

TOWN OF MANY

October 20, 2020

Regular Session

The Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Many met in regular session, Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 5:15 p.m. at Town Hall. Present were Mayor-Pro Tem James Kennedy, Council Members Gay Corley, Bobbie Jackson and Mary Brocato. Absent was Mayor Ken Freeman and 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, Payroll Clerk/HR Manager/Mayor's Assistant Phyllis Jeansonne, Grant Writer Suzanne Williams and Mike Tarver.

Mayor Pro-Tem James Kennedy called the meeting to order. Prayer was offered by Alderwoman Jackson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy.

Minutes: Minutes for September 15, 2020 regular session was approved with a motion by Corley; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

Amend Agenda: Add Lease Agreement for 12th District to the bottom of the agenda under New Business, and if Nolan Rivers from the Sales and Use Tax Commission shows up move that portion up on the agenda so he can speak first, per Alderwoman Corley. Approved with a motion by Brocato; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

Open to Public Comments relating to items on agenda: None

Guest(s): None

Old Business: None

New Business:

- 1. Introduce Ordinance #7 of 2020 – Donation of police vehicle from Bossier Parish S.O. to Many Police Department:** Passed with a motion by Brocato; seconded by Jackson. Passed unanimously.
- 2. Resolution #5 of 2020 – Surplus Property Sale:** Alderwoman Corley asked if we got a new sewer jetter since we have one on the list for sale to which Operations Manager Mark Oxley stated it was an old one we have had at the sewer plant and we do have another one. Town Clerk Amie Brown stated that we had one truck from the Clean-Up Department and one police car and the other items listed were given by Operations Manager Mark Oxley as items that we no longer need. Alderwoman Corley then asked if the mosquito sprayers on the list were old to which Town Clerk Amie Brown replied yes that we bought a brand new one last year. Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Jackson. Passed unanimously.
- 3. Resolution #6 of 2020 – Municipal Water Pollution Prevention for 2019:** Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Jackson. Passed unanimously.
- 4. Vote to Renew Building Insurance for period 10/24/20-10/24/2021 – Phares Lites & Walsworth - \$11,904.67:** Passed with a motion by Jackson; seconded by Corley. Passed unanimously.
- 5. Vote to pay membership dues of \$2,550.00 to CDC for FY 2021:** Alderwoman Corley stated that she already tried to fight for them and they did not come through with what they told her and it was a waste of citizens tax payer money; Alderwoman Brocato stated that she agreed if we were not getting anything from them. Grant Writer Suzanne Williams stated she had been in contact with them and what they can bring to the table are the bigger grants like Capital Outlay and LCDBG that consists of engineering and reports that she is not capable of doing. Alderwoman Corley then stated that she went to a meeting and talked to them and had them come talk to the council and they did verbally promise her they would actively work and stay in touch with her but she has called several times and left messages and they did not return her calls so they do not seem to be interested to work with us. Vote to not pay with a motion by Corley; seconded by Brocato. Passed unanimously.
- 6. List of permits issued for the third quarter of 2020:** A list of permits issued by the Sabine Parish Building Inspector's Office was provided to each council member.
- 7. Reports:** Council was presented with the **Profit & Loss Performance Budget** for September 2020; the **Payables Log** for September 2020 with evidence of invoices paid; balanced & reconciled **Bank Statements** for September 2020; **Overtime report** through September 2020; Verification of Federal & Louisiana **Taxes paid** for September 2020; and Verification of **Insurance paid** for September 2020. All reports were accepted as written and presented with a motion by Corley and seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

- 8. Chief's Report with update on warrants:** Chief of Police Roger Freeman provided a report to the Council on activity for the last 30 days for Many Police Department. Officer Carla Nicks provided an updated warrant list to the council which also listed how much was collected for the month from the collection company AMS. Asst. Chief of Police Kyle Cook reported that everything is going smoothly at the police department; they have a couple new officers and trying to get everything with them ironed out in working with the community; he gave new hire paperwork for Evan Eddington to Karla before she resigned but with her resignation the hiring process is behind and he would like to get him hired before he finds something else; Alderwoman Corley asked that a copy of the application be given to the council tonight for their review and maybe by the end of the week a phone poll can be taken to get him hired and get him officially hired at the next council meeting. Town Clerk Amie Brown asked HR Manager Phyllis Jeansonne to make a copy of the application for all council members and give to them.
- 9. Sales Tax Report: Decrease of <8.82%> over August 2019:** Report was given by Alderwoman Corley who stated there was a decrease of <8.82%> for the month. She reminded the council of when she reported that the state was wanting to do a centralized collection agency on all the parish taxes and they formed a committee and she reached out to Baton Rouge to ask if either Nolan or herself could be on a sub-committee; Nolan and all other tax assessors from around the state of Louisiana got together and came up with what they could live with and presented it to Mr. Talon from the LAAT to present it and they had a conference call; the speaker of the house is very much for this centralized collection and she and Nolan listened to it and she presented the council with the report of what was presented along with a link you can go to if you want to listen to the conference; no decision has been made on it; slow time of the year for tax collection.
- 10. Tourism Report:** Alderwoman Jackson reported the overnight room sales and occupancy tax was up 24% over August 2019; will have the Freestate Festival November 6th-8th; there will be improvements of \$715,000.00 to the SRA parks which includes San Miguel, \$85,000.00 for a new pavilion, \$40,000.00 for new playground equipment, \$40,000.00 for a new beach; Pleasure Point \$500,000.00 for an electrical upgrade package, \$40,00.00 for new playground equipment, \$10,000.00 for ten new RV pads; Ads placed in Cenla Focus and Bass Nation; upcoming events includes the Freestate Festival, Louisiana Native American Art Festival in Zwolle, Toledo Bend Recreation Site monthly meetings, and the ABA Bass Tournament at Army Rec Site in Florien.
- 11. Cultural District Report:** Alderwoman Brocato reported they have moved the trick-or-treating on San Antonio and Halloween from Saturday, October 31st to Friday, October 30th because in phone calls to merchants they were not willing to stay open late on Saturday so the Mayor called all council members and it was agreed to move the date; the theater will be heavily decorated and there will be masks at the theater for anyone that comes in without one; on November 7th Willie Stewart Family and Friends will be playing but still making a decision on whether to have it inside the theater or on the street; painting is being done on the fence at Caleb Burkett's; cultural district signs will be placed in the flower pots but Laurie Gentry reported the poles are too heavy for the flower pots so it is up in the air right now; the outdoor concerts have been very successful with the one a month ago raising \$1,300.00 for the Humane Society; this Saturday's outdoor concert will benefit Project Celebration and will feature a 5K run that is headed up by newest member Adam Lehr; the last outdoor concert for the month will be in November and there will be an art walk and some other things; trash cans have been bought for the outdoor concert and being painted by Southern Ladeez.
- 12. Historical Committee Report:** Mayor Freeman was not available to give a report; Alderwoman Corley reported the next meeting will be next Thursday night; Alderwoman Brocato reported their biggest project is getting the depot museum open.
- 13. Fire Board:** Alderman Kennedy stated there was a total of 64 calls last month.
- 14. Airport:** Mayor Freeman was not available to give a report.
- 15. Zoning:** Zoning Administrator Amie Brown reported there was no zoning meeting. Alderwoman Corley asked if the zoning board has met again about the trailer on Alabama to which Amie Brown stated that the Town Attorney is getting us something typed up on the next steps we need to take.
- 16. Grant Report:** Grant Writer Suzanne Williams provided an updated list of grants that she is currently working on along with the total amount of monies brought in for the period of April through October which is \$326,827.71 with the majority being CARES Act money and also \$3,500.00 for the Christmas festival; the majority of her time has been spent on FEMA for Hurricane Laura, and COVID reimbursements; received an email today from

Mitch McDaniel that the \$35,000.00 grant from LGAP where we changed the scope of work from the electrical panel to the water clarifier to the water storage tank has been approved and she has talked to Jimbo with Suez who gave her a ballpark figure +/- 10% of \$150,000.00 to drain it, clean it and put a 40 mil liner in it with a 15 year warranty in which Operations Manager Mark Oxley has more on the details; has also talked to Tony Matlock at USDA on the water storage tank issue and has them bidding against each other to see who has the best financial plan where we can spread the cost out over a period of ten years; FEMA funding was approved and has had two phone conferences with them with the next phone conference being on November 10th; Myrna with FEMA sent an email asking to meet with elected officials and meet with the group as a whole and have a general session and asked that Suzanne coordinate that. Alderwoman Corley asked if the leaking storage tank was the same one that she mentioned to have the liner put in it to which Operations Manager Mark Oxley stated yes it is and to replace the tank would be around \$600,000.00 and to repair it with a liner would be around \$150,000.00; Alderwoman Corley asked if the warranty would be in writing and not verbal and Mr. Oxley replied yes it would be in writing; Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy asked if they went out of business what would we do then to which Mr. Oxley said he did not know. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy asked how many parts had been taken off the generator that FEMA gave us to which Mr. Oxley said none and they checked it and put a brand new battery on it and it cranked right up and has ran like new ever since. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy stated that we would be better off to put in a brand new tank. Alderwoman Corley stated that if a new tank costs approximately \$600,000.00 and we just pay to have the repair done for \$150,000.00 that will last 15 years then after around the 20-25 year period we will have to replace the tank at the time anyway and it will cost close to a million dollars by then. Alderwoman Brocato stated that in the LMA review magazine she notices every time she reads it that USDA keeps giving good grants to cities, and in talking with Donnie Wooley who has worked with USDA many years and has many contacts there, he said if we would write the grant proposals he will work with us and we would probably get some money so why could we not write one for the \$600,000.00 to which Alderwoman Corley stated that is what she is arguing, to not keep fixing and cost the people more money in the future. Alderwoman Brocato stated we needed to get right on it and to work with Donnie Wooley. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy stated he has watched patching for over thirty years, and has been on the council for fifteen years, and he has been trying to get a lot of things done at the water plant and every time he tried to get something done they always went against him and he is tired of patching. Alderwoman Corley stated she is just thinking about the future and the cost to our citizens and that the \$150,000.00 with a 15 year guarantee sounds a lot better hearing it but she is looking at the long run. Suzanne Williams said she would call Donnie Wooley tomorrow to which Alderwoman Brocato told her to just go down and talk to him face-to-face. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy stated he talked to USDA in Monroe last year and they told him they have millions of dollars to loan out and that all we had to do was apply for it.

- 17. Street:** Street Supervisor Joshua Darden reported they have been bush hogging right-of-way's, working on MLK today picking up trash, weed eating, side arming, mowing and hope to get started on Highland, will get everything mowed and sprayed again, still catching up from the storm, Thursday will be picking up green waste, will start putting up Christmas lights and coming in Saturday to check the poles and hope to be finished Saturday or Sunday. Alderwoman Corley asked if they knew homecoming was this weekend and there would probably be a lot of people coming in town to which Mark and Joshua stated yes that is why they are working on getting it cleaned up. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy congratulated them on doing a good job.
- 18. Animal Control:** Animal Control Officer David Smith reported he has been busy with a few calls on dogs and has captured three cats. Alderwoman Corley asked about the issue with the dogs are coming through holes in the fence at 640 Ponder to which Mr. Smith stated he has been trying to get in touch with the owners but they will not come to the door or they are not at home. Alderwoman Corley suggested sending them a letter. Operations Manager Mark Oxley had to capture two dogs in which the owner passed away.
- 19. Water:** Water Superintendent Roger Dew reported that Continental came in and replaced the #1 pump and motor and replaced the discharge pump at the well site on Patrick Lane and it increased the volume by about 80 gallons per minute, replaced about 10 foot of 10 inch sewer main on Airport Road and been working on work orders. Alderwoman Brocato asked what happened with the apartments on Middlecreek Road to which Operations Manager Mark Oxley stated that Water Superintendent Roger Dew was working with the owner of Middlecreek Apartments and they are getting a grease

trap installed. Alderwoman Corley asked when, to which Mr. Oxley stated it should have been installed years ago and they have been in touch with DEQ and if this situation does not get resolved, as a municipality, we can cut their water off for no reason whatsoever. Alderwoman Brocato asked if we could send them a letter giving them a deadline and we need to enforce it because there still have been no consequences. Alderwoman Corley asked if we could get our town attorney to send another letter and Alderwoman Brocato suggested that the town attorney send them a letter with a very definite date to have it installed by or they will be cut off. Alderwoman Jackson asked what about 30 days. Alderwoman Corley asked if a grease trap could be installed in 30 days to which Mayor Pro-Tem stated it can be installed in a week and a half. Street Supervisor Joshua Darden reported that our state sanitary code states that any damage caused by any customer we have the right to remove them from our water system. Motion by Brocato to have the attorney send them another letter; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

20. Garbage: Operations Manager Mark Oxley reported that we got our used garbage truck in and it has a cart tipper on it which is a big plus; we still have customers that complain about garbage not being picked up but they do not understand that we cannot go on private property if it is not out by the road. Also, he has Sanitation Supervisor Michael Moore taking pictures of customers that do not have their garbage out when he goes by so when the customer calls and complains we have proof. Alderwoman Corley asked if we had a list of disabled people that cannot get their trash out to the road to which Mr. Oxley said he knew every one of them. Mr. Oxley stated that he also told his guys that if it is a bag that an animal has torn up to pick up the trash bag only and leave the loose trash there, and that the office has sent letters to customers that we have had problems with. Alderwoman Jackson asked about a grant for garbage cans. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy stated that we can get a grant but if we cannot get enough, we can pay for them and charge the customers to which Alderwoman Corley stated they do not want to increase the garbage rates. Grant Writer Suzanne Williams stated the last two years that the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Grant fund did not give money to anyone that was not an affiliate but she has made an inquiry to Rubbermaid. Alderwoman Corley asked what the requirements were to become an affiliate with Keep Louisiana Beautiful and Mrs. Williams replied that it takes about six months of hard, dedicated work to go through the process and they will help you walk through it but they will not even consider working with an entity until there is a paid program director in place and she has tried in the past when she was the Director in Desoto Parish to get Sabine Parish on board and everywhere she turned nobody wanted anything to do with it. Alderwoman Corley asked could we as a town along with the Police Jury and the Litter Committee join efforts maybe that would help and Mrs. Williams said absolutely. Mrs. Williams stated that the membership dues are based on population and she thinks the membership dues for Desoto Parish was around \$1,500.00 per year but that opened up a huge pool of money and that once you get in it is a piece of cake but getting there is not easy.

21. Lease Agreement for 12th District: Grant Writer Suzanne Williams reported that she received a message from Sandra Garner Coleman who is part of the 12th District Alumni and also is heading up the feasibility study and got the grant. Mrs. Williams provided the council with a map showing the property at the old Junior High School that is still owned by the school board. Mrs. Coleman has talked with Dr. Sara Ebarb from the school board to get the school board property leased to the Town of Many so that the Town of Many can sublease it to the 12th District as was done with the adjoining property. Their plan is to develop that area and have a walking track, basketball courts, a playground, and a covered pavilion as well as restoration to the buildings on-site. Dr. Sara Ebarb said we would need to send a letter to the school board and they will put it on their agenda. Motion to send the letter to the school board was made by Corley; seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.

Next scheduled Regular Council Meeting is on November 17, 2020 at 5:15 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:28 P.M. was made by Corley and seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.

KENNETH A. FREEMAN, MAYOR

AMIE BROWN, TOWN CLERK