

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**VIVIAN TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**  
**112 W. ALABAMA AVE.**  
**VIVIAN, LOUISIANA**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER** - Mayor Festavan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION** - Alderman Samuel Hodge 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, Raymond Williams, and 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 and Town Attorney Douglas Dominick.

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

**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 approved.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Motion to approve the Minutes for the December 9, 2024 Regular Town Council Meeting was made by Robert Green, Jr., seconded by Raymond Williams; all approved.

**4. HIRING OF POLICE PERSONNEL - THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN WILL CONSIDER THE CHIEF OF POLICE'S RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL(S) FOR THE VIVIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT:** **1)** Roy Gipson - Part-time AUXILLARY Officer - \$0.00, **2)** John Nicholson - Part-time Dispatcher - \$11.00 per hour, **3)** Haley Durmon - Part-time Dispatcher - \$11.00 per hour, and **4)** Sha'Nya Morris - Part-time Dispatcher/File Clerk - \$11.00 per hour.

Chief Nelson introduced Mr. Gipson, and Vera Laster, Dispatch Supervisor, introduced the Dispatch applicants. Following the introductions, questions, answers, & comments from the Council Members & applicants, motion was made by Raymond Williams, seconded by Samuel Hodge to approve, hire, all 4 (four) applicants as recommended by Chief Nelson; all approved.

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

**A. THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY:** Trailer Park @ 402 Memory Lane - Jessie Heard, owner -

Ms. Sherry Ford of Vivian, daughter of property owner Jessie Heard, spoke on this matter and gave an updated report on improvements made. Following questions, answers and further discussion, motion to continue this matter at the April 14, 2025 Regular Council Meeting was made by Raymond Williams, seconded by Robert Green, Jr.; all approved.

**B. THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY FOR CONDEMANATION:** **1)** 308 W. Moore St. -

No one was present on behalf of this property. Following Officer Smith's report Mayor Festavan asked Officer Smith to reach out to the property owner and report back to him. Mayor Festavan would then report to the Council Members.

**C. ZONING/CONDEMNATION REPORT** - Officer Smith's written and oral report to the Council included the following addresses - **1)** 616 Magnolia St., **2)** 327 E. Oklahoma Ave., **3)** 421 E. Texas Ave., and **4)** 207 E. Texas Ave - Following discussion on these properties motion was made to start Condemnation Process on **3)** 421 E. Texas Ave., and **4)** 207 E. Texas Ave., by Denise Alexander, seconded by Raymond Williams; all approved.

Discussion was also held on a zoning matter concerning 1036 S. Pine St. Following much discussion this item was tabled and Attorney Dominick was instructed to look further into the zoning laws and make a report to the Council at the February 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting. No action taken.

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

**A. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT** - Officer Hough gave the following written and oral report: 34 (thirty-four) properties; 13 (thirteen) new cases have been opened, 13 (thirteen) cases have been closed, and 2 (two) new cases and 1 (one) review case would be heard in Environmental Court on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was also held about the trash cans being left out in the streets.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** - Mayor Festavan gave a report on the following: **1)** condemnation on 2 (two) properties to begin on S. Pardue St., **2)** 602 & 606 N. Pine St. condemnation bids, **3)** the LMA Mid-Winter Conference in Baton Rouge, January 27-28, **4)** Local Sales Tax breakdown, **5)** the burned structure at N. Spruce St. & W. Alabama Ave., **6)** possible sale of the old water meters, and **7)** ad velorum tax collection.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY BOARD OF ALDERMEN** - There were none.

**ADJOURN** - Motion to adjourn was made by Robert Green, Jr., seconded by Samuel Hodge; all approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30, p.m.

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**Kellie Morris, Town Clerk**

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**Ronnie Festavan, Mayor**  
**January 24, 2025**