

**TOWN OF MANY**  
**Regular Session**  
**4-20-21**

The Mayor Pro-Tem and Aldermen of the Town of Many met in regular session, Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 5:15 p.m. at Town Hall. Present at Town Hall were Mayor Pro-Tem James Kennedy and Council Members Mary Brocato, Bobbie Jackson, Gay Corley and Anita Darwin. Absent was Mayor Ken Freeman. Also present were Town Clerk Amie Brown, Chief of Police Cheryl Wooley, Street Supervisor Jeremy Wilkerson, Sewer Supervisor Joshua Darden, Grant Writer Suzanne Williams, Payroll Clerk/HR Manager Kim Rodriques, and Mayor's Assistant Phyllis Jeansonne.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy called the meeting to order. Prayer was offered by Alderwoman Jackson and Mayor Pro-Tem led the Pledge.

**Minutes:** Minutes for March 25, 2021, regular session was approved as written and presented with a motion by Corley; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

**Agenda Amended:** 18. Town of Many to act as fiscal agent for the Sabine Prevention Alliance for a Drug-Free Communities grant. Alderwoman Corley reminded everyone that once the meeting starts, no one from the public can speak.

**Open to Public Comments relating to items on agenda:** Grant Writer Williams said there was a good turn out for the Trash Bash on April 17, 2021. No other comments from the public.

**Guest(s):** Cherry Williams –Alderwoman-Elect for District D; James Wagley, Sabine Prevention Alliance; John Testa, Zoning Board; Dean Crittenden, Zoning Board.

**Old Business:**

1. **Adopt Ordinance #1 of 2021**-To change the regular time for Council meetings from 5:15 pm to 5:00 p.m. Motion by Corley, second by Jackson. Vote Unanimous.
2. **Add Old Sabine High School to Cultural District**-Brocato talked with Billy Nungesser's office and she feels strongly that it will be approved but cannot apply until the end of May and middle of September. Nothing can be done about it now. At the last meeting the Mayor suggested that we not try to add the entire neighborhood surrounding the old school, but to just add the street where it's located. Brocato asked Nungesser's office about that and what their thoughts were and if she felt the neighborhood should be included. Also. But we can make the application with just two streets, but one is Trace Street, the two that lead directly to the school, between Highway 6 and the church. We can make the application for just those two streets and the high school but probably later on, the people who make up the Cultural district feel pretty strongly that the neighborhood between those two streets and the church be included.
3. **Alderman who attends council meetings to receive pay.** Mayor Pro-Tem suggested that this should be left to the new administration. Discussion ensued. Alderwoman Corley said it should be left up to the new administration and Alderwoman Brocato agreed. Clerk Amie Brown reported that Mayor Freeman had asked her to call the LMA to inquire and they said it can be put into an ordinance but only by the new administration.

**New Business:**

1. **Appoint Ms. Jackson to Tourist Commission.** This was already noted in June 2020 for a 3-year term. Corley suggested a letter be sent to them saying she has been appointed.
2. **List of Permits Issued for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021.** No vote needed.
3. **Zoning Commission.** Dean Crittenden reported the purpose and intent of the Zoning Board with illustrations. He suggested that changes be made to zoning laws and that the Town Council make zoning rules without the "encumbrance of an additional body" and to abolish the Zoning Commission itself. He thanked Mayor Freeman for allowing him to serve the Commission and then he tendered his resignation. Corley asked if he would leave a copy of his resignation so that it be included in the official record and he politely declined the request.
4. **Reports: Budget. Payables Log; Bank Statements; Overtime report; Verification of Taxes Paid; Verification of Insurance Paid.** There was no discussion or questions. All reports were accepted as written and presented with a motion by Corley and seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

5. **Chief's Report.** Chief Wooley stated that 155 total calls for the month; violations, 125. Total fines if everyone paid would be \$33,000. Corley asked if we still employed the agency that does collection for fines and Chief said they did and collections start 30 days following the first court appearance date. May 14 an officer will be graduating from POST; two more officers will be going to POST in July; grants being worked on with the grant writer are for a camera for crime scene photographs and other investigative equipment the department needs. One for the camera has been secured and she is working on others.
6. **Sales Tax Report-** Corley reported that she listened to online presentation. The issue of centralized collections will come before the people as a vote. The legislature is looking at being the central collection point for online sales and local sales tax stay in the parishes. She said we all need to study it and know that it will take a long time to get the money if it passes and that the local tax office is doing a "great job". Kennedy asked when it might be voted on and Corley said it would probably be the next general election but couldn't remember the date.
7. **Tourism Report:** Alderwoman Jackson reported that Overnight room sales and Occupancy tax is down 25% from last year. The No Man's Land activities were awarded \$39,000 for publicity in magazines, digital and newspapers. The Gas Station Eats campaign she attended included Curtis Grocery, Lakefront Grocery and Chevron Shop-A-Lott in Many, who also won an award for their food. She said it was filmed and will be used in a brochure. They are also working on broadband and economic development. New businesses coming to the lake include Family Dollar located on Highway 6 next to the Dollar General. Leaders Against Litter have been well with the month-long trash pickup. The lake is being stocked with Florida Long mouth Bass. They have received a lot of applications for the Director position and it has been narrowed down to one but the process has not been completed yet. There were 24 meetings, webinars, and conference calls; nine ads were placed. There are 18 upcoming events.
8. **Cultural District Report:** Alderwoman Brocato thanked the Tourist Commission and Laura Gentry for her design work and said they the Movies in Many and Music in Many flyers done through the end of the year. These are given out at every movie so we got 500. Music in Many will begin again in July 3<sup>rd</sup>, with concerts in September, October and December. They will be free to the public and Brocato asked that everyone encourage family and friends to attend both the music and movies because it's like starting over since we haven't done it in a year. We want our summer movies to bring in children and there are 5 Disney movies scheduled. There were 35-40 in attendance at the last movie with children and parents and grandparents. She also said she met with an artist who is painting murals on the front of the theatre. Doors and the front will be painted after designed are submitted. Angela Osborne is the one who is doing the painting and was also responsible for the painting on City Hall and the Burkett fence. Brocato said she will begin getting the proposal ready to include the old high school being added to the Cultural District. She said she talked to the incoming Mayor about and he said he'd like to see that area included. We are working with Laurie Gentry to design a flag to put in the brick planters along San Antonio Ave pointing out the Cultural District. She again encouraged everyone to come to the Movies in Many and also the Music in Many.
9. **Historical Committee Report:** Mayor Freeman was absent so the mayor's assistant reported that they are in the process of getting a meeting scheduled for this week if all the board members could attend.
10. **Fire Board:** No Report
11. **Airport:** No Report.
12. **Zoning:** Porsha Aldredge, 136 Ivanhoe, Many, to place a 14 X 80 mobile home. Motion to approve by Brocato; second by Corley. Vote Unanimous.
13. **Grant Report:** Grant Writer Suzanne Williams reported that FEMA obligated for payment \$195,000 for electronic deposit within 3 days. This was for expenses due to Hurricane Laura. She also filed another FEMA claim for the snow storm and has weekly phone calls with FEMA project manager. There are more than \$57,000 in costs associated with the snow/ice storm; most of that is for debris removal but that is covered by Cat A and that hasn't been declared yet, only Cat B, emergency preparations for the storm. CWEF and LGAP grants are being reviewed by the state and we should know something by the end of May. A grant was applied for and received for camera equipment to be used at crime scenes and also for 9 emergency first aid kits to have in each unit. She is working with the SPSO to share resources for big ticket items like the OSCR 360-degree camera which costs \$11,000 but to each agency

it would only be \$5,500. She is working on getting a grant for this and will execute a cooperative agreement with the SPSO when the time comes. She is also working on a grant for an automated license plate reader that is due July 14 and she is working with the Chief on those details. Still waiting for a supplier to call back with details for a pole camera to put on tower between MiddleCreek and the Apollos. Materials for building garden boxes has been picked up and will be built by the Sheriff's Department, then delivered to both nursing homes in town. Brocato asked if it was a community garden where the public could plant and pick vegetables or was it a nursing home garden. Suzanne replied that she did what she was instructed to do by the Mayor and Corley said that wasn't a good answer and Suzanne said that was the only answer she had and didn't have an opinion if it was a good answer or not, and if the Council had a problem, they could take it up with Mayor Freeman. Discussion ensued between council members. Suzanne added that there will be enough grant money left over and there's no reason why a "real" community garden could be placed near the Detention Center. Grant cycle for music programs from Shreveport Regional Arts Council will open in May or June, be due in July, and Madison from SRAC said we'd get money for Music in Many, for Oct this year until Sept next year.

**14. Street:** Street Supervisor said they are maintaining the ball parks and fairgrounds and airport areas with mowing and weed eating being done once a week. Green waste continues to be picked up and he and his crew participated in the Trash Bash last weekend.

**15. Animal Control:** Jeremy caught 4 dogs and talked to two owners about keeping their dogs leashed.

**16. Water:** Roger had a death in the family so he was absent but Josh reported that meters are being read this week.

**Mary Brocato** asked to give an additional report on basketball goals at Leon James park that were donated. She said there were 25-30 kids playing basketball after they were installed. She also stated that a volleyball court will be built at the fairgrounds on grass and possibly a skateboard park. Corley said the 1<sup>st</sup> annual golf tournament will fund with the hospital a walking track and ball fields in front of the hospital. The incoming Mayor is in favor to add recreational activities to the town for kids and adults.

**17. Garbage:** Josh and Mike hauling trash.

**18. AMENDMENT: Town of Many to act as fiscal Agent for Sabine Prevention Alliance.** James Wagley passed out brochures and gave a background on the SPA, focusing on teenage binge drinking. Training has been provided businesses that serves alcohol how to spot a fake ID driver's license. He shared other survey results about how underage kids get alcohol. There are 3 more years on their current grant and they need to apply to another source of funding, such as the SAMSA federal grant for a Drug Free Community. He explained that a new fiscal agent is needed as their current one already has the federal grant and they can only be one for one agency. The Town would get an administrative fee for 5 years of \$12,500 a year for 5 years and the town would be responsible for writing a few checks per month. Alcohol, vaping, and prescription drugs are the top three abuses of underaged children and youth. He stated the grant money would provide sustainability and programs and training for children, youth, and adults. The grant is a 5-year grant with a 5-year extension. Having the town involved strengthens the coalition with municipalities involvement for community training and wanting to provide recreational activities for residents. Brocato made a motion and it was seconded by Darwin. Vote passes unanimously.

Next scheduled Regular Council Meeting is on May 17, 2021 at 5 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:50 P.M. was made by Corley and seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.

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KENNETH A. FREEMAN, MAYOR

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AMIE BROWN, TOWN CLERK