

**TOWN OF MANY**  
September 21, 2021  
**Regular Session**

The Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Many met in regular session, Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 5:00 P.M. at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Robert H. Hable, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem Bobbie Jackson and Council Members Mary Brocato, Mary Perry, Anita Darwin, and Cherry Williams. Also present were Town Clerk Amie Brown, Chief of Police Cheryl Wooley, Mayor's Assistant Phyllis Jeansonne, HR Manager/Payroll Clerk Kimberly Rodrigues, A/R Clerk Dawana Simmons, Airport Manager Lee Woods, Town Attorney Chris Sylvia, Grant Writer Suzanne Williams, Jeremy Wilkerson, Streets Manager.

Mayor Robert Hable called the meeting to order. Prayer was offered Mayor Hable, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bobby Jackson.

**Minutes:** Minutes for August 17, 2021, regular session were tabled until next meeting. Mary Brocato made the motion, seconded by Bobbie Jackson. Vote unanimous.

**Amend Agenda:** Add 8-27-21 Special Called minutes were unanimously approved. Remove item #2 under New Business. Motion by Cherry Williams, seconded by Mary Brocato. Vote Unanimous.

**Open to Public Comments relating to items on agenda:** Larry Alford asked about an ordinance or not concerning mowing grass with the clippings being left on the roadways, stating it was dangerous to motorcycles. Attorney Sylvia stated he has researched many of the town's ordinances and didn't see anything like that. Mr. Alford said he looked for a state law but couldn't find anything related.

Howard Booth asked about zoning to place a mobile home on Washington Street. Mr. Sylvia explained what a succession is recommended he get an attorney, then he had to get a succession done first before he goes in front of the Zoning Commission.

**Guest(s):** James Wagley with Sabine Prevention Alliance was present with students from the Sabine Parish Drama Club. Student Isabel Ethridge read a letter that was written by the group stating their reasons why they wanted to use the Many Community Center to practice and produce their plays and to have adult mentors who can teach them how to do the technical side of music and drama shows such as lights and sound, marketing, and promotion. Janet Elam, introduced herself as the Club's sponsor and responded to Mayor Hable's question about if they already had a production in mind and stated that it would be a light Christmas play. Wagley motioned to the adult guests in the room and said they would be helping with the students and that Terry Gatti would be helping with sound and lights. Mayor Hable stated that in this day and time the kids in the parish needed another outlet besides sports to be involved with after school. He also encouraged the students to find their passion in the arts and do their best. Mrs. Elam said they would need to practice 3 nights a week, 8-10 weeks before their first show. Mayor Hable said they would discuss and vote on the Drama Club and SPA's using the theater at the end of the meeting after discussing and not having an agreement on when they could have a special called meeting. It was done that way so that the Drama Club could begin their audition and practices as soon as possible.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

**1. Adopt Resolution #6 of 2021-Capital Improvement Plan for Airport 2022-2027 to FAA & LaDOTD Aviation.** Passed with a motion by Jackson; seconded by Perry. Vote unanimous.

**2. Resolution #7 of 2021 – Lease Purchase Agreement between Town of Many and Government Capital for purchase of electronic water meters.** Tabled at Attorney Sylvia's recommendation until the actual dollar amounts come back with financial paperwork. Motion by Williams, second by Brocato. Vote unanimous.

**3. City Limits** Chief Wooley asked for clarification on city limits especially Highway 6 to the schools and Hwy 171 to Wal-Mart as there are questions regarding who is responsible for calls: Many PD or Sheriff's office. Mayor Hable stated that there are convoluted city limits. Atty Sylvia said he has researched it and talked to the previous attorney. He suggested a prior survey be found or a new one done with markers or stakes placed to identify boundaries so that the law enforcement agencies would know who was responsible for what calls.

- 4. Vote on Trick-or-Treating date and times:** Friday, October 29, 3-5pm for merchants downtown. Motion by Perry, second by Williams. Vote unanimous.
- 5. Christmas Parade:** December 18 at 2 pm; Amie said minutes of the Christmas Committees last two meetings are in the Council's packet.
- 6. Close following checking accounts at BOM Bank:** Fines, payroll, streets, meter deposit, sales tax, LCDBG, USDA. Motion by Darwin, second by Perry. Vote unanimous. Hable noted that the 2 accounts left open to accept government payments were Utilities and General.
- 7. Close following savings accounts at BOM Bank:** Waterworks, depreciation, police vehicle, police special, police trust, street equipment, town vehicle. Motion by Jackson, second by Perry. Vote unanimous.
- 8. Issue permit for Fair Parade on Saturday, September 25 @ 2:00 pm.** Motion by Darwin, second by Jackson. Vote unanimous.
- 9. Reports:** Council was presented with the **Profit & Loss Performance Budget** for August 2021 showing \$ 41,787 in the black for this fiscal year-to-date; the **Payables Log** for August 2021 with evidence of invoices paid; balanced & reconciled; **Bank Statements** at Community showing \$ 1,353,458.98 in checking accounts and \$140,800.98 in savings accounts for August 2021; **Bank Statements** at BOM showing \$ 832,486.24 in checking accounts and \$ 00 in savings accounts for August 2021. **Overtime report** of \$ 21,641.94 from July – August 2021; Verification of Federal & Louisiana **Taxes paid** for August 2021; and Verification of **Insurance paid** for August 2021. All reports were accepted as written and presented with a motion by Perry and seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.
- 10. Chief's Report:** There were \$28,000 worth of tickets written but that amount will probably not be collected in full; AMS collection services add their fee to the ticket and collect it from the person issued the ticket. There are 3 officers in the FTO program which is learning the computer system, state laws, Town ordinances and they will go to POST in January. There are now 4 POST certified officers and 4 more will go to POST in January. Chief recommended hiring Chris Arnold as Evidence/Property Room and part-time Detective, for \$15 per hour with start date of 9-22-21. Assistant Chief Kyle Cook is starting his own business and will be moved from full-time to part-time as of 9-22-21; he is POST certified. There is a phone tree for the Police Department because there is no longer a Dispatcher. Motion to hire Christine Arnold as Evidence/Property Room. Passed with a motion by Brocato; seconded by Perry. Vote unanimous. Motion to move Assistant Chief Kyle Cook from full-time to part-time. Passed with motion by Brocato; seconded by Perry. Vote unanimous.
- 11. Sales Tax Report: Increase of 13.29% over August 2020.** Alderwoman Corley submitted a typed report.
- 12. Tourism Report:** Alderwoman Jackson submitted a typed report which states the overnight room sales and occupancy tax deposit was \$26,254.81, up 22%; from January through July 2019, it's up 6%. Google Analytics showed August had 14,374 users on their website; 13,917 sessions. 40,194 page views. Twenty-three meetings, conference calls and webinars for the month, with 2 more upcoming meetings. 8 ads places. 15 upcoming events. Brocato mentioned there were missing Cultural events. Bobby will address those.
- 13. Cultural District & Historical Committee Report:** Alderwoman Brocato submitted a typed report. Music and Movies in Many will resume in October as they were cancelled for September. Movies will be on October 9 and 29; Brandy Roberts will play October 16. Free to all made possible by a grant for \$1000. Theater will be decorated for Halloween. The AC system is "hanging on by a thread and a prayer". Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. The neon lights were fixed for the most part, but needs to come back to install. Progress is being made on the historical museum with 1 room for No Man's Land. Volunteers are building a table for the train room and the Choctaw-Apache tribe volunteers are getting their displays ready. Opening for early 2022. We got \$25,000 for the project from the legislature and Suzanne is working on the paperwork to collect that. We are wanting to put up Christmas flags and other seasonal flags; murals in the Cultural District on police department with one by the water office one the concrete wall that the Freeman family wants to make into a park; there are movies in November and there are two music shows in December and two movies.
- 14. Fire Board:** Mayor Hable reported that there were 107 calls in the Central area with the majority of those for EMTs. Mayor says he's concerned about data from 911 and the Central office are not the same. Ambulance services are from 911 calls. Not all responders are EMT's but there are a handful.
- 15. Airport:** Airport Manager Lee Woods reported earlier.

**16. Zoning:** Mayor stated there was no report. The next meeting will be on Thursday after the next council meeting.

**17. Grant Report:** Suzanne Williams provided a written report.

SUBMITTED/WAITING FOR REPLY-Louisiana Program Grant (formerly SRAC) Music in Many \$ 7,500-RECEIVED \$1,500 Central Louisiana Community Foundation Grant-Music in Many RECEIVED \$1,140 grant (WG Pomeroy Foundation) for Sabine HS historical marker. Received sign and pole to be placed at KCS Depot from Foundation-WAITING FOR INSTALLATION STILL WAITING ON FINAL REPLY for expansion of Cultural District Paperwork. \$25,000 from Sen Louie Bernard via line item in SB 1 for museum will be ready for initial review by state Treasury Office in the morning, 9-22-21; Completed paperwork to get \$45,000 from Sen Louie Bernard via line item in SB 1 for debris removal equipment-waiting for check to be mailed. Completed paperwork & re-writes for LCLE grant for SRO officer for SPARK- \$ 49,475- Chief Wooley to present to LE Commission on October 5 at Shreveport Crime Lab. MPD signed Co-operative Agreement with SPSB & SPSO to pay 1/3 of cost for salary); FEMA claim for Part B-Emergency Preparedness expenses obligated on 9-15-21; amount to be paid \$43,041.41; FEMA claim for Part A-Debris removal- modified to match documentation from Caleb Burkett, \$11,002.50. Attended Main Street America conference in Starkville, MS, last week. Continuing work with Government Capital, Bond Attorneys, and Core & Main to provide documents and information for Ultrasonic water meters which will be paid for with savings from new SCADA system at water plant; Continuing to research for grants for multiple projects such as Main Street, Christmas festival, LGAP and CWEF for next year, museum, cultural and historic districts.

**18. Street:** Street Supervisor Jeremy Wilkerson reported that mowing is being done. Mayor stated he had comments on how good it looks. Fairgrounds were prepared for the Fair. Sign will be installed as soon as the weather permits. Williams asked about pressure washing sidewalks before the Fair parade. Discussion about ditches.

**19. Animal Control:** Street Supervisor Jeremy Wilkerson reported that 2 dogs on MLK were called on about their welfare. He states they are well taken care of and doesn't know why calls keep coming in on those dogs. One stray was picked up.

**20. Water:** Mayor reported that there were a lot of leaks that were attended to in the last month, with a sewage call today on Sycamore Street. The issue on Trace and Capitol Street was big was fixed. There was a course today by Roy Veuleman came and gave a 4-hour class on water treatment. He offered a free, 4-hour Management class that the Council can take to give them a better background of the water system. It is open to anyone to attend.

**29. Sewer:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> clarifier is up and running now. No other issues with that. It had been down since March and will improved efficiency at the sewer plant.

**30. Garbage:** No report other than both trucks are running without issue.

**31. Discussion and vote on the Sabine Prevention Alliance and the Drama Club request using the theater.** One play per quarter on average and 3 nights a week to practice. Brocato gave the schedule of use and stressed the importance of restricted access to the light board and sound system upstairs. The lightboard downstairs was replaced after it was damaged allegedly by a former student. She states only an adult who knows what they are doing use the board. Williams stated that not every student is an athlete and youth need an outlet to express their music, drama, dance, etc. stating the town need to provide a place for our youth and we need a place for large gatherings. A practice schedule will be made with Janet Elam so it does not conflict with already scheduled programs. Motion to approve request by Perry, second by Darwin. Vote unanimous.

**Remarks from Council Members:** **Perry:** Nothing. **Darwin:** Nothing. **Jackson:** One house on her street, a white one, without occupants that needs to be condemned and the health department called. **Williams:** Had 4 calls about a home on Lindsey Street that needs to be condemned. **Brocato:** Need to follow-up on clean up letter sent to Fisher Road address.

Next scheduled Regular Council Meeting is on October 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:53 P.M. was made by Jackson and seconded by Perry. Vote unanimous.

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ROBERT H. HABLE, JR., MAYOR

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AMIE BROWN, TOWN CLERK