

**TOWN OF MANY**  
September 15, 2020  
**Regular Session**

The Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Many met in regular session, Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 5:15 p.m. at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Ken Freeman, Mayor Pro-Tem James Kennedy, Council Members Gay Corley, Bobbie Jackson and Mary Brocato. Absent was Council Member Anita Darwin. Also present were Town Clerk Amie Brown, Asst. Chief of Police Kyle Cook, Officer Carla Nicks, Operations Manager Mark Oxley, Water Superintendent Roger Dew, Street Supervisor Joshua Darden, Animal Control Officer David Smith and Grant Writer Suzanne Williams.

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

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

**Amend Agenda:** None

**Open to Public Comments relating to items on agenda:** None

**Guest(s):** None

**Old Business:**

1. **Appoint Town Attorney:** Motion to appoint Billy Pickett was made by Brocato; seconded by Jackson. Opposed by Corley and Kennedy. During discussion Alderwoman Corley said she would like to give Chris Sylvia a chance; however, she liked Mr. Pickett and things need to be done in a more timely manner. Mayor Freeman broke the tie by voting for Billy Pickett because he had the lowest price but said he would have a talk with him and tell him we need things done in a timely fashion. Motion carried.
2. **Halloween Date & Times – Halloween is on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>:** Mayor Freeman stated we will proceed with trick or treating on San Antonio since we are in Phase 3 and asked Council if they wanted to have it on Friday. Alderwoman Brocato reminded there will be a Halloween movie on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm. Alderwoman Corley recommended having it on Halloween night and the businesses that want to participate can, we can list the businesses that will be participating, then the kids afterwards can go to the community or to the movie. Motion was made to have trick-or-treating on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm for merchants and 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm for neighborhood by Corley; seconded by Brocato. Passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

1. **Resolution #4 of 2020 – Capital Improvement Plan for Airport 2021-2026 to FAA & LaDOTD Aviation:** Passed with a motion by Brocato; seconded by Jackson. Passed unanimously
2. **Reports:** Council was presented with the **Profit & Loss Performance Budget** for August 2020; the **Payables Log** for August 2020 with evidence of invoices paid; balanced & reconciled **Bank Statements** for August 2020; **Overtime report** through August 2020; Verification of Federal & Louisiana **Taxes paid** for August 2020; and Verification of **Insurance paid** for August 2020. All reports were accepted as written with a motion by Corley and seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.
3. **Chief's Report with update on warrants:** Asst. Chief of Police Kyle Cook provided a report to the Council on activity for the last 30 days for Many Police Department. Officer Carla Nicks stated that the collection company is collecting on tickets. Asst. Chief of Police Kyle Cook reported one of the units had a wreck Alumni weekend. Mayor Freeman asked was it reported to the office to which Asst. Chief Cook replied yes. Alderman Kennedy asked if the GASB retirement funds was ever straightened out to which Mayor Freeman said no that has not been fixed.
4. **Sales Tax Report: Increase of 3.28% over July 2019:** Report was given by Alderwoman Corley who stated there was an increase this month; there will be a sales and use tax meeting Thursday night, first face-to-face meeting in a while; the auditor called her and Nolan and stated he wanted to contribute money going through Sabine Parish to help people down south and they have been working with him.

- 5. Tourism Report:** Alderwoman Jackson reported that overnight room sales are at an all-time monthly high; the office had two trees down from Hurricane Laura; ads were placed in 64 parishes; and there will be a lot of upcoming tournaments.
- 6. Cultural District Report:** Alderwoman Brocato reported they have a new member Adam Lehr who organizes and manages the cornhole tournaments for the outdoor social distance socials and he is also president of a running club and that club will paint fire hydrants in the Cultural District working with Shanna Gaspard and Stephanie; Movies in Many are resuming on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September; there will be outdoor social distance concerts for September, October and November with the next concert being on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September with James Wagley and will benefit the Humane Society and Animal Shelter; the October social distance social will benefit Project Celebration for domestic abuse awareness month; there will be two concerts in November with the regular social distance social and on the 7<sup>th</sup> with the Willie Stewart God Bless America concert for Veterans Day; in December there will not be an outdoor concert but will be the Many High School Band concert and the annual Willie Stewart and Family Christmas concert; we received a donation from Community Bank to be used for Halloween at the theater to which Mayor Freeman said to make sure we thank them for the donation; we had another person donate \$200.00 in which we purchased an Easter Bunny costume for Easter; we need a light board for the theater and Mayor Freeman asked for a price; the painter has not been able to resume painting on the fence due to the storm; Alderwoman Brocato and the mayor found an American flag mural for the side of the police department building; there were cultural district signs purchased a while back and Laurie Gentry is getting prices on sign poles to put in the flower pots along San Antonio; we had someone donate basketball goals for the tennis courts and Mayor Freeman told the guys after they finish reading meters and cleaning up from the hurricane to go ahead and install them.
- Historical Committee Report:** Mayor Freeman reported that the date for the potential opening of the Many Sabine Parish Historical Museum has been set for April and will have three rooms; the first room will be "In the Beginning" which is a tutorial about the history of the beginning of Many and Sabine Parish; the second room will be the train room and will have a platform that looks like Sabine Parish and will have little towns and the train will continuously make the rounds on the parish map; the third room will be "I Do, I Do" and will have photographs or actual wedding dresses of any citizens from the 1800's to present and will have a short story about who they are. Alderwoman Corley asked about the decision on the Art Guild moving back into the depot to which Mayor Freeman stated he has not heard that and Alderwoman Brocato stated they have been there. Mayor Freeman stated he is hiring a carpenter to put awnings over the doors.
- 7. Fire Board:** Alderman Kennedy stated he had no report.
- 8. Airport:** Mayor Freeman reported he is supposed to go to Austin and talk to them to see when they will finish the airport so jet planes can land out there and that he started this 32 years ago and would like to see it completed before he leaves in ten months. Mayor Freeman reported the work that has been done out there is an overlay and new lighting and that the extension of the runway will allow jet planes to land.
- 9. Zoning:** Zoning Administrator Amie Brown reported there was no zoning meeting.
- 10. Grant Report:** Grant Writer Suzanne Williams provided an updated list of grants that she is currently working on which includes the COVID-19 reimbursement, Christmas parade, community garden, fire hydrants and FEMA reimbursement; also handling the letters to senators, representatives, PIC and FCC in reference to the Verizon and Suddenlink petition; took a multitude of phone calls to help citizens with FEMA and DSNAP; and researched LGAP, CWEF, LCDGB and Capital Outlay grants.
- 11. Street:** Street Supervisor Joshua Darden reported they have been cleaning up from the storm and hope to be done soon. Mayor Freeman stated that we hired subcontractors to come in and move the big trunks. Alderwoman Corley asked were we just picking up in the street and right-of-way and Mayor Freeman replied yes and she said people were asking why we have not been in their yards to pick up trees and she told them it had to be placed in our right-of way.
- 12. Animal Control:** Animal Control Officer David Smith reported that he has captured two dogs and has set out cat traps.
- 13. Water:** Water Superintendent Roger Dew stated they are reading meters now and done a sewer tap today on Louisiana; Mayor Freeman asked was all the generators up and running again to which Roger replied yes.

**14. Garbage:** Operations Manager Mark Oxley reported that all is going good right now and the used garbage truck is to be here on Thursday. Mayor Freeman stated when we are not able to pick up on a regular scheduled day, they will pick up on their day off which will be Wednesday. Mark stated that we pick up on the East side on Monday and Thursday and on the West side on Tuesday and Friday.

Next scheduled Regular Council Meeting is on October 20, 2020 at 5:15 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:02 P.M. was made by Kennedy and seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

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KENNETH FREEMAN, MAYOR

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AMIE BROWN, TOWN CLERK