

TOWN OF MANY

June 15, 2021

Regular Session

Public Hearing was held at 5:00 p.m., June 15, 2021 prior to the Regular Council Session for the purpose of public comments on the Adoption of Ordinance #2 of 2021, Compensation of Municipal Clerk; the Adoption of Ordinance #3 of 2021, Amend Budget Changes for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; and the Adoption of Ordinance #4 of 2021, Adopt Fiscal Year Budget for 2021-2022. With no comments from the public, hearing was closed at 5:02 P.M. with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

The Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Many met in regular session, Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 5:02 P.M. at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Ken Freeman, Mayor Pro-Tem James Kennedy and Council Members Bobbie Jackson and Mary Brocato. Council Members Anita Darwin and Gay Corley were absent. Also present were Town Clerk Amie Brown, Chief of Police Cheryl Wooley, Water Superintendent Roger Dew, Street Supervisor Jeremy Wilkerson, Wastewater Plant Supervisor Joshua Darden, Mayor's Assistant Phyllis Jeansonne, HR Manager/Payroll Clerk Kimberly Rodrigues, Grant Writer Suzanne Williams, Mayor-Elect Robert Hable, Alderwoman-Elect Mary Perry, State Representative Rodney Schamerhorn and Donnie Wooley.

Mayor Ken Freeman called the meeting to order. Prayer was offered by Alderman Kennedy, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Freeman.

Minutes: Minutes for May 18, 2021 regular session was approved as written and presented with a motion by Jackson; seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.

Amend Agenda: Request by Mayor Freeman to add as #29 Vote to accept CCR Report; add as #30 Vote to accept Municipal Water Pollution Prevention; add as #31 Resolution #2 of 2021 Expand Cultural District to include Old Sabine High School; and add as #32 Appoint Mayor Pro-Tem. Motion to accept by Brocato; seconded by Kennedy. Vote unanimous.

Open to Public Comments relating to items on agenda: None

Guest(s): None

Present service plaques to James Kennedy and Gay Corley: Mayor Freeman presented a plaque to Alderman Kennedy and thanked him for his 16 years of service to the people of Many and asked that we make sure that Alderwoman Corley receives her plaque for her 8 years of service.

Old Business:

- 1. Adopt Ordinance #2 of 2021 – Compensation of Municipal Clerk:** Passed with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.
- 2. Adopt Ordinance #3 of 2021 – Amend Budget Changes for FY 2020-2021:** Passed with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.
- 3. Adopt Ordinance #4 of 2021 – Annual Budget for FY 2021-2022:** Mayor Freeman reported that Mayor-Elect Hable has reviewed the budget and agrees with it and sat in the working session with us. Passed with a motion by Brocato; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

New Business:

- 1. Resolution #1 of 2021 – Donation of truck to Village of Florien:** Mayor Freeman explained that we have a 2006 GMC truck that we are moving out of service and want to donate it to the Village of Florien. Alderwoman Brocato asked if they wanted it to which Mayor Freeman said they do. Passed with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.
- 2. Review and Award Bid: Asphalt for fiscal year 2021-2022:** The bid tabulation was presented to the council. Only one bid was received and it was from Apeck Construction out of Anacoco, LA for \$136.00 per ton for 2" overlay, \$276.00 per ton for 8" patch or level, \$1,500.00 mobilization per road, \$1,500.00 degrass shoulder per road and \$500.00 asphalt butt joints for each. Being the only bid received the motion was made by Brocato to award bid to Apeck Construction; seconded by Kennedy. Vote unanimous.
- 3. Review and Award Bid: Chemicals for fiscal year 2021-2022:** The bid tabulation was presented to the council. Only one bid was received for the 2000# Liquid Chlorine Cylinder from DPC Industries out of Houston, TX for \$1,400.00/each delivered plus \$50.00 monthly rental. Only one bid was received for the Potassium Permanganate from Harcros Chemicals out of Shreveport for \$3.79/lb delivered and only one bid was received for the Soda Ash from Harcros Chemicals out of Shreveport for \$.365/lb delivered. Town Clerk

Amie Brown reported there were no bids submitted for the 150# Liquid Chlorine Cylinders therefore it would have to be put out for bid again. Motion to accept the bid from DPC Industries for the 2000# Liquid Chlorine Cylinder and to accept the bids from Harcros Chemicals on the Potassium Permanganate and Soda Ash was made by Jackson; seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.

- 4. Review and Award Bid: Legal Services for fiscal year 2021-2022:** The bid tabulation was presented to the council. Lowest bid was submitted by Attorney Christopher M. Sylvia at a rate of \$150.00 per hour for office work and court appearances; billed in tenth of an hour increments. Passed with a motion to accept the lowest bid by Kennedy and seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.
- 5. Review and Award Bid: Fiscal Agent for 7/1/2021-6/30/2025:** The bid tabulation was presented to the council. Lowest bid was submitted by Community Bank. Passed with a motion to accept the lowest bid by Jackson and seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.
- 6. Appoint Amie Brown as Town Clerk:** Mayor Freeman reported that Amie has been to Clerk School and is a graduate and has done an excellent job. Passed with a motion by Brocato; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.
- 7. Appoint Valisa King as Deputy Clerk:** Mayor Freeman reported that Valisa has been here the next longest and will be starting Clerk School this year. Passed with a motion by Brocato; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.
- 8. Remove Kenneth Freeman and Janice Randow as authorized signers on all Town of Many bank accounts effective July 1, 2021:** Passed with a motion by Jackson; seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.
- 32. Amend: Appoint Mayor Pro-Tem:** Mayor Freeman reported that we polled the new administration and there was a tie between Bobbie Jackson and Mary Brocato and the law states that in this case the mayor breaks the tie. Mayor Freeman went on to say that due to time constraints on getting the bank accounts open, Mayor-Elect Hable asked him to break the tie to which his vote is for the longer serving Alderwoman, Bobbie Jackson. Motion to accept Alderwoman Jackson by Brocato; seconded by Kennedy. Vote unanimous.
- 9. Authorize Robert Hable to sign on all bank accounts as "Mayor" and in his absence Bobbie Jackson to sign as "Mayor Pro-Tem" in his place, effective July 1, 2021:** Passed with a motion by Brocato; seconded by Kennedy. Vote unanimous.

Alderman Kennedy asked to be removed from the town bank accounts as a signer on the accounts, as it was inadvertently overlooked during the making of the agenda and also during the amending of the agenda. **Remove James Kennedy as an authorized signer on all Town of Many bank accounts effective July 1, 2021:** Passed with a motion by Brocato; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

- 10. Authorize Amie Brown to be an authorized signer on all Town of Many bank accounts as "Clerk" effective July 1, 2021:** Passed with a motion by Jackson; seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.
- 11. Authorize Valisa King to be an authorized signer on all Town of Many bank accounts as "Deputy Clerk" effective July 1, 2021:** Passed with a motion by Brocato; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.
- 12. Approve annual "Maintenance Agreement Including Mowing and Litter Pickup" with DOTD for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022:** Passed with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.
- 13. Renew agreement with Lee Woods as Airport Manager – 7/1/21-6/30/24:** Mayor Freeman stated that this agreement was reviewed by the Airport Board and they made a recommendation to the council to accept it. Passed with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

- 14. Vote on Generator Maintenance Contract:** Lowest bid was submitted by G&R Generator Maintenance out of Carencro, LA for \$8,717.00 for 11 generators, for a semi-annual and annual inspection and preventative maintenance and it includes a 1-hour load bank on each generator. Mayor Freeman asked if this included parts and labor to which Water Superintendent Roger Dew stated no that it is for oil changes, fluids and belts; Mayor Freeman asked don't our employees do that now to which Roger stated no. Mayor Freeman asked what we paid the last time to have someone come out to which Roger stated that Arrco charged us around \$3,500.00 and they only come once a year and do a level 1 inspection and it cost around \$4,000.00. Passed with a motion to award the bid to G&R Generator Maintenance by Brocato; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.
- 15. Agreement to buy water from Sabine Parish Water District during tank repair:** Mayor Freeman explained that we will be doing a tank repair probably next month, during our peak heat season, and we think our wells will keep up but we need approval to buy water from Sabine Parish Water District if we need it. Alderwoman Jackson asked if they agreed to it to which Mayor Freeman stated they have and a copy of the agreement letter is included in the council packet. Passed with a motion by Brocato; seconded by Kennedy. Vote unanimous.
- 16. Reports:** Council was presented with the **Profit & Loss Performance Budget** for May 2021 showing \$299,881 in the black for this fiscal year-to-date; the **Payables Log** for May 2021 with evidence of invoices paid; balanced & reconciled **Bank Statements** showing \$1,752,283.75 in checking accounts and \$340,660.88 in savings accounts for May 2021; **Overtime report** of \$118,037.43 from July 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021; Verification of Federal & Louisiana **Taxes paid** for May 2021; and Verification of **Insurance paid** for May 2021. All reports were accepted as written and presented with a motion by Jackson and seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.
- 17. Chief's Report with update on warrants:** Chief of Police Cheryl Wooley provided a report to the Council on activity for the last 30 days for Many Police Department. Chief Wooley stated they generated \$30,960.00 for the month; two officers are due to go to academy in July with one of those being Officer Neal and been working with the court system to find alternatives for juvenile crimes. Mayor Freeman asked if it is mostly due from COVID to which Chief Wooley stated that it is mostly drugs and combined with breaking into vehicles. Alderwoman Brocato asked if the court system is doing anything with the young drug offenders that they go to classes at our addiction centers to which Chief Wooley stated she does not know because we do not go to juvenile court and we have to inquire afterwards; Chief Wooley went on to say that there is one that is going to a youth challenge program and there are group homes also that provide a lot of structure.
- a.) Chief's recommendation to hire full-time patrol officer Kody Firesheets at \$15.00 per hour with a starting date as soon as possible:** Passed with a motion by Brocato and seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.
- b.) Chief's recommendation to hire part-time patrol officer Keith Holmes at \$15.50 per hour with a starting date of July 6, 2021:** Passed with a motion by Brocato and seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.
- c.) Termination of employee:** Employee requested a closed executive session. Mayor Freeman asked Chief Wooley if this could be moved to the end of the agenda since they would have to go into executive session and everyone would have to leave the room. and she agreed.
- 18. Sales Tax Report: Increase of 10.27% over April 2020:** Alderwoman Corley submitted a typed report. Motion to accept report was made by Kennedy; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.
- 19. Tourism Report:** Alderwoman Jackson submitted a typed report. Motion to accept report was made by Kennedy; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.
- 20. Cultural District & Historical Committee Report:** Alderwoman Brocato submitted a typed report and also reported that we have started Movies in Many and Music in Many with a concert each month and we are trying to boost attendance and have sponsors giving items as door prizes for the movies; there were approximately 60 kids at the Frozen II movie; the Juneteenth movie is this Saturday and will be showing the movie Harriett and

there also will be a guest speaker; Music in Many will start July 3rd with a patriotic concert by Willie Stewart Family and Friends and there will be no masks or social distancing required; Murals at the theater were painted by Angela Osborn and not one person has been critical, everyone has been very positive about them; Mayor Freeman has approved painting the vertical Sabine sign and Patrick Paint started on that today but they ran into a problem with rotten wood above the marquee and they are going to replace the wood and other repair work on the exterior wall and hope to have it finished by the end of this week; Cherry Williams and Anne Boyens from the Cultural Committee are looking at possibilities for sign poles for a three block area to place cultural district signs in that area; Cherry Williams is looking into the vertical feather signs for the theater to put out on the days of movies and music to attract attention and help boost attendance; the book nooks need to be repaired then repainted; we are making progress on the depot museum and she met with Rebecca Blankenbaker who is the Executive Director of the Cane River National Heritage and they have two traveling exhibits on No Man's Land and she is going to give us one as a permanent exhibit to stay there; the train room is coming along; the third room will be changing exhibits and she has asked the Choctaw Apache Tribe of Ebarb to come up with an exhibit; Dorsey Brunson, one of the authors of the first Trail of Tears book, has met with her once and will be meeting again in July about what will go in the room; Nichols store is stocking the books in which Ms. Brunson is donating half of the proceeds of the book to the museum and Nichols is donating the other half; Nichols has sold the book out twice and had to restock so we are picking up a little money from those sales; Alderwoman Brocato stated the depot has been renovated and they are doing their research for the exhibits but they have no money and are having to beg and borrow and that she has talked to Mr. Schamerhorn about getting us some money; Mr. Schamerhorn asked Mayor Freeman if he could speak and he proceeded to say that \$25,000.00 is on its way; Alderwoman Brocato stated that is wonderful and great news and thanked Mr. Schamerhorn; Alderwoman Brocato stated that the Cultural District has existed for about five years now and she thanked Mayor Freeman for all of his support and encouragement and because of him they have been able to renovate and restore the theater to become the Many Community Center and also the depot museum, to which Mayor Freeman said the council members have also been supportive, to which she agreed.

21. Fire Board: Alderman Kennedy stated there was no report.

22. Airport: Mayor Freeman stated that we are getting closer to landing jet planes at the airport; funding has been approved; a new road will have to be built in to it; the new mayor will be flying to Austin to visit with FAA to get more details and time frames but it will happen; and Mayor Freeman went on to say that it is something that this community should be proud of because 32 years ago it was just a dirt track out there and now we have 4,000 feet of fine runway, a terminal and a credit card fueling system and he understands that for economic development in Sabine Parish they have got to be able to fly in here and we are probably two years away from having it completed.

23. Zoning: Zoning Administrator Amie Brown stated there was no report

24. Grant Report: Grant Writer Suzanne Williams provided a typed report and stated that she is trying to get the town registered on the e-grants system; has been meeting with Mary Brocato every Monday going over needs and grants which is going well; she has weekly calls with FEMA about the storm reimbursement and they gave her a huge task yesterday which will take a couple days to do; we have at least a dozen letters of support for the cultural expansion with a couple more coming in; has written a \$2,000 grant application for the Central Louisiana Foundation for Music in Many; still waiting on the Sabine Area Regional Arts Council grant portal to open but have been assured that we would get at least as much as we did last year for Music in Many; been working with Chief Wooley about an emergency management plan as far as taking what the Sabine Parish Homeland Security has done but tailoring it down to work for the police department; just identified \$50,000 in grant money to be applied for to get the rest of the equipment the police department has on their wish list plus set up a missing persons task force in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office; been coordinating with the engineers, and our guys, and the vendors to get information on all of our water and sewer projects; got all the bids for the generator

contract; stated she now has a big calendar on the wall in her office so if she is not here the guys will see what is going on; and been attending the Sabine Leaders Against Litter meetings and the Child Advocacy Board monthly.

- 25. Street:** Street Supervisor Jeremy Wilkerson reported they started mowing right-of-ways, the airport and the ballpark, patching potholes, and getting quotes on getting trees cut in the right-of-ways. Mayor Freeman asked when the new barn would be in to which Jeremy stated they said 6-8 weeks two weeks ago and they have been working on tearing it down as they have the time. Alderman Kennedy asked Mr. Schamerhorn what he can do about east and west Highway 6 to which Mr. Schamerhorn stated it is a challenge and he talked to the engineer for their district in Alexandria and they are putting in \$300,000,000 more in the transportation department this year and \$300,000 more next year and it is all on I-10 but what it is doing is freeing up some of the other budget to come out to us, and the engineer asked him Friday if the priority list got moved up what roads would he want moved up and he told him 117 in Natchitoches Parish to Highway 6 and Highway 6 from I-49 to Highway 171 and the engineer told him that is the roads he put in. He went on to say that Highway 6 was originally scheduled for the 22-23 budget but if it would get moved up to this year it would be a blessing. Mr. Schamerhorn also stated that he has suggested several passing lanes at Many High School because he is real concerned about loaded trucks coming west over that hill and if traffic is backed up, he needs them to be able to get off.
- 26. Animal Control:** Street Supervisor Jeremy Wilkerson reported they caught 2 dogs and 1 kitten and the kitten was adopted the same day. Mayor Freeman stated that it seems the calls have slowed down about pit bulls. Jeremy stated that Town Clerk Amie Brown is to be getting him signed up for Animal Control school.
- 27. Water:** Water Superintendent Roger Dew reported they have been mowing around well sites, reading meters this week, changing out meters, pulled wells at Natchitoches Hwy. and Andries, and Continental Drilling is coming in next week to inspect the clear well at the water plant. **Sewer:** Wastewater Supervisor Joshua Darden stated he got the parts in for the clarifier; he has Westin Services coming to clean the clarifier out; and hopefully sometime this month he will have the east clarifier back on line.
- 28. Garbage:** Mayor Freeman stated he will be working with the garbage truck supervisor when he has a day off because when fully loaded these streets are not designed to take that kind of weight and we are getting calls from residents stating that humps are forming and to talk about maybe parking and walking to pick up the cans and take back to the truck because it is very expensive to fix the roads.
- 29. Amend: Vote to accept CCR Report:** Motion to accept by Brocato; seconded by Kennedy. Vote unanimous.
- 30. Amend: Vote to accept Municipal Water Pollution:** Motion to accept by Kennedy; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.
- 31. Amend: Resolution #2 of 2021 - Expand Cultural District to include the old Sabine High School:** Mayor Freeman asked did we identify that we were not taking in all those private homes and Alderwoman Brocato stated that it is just the street that goes to the school and just the property of the school. Motion to accept by Kennedy; seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.

Motion to go into executive session was made by Kennedy; seconded by Jackson at 6:10 P.M. Vote unanimous. Mayor Freeman stated they will now go into executive session and asked everyone to leave the room except Chief Wooley; at that time Town Clerk Amie Brown paused the recorder and also left the room. Mayor Freeman called Town Clerk Amie Brown back into the meeting and asked her to invite everyone back into the meeting which she did and the recorder was restarted. Motion to come out of executive session was made by Brocato; seconded by Kennedy at 6:40 P.M. Vote unanimous. There is a recommendation by Chief Wooley to terminate the Officer. Motion to terminate employee by Brocato; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous. Mayor Freeman reminded Chief Wooley to write Kyle Cook and Stanley Cook a warning for working together she said she would do so tomorrow morning.

Next scheduled Regular Council Meeting is on July 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:42 P.M. was made by Kennedy and seconded by Jackson.
Vote unanimous.

KENNETH A. FREEMAN, MAYOR

AMIE BROWN, TOWN CLERK