

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
VIVIAN TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
112 W. ALABAMA AVE.
VIVIAN, LOUISIANA
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024
6:00 P.M.

RESCHEDULED
July 8, 2024 Regular Council Meeting
(Canceled due to inclement weather.)

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Festavan called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

INVOCATION - Alderman Raymond Williams opened the meeting in prayer.

PLEDGE - Mayor Festavan led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL - VERIFICATION OF QUORUM - Board of Aldermen present for Roll Call were James Martin, Denise Alexander, Samuel Hodge, and Raymond Williams; absent was Robert Green, Jr. Following Roll Call the Town Clerk verified that a quorum was present.

Also present were other elected officials and/or staff members: Mayor Ronnie Festavan, Police Chief Ryan Nelson, Town Clerk Kellie Morris; Town Attorney Douglas Dominick entered the meeting at a later time.

APPROVE AGENDA - Motion to approve the Agenda as presented was made by Raymond Williams, seconded by Samuel Hodge; all present approved.

PROCLAMATION - VIVIAN FARMERS MARKET WEEK - Farmer's Market Manager, Ms. Jessica Spurlin, and Grant Administrator, Dr. Marby Barker, were present for the reading of and presentation of a Proclamation proclaiming August 4-10, 2024 as Vivian Farmer's Market Week.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were none.

2. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - Financial report including budget-to-actual comparisons was presented by Mayor Festavan. Following the report and discussion, a motion to accept as presented was made by Samuel Hodge, seconded by James Martin; all present approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion to approve the Minutes for the June 10, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, and the June 27, 2024, Special Called Council Meetings in globo, as a unit, was made by James Martin, seconded by Raymond Williams; all present approved.

4. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE # 798 OF 2024 OF THE TOWN OF VIVIAN, LOUISIANA - AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATES FOR THE 2024 TAX YEAR IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF VIVIAN, LOUISIANA. *There will be a public hearing prior to the adoption of Ordinance # 798 at the Regular Town Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 12, 2024 at the Vivian Town Hall, located at 112 W. Alabama Ave. in Vivian, Louisiana.*

Motion to introduce Ordinance # 798 of 2024 was made by Samuel Hodge, seconded by Raymond Williams; all present approved.

5. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE # 799 OF 2024 OF THE TOWN OF VIVIAN, LOUISIANA - AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CODE OF ORDINANCE, TOWN OF VIVIAN, LOUISIANA, TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL OF CHAPTER 15- STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES TO INCLUDE SECTION 15-8 LITTERING UPON THE TOWN RIGHTS OF WAYS AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO. *There will be a public hearing prior to the adoption of Ordinance # 799 at the Regular Town Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 12, 2024 at the Vivian Town Hall, located at 112 W. Alabama Ave. in Vivian, Louisiana.*

Motion to introduce Ordinance # 799 of 2024 was made by Samuel Hodge, seconded by James Martin; all present approved.

6. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE # 800 OF 2024 OF THE TOWN OF VIVIAN, LOUISIANA - AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CODE OF ORDINANCE, TOWN OF VIVIAN, LOUISIANA, TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL OF CHAPTER 15- STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES TO INCLUDE SECTION 15-9 OBSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE WITHIN THE TOWN OF VIVIAN AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO. There will be a public hearing prior to the adoption of Ordinance # 800 at the Regular Town Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 12, 2024 at the Vivian Town Hall, located at 112 W. Alabama Ave. in Vivian, Louisiana.

Motion to introduce Ordinance # 800 of 2024 was made by Samuel Hodge, seconded by James Martin; all present approved.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE # 801 OF 2024 OF THE TOWN OF VIVIAN, LOUISIANA - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE TOWN OF VIVIAN'S BUDGET ORDINANCE # 795 OF 2024 TO REFLECT THE APPROPRIATE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES. Insurance increase & Capital Project addition. There will be a public hearing prior to the adoption of Ordinance # 801 at the Regular Town Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 12, 2024 at the Vivian Town Hall, located at 112 W. Alabama Ave. in Vivian, Louisiana.

Motion to introduce Ordinance # 801 of 2024 was made by James Martin, seconded by Samuel Hodge; all present approved.

8. PROMOTION OF POLICE PERSONNEL - THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN WILL CONSIDER THE CHIEF OF POLICE'S RECOMMENDATION TO PROMOTE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS: **1)** DaAveon Benjamin - Sargeant to Lieutenant - Hire date, June 28, 2021 and **2)** Eric Brooks - Officer to Sargeant - Hire date, February 13, 2023.

Police Chief Nelson asked that this matter be continued at the August 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting. Motion to grant the request and continue at the August 12, 2024 Meeting was made by Raymond Williams and seconded by Samuel Hodge. All present approved with the exception of Denise Aleander who abstained from the vote.

❖ **ZONING & CONDEMNATION MATTERS - Officer Bobby Smith**

A. THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES FOR CONDEMANATION:

1) 1220 N. Carson St. - Property owner Jacob Havard of Grand Cane, Louisiana was present on behalf of this property to report on the improvements made. Following his report, motion to remove the property from the Condemnation List was made by Denise Alexander, seconded by Raymond Williams; all present approved.

2) 308 W. Moore St. - Property owner, Robert Kovacs of Bossier City, Louisiana was present on behalf of this property. Following Mr. Kovacs's introduction, Denise Alexander made a motion to proceed with condemnation which was followed by questions, answers, and much discussion. Mrs. Alexander then withdrew her original motion and made a new motion for Mr. Kovacs to comply and complete the following: **1)** clean up the property, removing any and all junk, trash and debris, **2)** mow the grass to property standards, **3)** provide a written contract or other documents showing that a contractor has begun work or a contract showing that specific detailed work will begin with a timeline of completion, and **4)** allow Officer Smith to do a walk-through of the interior of the house and provide an him with an assessment on what needs to be done to the interior of the house, to prevent further condemnation and/or demolition. Town Attorney Dominick was also instructed to send a letter including the items to Mr. Kovacs. The motion was then seconded by Samuel Hodge with all present approving.

B. ZONING/CONDEMNATION REPORT - Officer Bobby Smith provided a written and oral report to the Council and those present, then followed up with discussion on the addresses and violations included in the report: **1)** 602 N. Pine St., **2)** 606 N. Pine St., **3)** 215 Vassar St., and **4)** 14490 Old Atlanta Rd. Additional addresses discussed by the Council and Officer Smith were **a)** 734 N. Pine St., **b)** 250 E. Texas Ave., and **c)** 616 Magnolia St.

❖ **CODE ENFORCEMENT MATTERS - Officer Johnnie Hough**

A. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT - Officer Johnnie Hough gave the following written and oral report: 47 (forty-seven) properties; 22 (twenty-two) new cases have been opened, 5 (five) cases have been closed, plus 9 (nine) new cases and 1 (one) cases for review were on the docket to be heard in Environmental

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT *cont'd.* -

Court on Wednesday, July 17, 2024. Additional addresses discussed by the Council and Officer Hough were **1)** 111 S. Pine St., **2)** 917 S. Pine St., **3)** the Memory Lane Trailer Park, and **4)** Jackson St.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Subjects discussed during this time were: **1)** a backpack give-away at the August 3rd Farmers Market, **2)** sewer line repair in Ward I, and **3)** the repair or lack of repair made by the State on Louisiana Highway 1 North (N. Pine St.) in Vivian.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY BOARD OF ALDERMEN - There were none.

ADJOURN - Motion to adjourn was made by Raymond Williams, seconded by Samuel Hodge; all present approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:32, p.m.

Kellie Morris, Town Clerk

Ronnie Festavan, Mayor
July 22, 2024