

TOWN OF MANY
November 17, 2020
Regular Session

The Mayor Pro-Tem and Aldermen of the Town of Many met in regular session, Tuesday, November 17, 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 were Mayor Ken Freeman and Council Member Anita Darwin. Also present were Town Clerk Amie Brown, Operations Manager Mark Oxley, Water Superintendent Roger Dew, Street Supervisor and Animal Control Officer David Smith, Grant Writer Suzanne Williams and Asst. Chief of Police Kyle Cook joined via telephone.

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 October 20, 2020 regular session was approved as written with a motion by Corley; seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.

Amend Agenda: Guests, Jim Freeland and Mark Sutton was postponed until the next council meeting when Mayor Freeman will be here.

Open to Public Comments relating to items on agenda: Alan Warfield reported that on November 10th around 7:00 P.M. at the park on MLK they were told by Many police officers the park was closed and when asked what the reason was they were told by the officers to talk to the Mayor. Alderwoman Corley stated to Mr. Warfield that her knowledge is that, and is her opinion only, there has been exchange of money for drugs at that park and older kids are taking advantage of younger kids which the police department and sheriff's office both are aware of and cracking down on it. Mr. Warfield said he goes to the park a lot and he has not seen that and that growing up the highlight of his day was walking to the park to play basketball with his friends and now that privilege is being stripped from kids these days because of things that are beyond their control. Alderwoman Corley asked Mr. Warfield would he or other volunteers go down and supervise the kids to which he said yes 100% he would. Alderwoman Brocato asked had any arrests been made yet to which Alderwoman Corley said no. Operations Manager Mark Oxley reported they had to go down there and confiscate two burn barrels which are not allowed to which Alderman Kennedy said no they are not. Mr. Warfield stated the officers said they can go to the fairgrounds but it also is closed by the time the kids get out of school and walk down there. Street Supervisor David Smith stated that he has been giving them leeway and not closing the parks until around 5:30 instead of 4:30 and if they are playing a game when he gets there he lets them finish and that this happened because at the Leon James Park on MLK there were reports in August of shots being fired, the burn barrels and neighbors complaining. Alderwoman Brocato asked if we were discriminating if we require supervision at one park but not the fairgrounds to which Alderwoman Corley said not if they are volunteering on their own to supervise and Mr. Warfield said he thinks the discrimination is shutting down the park on MLK. Operations Manager Mark Oxley said that is not correct they open at 7:30 and close at 4:30. Mr. Warfield said that is what the police officers told them. Asst. Chief of Police Kyle Cook (by telephone) said he was told by the Mayor that all parks are to be closed at 4:30 and ask people to leave if they are there after that time. Mr. Warfield said he does not agree with that closing time. Alderman Kennedy stated that was his district and in the past few years he has seen a lot of things going on on Martin Luther King and been tolerating it and he could stop a lot but nobody will like the way he will do it and the kids do not have a lot to do but they need to be home studying and doing chores and the kids he sees out late at night he wonders where the parents are at while their kids are up and down the streets; he has seen drugs up there and the grown people up there playing has no business around the kids but someone can be there in charge to open and close it and not tolerate drugs and be strict even if it makes enemies. Mr. Warfield said he will do anything in his power to go in that route. Alderman Kennedy asked Mr. Warfield if he could go up there when he gets off work at the school around 3:00 until closing and Mr. Warfield said yes, he will. Alderman Kennedy asked the council if they agreed with letting Mr. Warfield set up there and watch the kids until closing. Alderwoman Brocato said she thinks he can get more good citizens and concerned parents and get a schedule to help him supervise.

Guest(s): Jim Freeland – Tabled until next month
Mark Sutton (by phone) – Tabled until next month

Old 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 Corley; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

New Business:

- 1. Surplus Property Sale – Vote to accept prices that were bid under minimum starting bid:** Vote to accept with a motion by Jackson; seconded by Corley. Passed unanimously.
- 2. Vote to Renew Playground and Ballpark Insurance for period 11/7/20-11/7/2021 – Evanston Insurance Company through Gallagher Insurance - \$2,254.28:** Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Brocato. Vote Unanimous.
- 3. Authorize Mayor and Town Clerk to sign the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire relating to the audit of the town's financials for FYE 6/30/2020:** Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Brocato. Vote Unanimous.
- 2. Reports:** Council was presented with the **Profit & Loss Performance Budget** for October 2020; the **Payables Log** for October 2020 with evidence of invoices paid; balanced & reconciled **Bank Statements** for October 2020; **Overtime report** through October 2020; Verification of Federal & Louisiana **Taxes paid** for October 2020; and Verification of **Insurance paid** for October 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:** 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 is on vacation so there was no warrant list provided to the council to which Alderwoman Corley asked for one to be put in their boxes and Asst. Chief Cook said he would make sure it was done ASAP. Asst. Chief Kyle Cook reported that an officer went to the hospital today with COVID but was released; Officer Jason Hughes passed his POST exam and graduated the academy today; and Chief Freeman's surgery went well on his foot.
 - a.) Recommendation to hire full-time police officer Evan Eddington at \$14.00 per hour with a starting date as soon as possible:** Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.
 - b.) Recommendation to hire part-time police officer Mark Holder at \$13.00 per hour:** Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.
- 9. Sales Tax Report: Increase of 22.28% over September 2019:** Report was given by Alderwoman Corley who stated there was an increase of 22.28% for the month. She stated they are still working with Baton Rouge on whether the state will take over or not; they will have a board meeting Thursday to go over the new budget, employee's salary increase and elect new officers.
- 10. Tourism Report:** Alderwoman Jackson reported the overnight room sales and occupancy tax was 45% for September; collections were \$16,046.90; Shanna Gaspard met with SMC Administrator Dale Anderson to discuss improvements for the Sabine Health Clinic and future plans for facilities at Toledo Bend plus new doctors coming in; upcoming events are Winter Wonderland Christmas lights at Cypress Bend Park for November 26th, Toledo Bend Army Rec State Site Bass Tournament in Florien on December 5th, Community Christmas Market in Zwolle on December 5th, Willie Stewart Family and Friends Christmas Concert on December 12th which Alderwoman Brocato stated it had been cancelled, and Many Christmas Parade and Festival on December 19th.
- 11. Cultural District Report:** Alderwoman Brocato reported they had trick-or-treating on San Antonio for Halloween and she thinks it was very successful considering all that is going on; Music in Many at the theater has been cancelled due to COVID; the Many High School Band Christmas performance has been cancelled because the school will not allow them to come; she spoke with Willie Stewart last week and invited him to go ahead and come but seating was limited to only 75% capacity in the theater but he called back the next day and said he spoke with the band members and they decided not to have a Christmas concert this year; the outdoor concerts with James Wagley done really well and last Saturday was the last one for this year; they are talking about having the outdoor concerts every other month starting in the Spring because she thinks having the music shows in the theater plus the outdoor social distance socials would be too much every month; she has talked to the Mayor and he has approved getting a new light board and new light system with LED for the theater and hope to have it done by January at the latest; the Christmas parade is on the 19th and will also have the Christmas movies for December on December 5th with Christmas Vacation and December 19th with the Muppets Christmas Carol which are free and the 75% seating capacity will be enforced and masks will be required and available; movies for November have been cancelled. A donation of \$400.00 was received from Lewis and Frankie McBryde and she made an additional donation of \$600.00 to round it up to \$1,000.00

- 12. Historical Committee Report:** Mayor Freeman was not available to give a report; Alderwoman Corley reported that the meeting was cancelled.
- 13. Fire Board:** Alderman Kennedy stated he was at the meeting but there was nothing special to report.
- 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 anybody has come in about the trailer on Alabama that has not been moved yet to which Amie Brown stated that the Town Attorney is getting us something typed up on the next steps we need to take and she would follow up on it.
- 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 estimated damages and expenses from the hurricane which she has been spending most of her time working on with FEMA; the estimated cost of damages and expenses is \$536,349.00; has received two quotes to take down the elevated water tank, one for \$44,360.00 and the other for \$58,306.00; she received the change order from LGAP on the \$35,000.00 to change the work order for water tank repairs; submitted two capital outlay grants, one for \$4,914,073.00 for replacement of water lines from the water plant into town along highway 6, and the other for \$6,502,646.00 to move the raw water intake and raw water line relocation to Lanan Bridge location; had a long conversation with Donnie Wooley and also with Tony Matlock from USDA on if we cannot get grants to fund these water projects we could get a low interest loan from USDA for 40 years at 2-4% interest; CWF grant being written to repair/replace fire hydrants within the city limits; she went to the town hall style meeting last Friday night at the old Sabine High School and got to meet Connie Levo Howard who is one of the driving forces in the revitalization of the old high school to make a community center for kids and also talked to the architect and she will get donations from Weyerhaeuser and Boise in plywood to board up the windows and doors to preserve what glass is left there; also talked to the school board about leasing the rest of the land at the old high school and they introduced it at their meeting and had discussion about the town purchasing the land. Alderman Kennedy asked if they would let us have the timber off of it or are they going to sell the timber off of it first and Mrs. Williams replied that she can get a grant for a nature trail and also for sidewalks; and received a \$5,000.00 grant from State Farm for ballistic vests for the police department; Alderwoman Jackson reported that she spoke to Rodney Schamerhorn and they talked about flooding in her neighborhood to which Mrs. Williams stated she would go look at it tomorrow and see about getting emergency LGAP money. Alderwoman Corley asked could we check into grants for electric water meters.
- 17. Street:** Street Supervisor David Smith reported they are getting ready to pick up paper and do the last cutting on the streets and as of today they are planting flowers in the new flower pots on San Antonio.
- 18. Animal Control:** Animal Control Officer David Smith reported he has been busy with stray dogs and just purchased two new live traps for cats and stated that we have a bad problem with cats in the alleyway behind City Hall and someone keeps tripping the traps.
- 19. Water:** Water Superintendent Roger Dew reported they are reading meters now. Operations Manager Mark Oxley reported they have a sewer line they need to replace and LRWA came in and they could not even get a camera to go through the line.
- 20. Garbage:** Operations Manager Mark Oxley reported that everything is going good; they have been running both trucks and he was told by the Sanitation Manager today that the used truck needs a thermostat but he is not going to pay to have it repaired when he can do the work himself. Mark commended the employees saying they work in the cold and wet and never complain. Alderwoman Corley stated that she has not heard any complaints about the garbage in months which is good.

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

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:23 P.M. was made by Corley and seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

KENNETH A. FREEMAN, MAYOR

AMIE BROWN, TOWN CLERK