per ton for 40 tons plus for patching. Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Jackson. Vote Unanimous.
- 3. Review and Award Bid: Chemicals for fiscal year 20-21:** Potassium Permanganate awarded to Delta Energy of Mansfield, LA as lowest responsible bidder of \$3.00/lb delivered. Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Kennedy. Vote Unanimous.
150# Liquid Chlorine Cylinder awarded to DPC Industries of Houston, TX as lowest responsible bidder of \$136.00 delivered plus \$10.00 monthly rental each. Passed with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Jackson. Vote Unanimous. No bids were received for the 2000# Liquid Chlorine Cylinder so it will be put out for bid again. Soda Ash awarded to Harcros Chemicals of Shreveport, LA as lowest responsible bidder of \$.355/lb delivered. Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Jackson. Vote Unanimous.
- 4. Review and Award Bid: 800 +/- cubic yards of Iron Ore at the Airport:** Awarded to the only bidder, William Andries of Many, LA, for \$1.00 per cubic yard. Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Jackson. Vote Unanimous.
- 5. Review and Award Bid: 1,200 +/- cubic yards of Asphalt Millings at the Airport:** Awarded to the only bidder, William Andries of Many, LA, for \$4.00 per cubic yard. Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Jackson. Vote Unanimous.
- 6. Approve annual "Maintenance Agreement Including Mowing and Litter Pickup" with DOTD for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021:** Passed with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Jackson. Vote Unanimous.
- 7. Water Capital Projections:** Town CPA Eugene Fremaux provided a copy of options to fund installing a new water line to the water plant and moving the water intake structure. Mayor Freeman stated this would not be done this year but he wanted to go ahead and lay the groundwork for the coming year. The four options include a \$12,000,000 loan at 4% interest for 20 or 30 years, increase water and sewer fees by 43%, increase water and sewer fees by 10% plus a 1/4% sales tax increase and turning the police department over to the Sheriff's Office.

- 8. Vote to no longer accept cash as terms of payment for the water department:** Mayor Freeman reported that the water department would like to only accept checks, money orders and cards as the only terms of payment which would reduce the possibility of error. Alderwoman Corley asked if we could present it to the public to get their input on it to which Mayor Freeman appointed Alderwoman Corley to check into it and report back at next month's council meeting.
- 9. List of permits issued from the Sabine Parish building permit office for the first quarter of 2020:** A list of permits issued by the Sabine Parish Building Inspector's Office was provided to each council member.
- 10. Permit for Black Lives Matter march for this Saturday, June 20th:** Mayor Freeman reported that we have now been told by Dr. Sukerek and Mary Perry that there will be no march.
- 11. Reports:** Council was presented with the **Profit & Loss Performance Budget** for February, March, April and May 2020; the **Payables Log** for February, March, April and May 2020 with evidence of invoices paid; balanced & reconciled **Bank Statements** for February, March, April and May 2020; **Overtime report** through February, March, April and May 2020; Verification of Federal & Louisiana **Taxes paid** for February, March, April and May 2020; and Verification of **Insurance paid** for February, March, April and May 2020. All reports were accepted as written with a motion by Corley and seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.
- 12. Chief's Report with update on warrants:** Police Chief Freeman provided a report to the Council on activity for the last 30 days for Many Police Department. Police Chief Freeman stated in the last two months they have had three officers to quit and also reported that there have been complaints of kids playing on streets but they can only tell them to stay out of the street. Alderwoman Corley asked had he received any new applicants to which he replied they received a couple today. Alderwoman Corley stated that "children at play" signs need to be placed on Ponder, a speed bump needs to be put on Sorelle, and the "children at play" sign at the end of Ponder and Andries needs to be moved so it can be seen. Alderman Kennedy stated that a white Chevrolet pickup truck speeds down Louisiana and people also riding four wheelers on Louisiana, and a white Camaro with a blue stripe down the side speeds down Caledonia and asked the police department if they could set over there and write speeding tickets. Assistant Chief Kyle Cook stated they could set over there in an unmarked vehicle with a handheld radar. An addendum relating to the hiring of Kyle Cook was provided to the Mayor and Council by Chief Freeman stating that Kyle Cook will not have any supervisory authority over his father Stanley Cook and that no policies were violated. Mayor Freeman stated that they are in violation of their policy and job description. A copy of the letter received from attorney Billy Pickett stating that it is his opinion that the hiring of Kyle Cook should be deferred until hearing from the La. Board of Ethics, and a copy of the letter received from attorney Allison Jones stating her opinion is to reconsider the hiring of Kyle Cook was also provided.
- 13. Sales Tax Report: Increase of 12.27% over January 2019, Increase of 3.57% over February 2019, Decrease of <21.86%> over March 2019, Increase of 16.49% over April 2019:** Report was given by Alderwoman Corley and also stated that the state is once again trying to get it passed that the state take over the sales and use tax instead of it being run locally and that they are drafting a letter for them to sign and once she gets the letter she will adapt it and get it to the council for the Town to sign. Mayor Freeman asked for a motion to object to having the state collect our sales and use tax; motion by Corley and seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous. Mayor Freeman then asked for a motion to approve him to sign a letter of objection; motion by Corley and seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous. Alderwoman Corley stated that all council members can sign the same letter the mayor signs.
- 14. Tourism Report:** Alderwoman Jackson reported that all accommodations are open with SRA cabins opening June 1st, beaches open June 5th-7th and restaurants are open with the ones on Highway 6 and the lake being very busy. Room sales on Memorial Day were close to 95%. Rooms are booking well for July 4th. No visitors and 68 requests on the website.
- 15. Cultural District Report:** Alderwoman Brocato was absent but Mayor Freeman reported they did meet and are working on murals.
- 16. Fire Board:** Alderman Kennedy reported they have not had a meeting. Mayor Freeman reported that our Grant Writer found a grant on how to keep and encourage volunteer firemen and Chief Gowen turned it down.

- 17. Airport:** Mayor Freeman stated there was nothing to report.
- 18. Zoning:** Zoning Administrator Amie Brown reported there have been no zoning meetings
- 19. Grant Report:** Grant Writer Suzanne Williams provided an updated list of grants that she is currently working on which includes a community garden which will be located at the detention center and Sheriff Mitchell will have the inmates revitalize the garden, water plant maintenance, Christmas parade, playground equipment, CARES Act for COVID-19 reimbursements and Music in Many.
- 20. Street:** Operations Manager Mark Oxley reported they are getting caught up on mowing and weed eating; a 54" culvert on Orange Street washed out but has been fixed; putting out mosquito pellets; and there is bad spot in the road at the end of Orange Street that will get fixed. Alderwoman Corley asked when we would start spraying for mosquitoes to which Mayor Freeman stated when we find someone with a license, and that we have also contacted Natchitoches Parish and asked who sprays for them and found out their person will be retiring at the end of this month and will start spraying for us, and we have also contacted pest control companies. Mayor Freeman stated that we have been told at all classes that the spraying is less effective and that putting the pellets out in creeks and standing water is more effective because it kills the larvae. Alderwoman Corley asked if they were keeping the pellets out to which Mark stated they put the pellets out once a month when they are reading water meters. Mayor Freeman commended Mark on doing an excellent job in supervising both the Street and Water Departments. Alderwoman Corley asked if we could get with Cleco to put brighter lights in the Blake Subdivision where all the burglaries are happening.
- 21. Animal Control:** Animal Control Officer David Smith did not attend the meeting.
- 22. Water:** Mayor Freeman stated that we received a notice from DEQ about the chlorine level at three locations and also received a letter from DEQ about violations at the sewer plant which we have turned over to our consultant. Operations Manager Mark Oxley reported that he talked to the engineer today and the intake structure is put together and would be up and running by Thursday; the drying beds at the sewer plant are almost done; and they are working hard to get leaks fixed and the water loss has reduced from 17% to 10%.
- 23. Garbage:** Mayor Freeman reported that we will be buying a used garbage truck which will be in the new fiscal year budget. We only have two employees with CDL which is Mark and Mike. We have notified customers that in the event we cannot pick garbage up on a regular scheduled day it will instead be picked up on Wednesday which is normally their off day.
- 24. Amend: Gulf States Engineering Proposal for Lift Station Maintenance for all five at \$2,400.00 per:** Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Jackson. Vote Unanimous.
- 25. Amend: Congressman Mike Johnson Town Hall Meeting by Phone:** Alderwoman Corley reported that she was contacted by Congressman Johnson's office that they are having a Town Hall meeting this Thursday at 5:00 if anyone wants to attend to let her know.

Next scheduled Regular Council Meeting is on July 21, 2020 at 5:15 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:45 P.M. was made by Corley and seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

KENNETH FREEMAN, MAYOR

AMIE BROWN, TOWN CLERK