



Village of Jones Creek

7207 Stephen F. Austin
Jones Creek, TX 77541
(979) 233-2700

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 21, 2023, AT 6:30 PM.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** 6:35 PM
2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** *Led by, pledge said by all.*
3. **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS** *All members present.*
4. **BUSINESS OF VISITORS** (5 minute per person)
PUC Docket meeting at 9AM tomorrow, March 22, 2023, you must register before the zoom meeting to join or speak. Trent Water Works mailed all residents a letter, we have sent out a phone message to residents about this meeting as well. Maintenance applications are being accepted at this time.
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Discuss and approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 21, 2023.
Motion made to approve the minutes by Alderman AJ Jenkins, 2ND Alderman Corey Thomas, all in favor, motion carried.
 - b. Discuss and consider action on financial and monthly reports from all departments.
Alderman Nicole Hardesty asked if the CPA had any reports available, and the City Secretary let her know that we do not have a cost from them but from her understanding they have what is needed with no requests for more information. This includes access to the online version of QuickBooks as well, since this is what we will transition to. Alderman Nicole Hardesty motioned to approve all reports except the Marshal Department with should not show a loss. City Secretary Brittney Fairchild went over that in the past this department was always at a loss because there is no income for this department. Alderman Hardesty mentioned asking the CPA how to adjust so the budgeting items would come out of the allotted amounts for this department so they do not show a loss. Alderman David Galloway, 2nd the motion made, all in favor, motion carried.
 - c. Discuss and consider action on drainage improvement projects and updates from Drainage Liaison Corey Thomas. *Discussion on Robinhood Ln, County will start work soon in this area. Oakwood ditches will start soon as well, they will dig the ditches and replace what is needed to help drainage. East Stephen F. Austin Driveways were previously submitted but needed more significant details to proceed, Alderman Nicole Hardesty motioned to approve Brittney (City Secretary) to resubmit the 3 driveways with better details to move forward with replacing culverts, 2nd by Glenn Jordan, all in favor, motion carried.*

d. Discuss and consider action on updates for ARPA Funds. *Alderman Corey Thomas spoke with Tim Boyd about the Brush hog to get a demonstration for the side blade cutter but has not gotten back to him. If it is possible to do this on a Saturday this is preferred, as soon as he gets the date, he will let the council know.*

e. Discuss and consider upcoming and past events.

- *Residential Electronics Recycling-March 25, 2023 (Angleton but free to all)*
- *Easter Egg Hunt-April 1, 2023, 9AM- Needing Donations of Candy & Eggs*
- *Seed & Seedling Swap- April 1, 2023*
- *Easter Bake Sale- April 6, 2023 – Needing baked good donations.*
- *City Wide Clean up- April 29, 2023*
- *City Wide Garage Sale- May 5 & 6, 2023- \$10.00 to sign up*
- *Christmas in July Festival & Toy Drive- July 15, 2023*
- *School Supply Drive-August 5, 2023*
- *Jones Creek Volunteer Fire Department BBQ Fundraiser- September 9, 2023*
- *National Night Out- October 3, 2023*
- *Veteran’s Day Breakfast- November 9, 2023*
- *Pancakes with Santa – December 2, 2023*
- *Christmas in the Creek – December 12, 2023*
- *Animal Awareness Day – May 20, 2023 Free vaccinations & \$15 microchips, drive through at Stephen F. Austin for Cats & Dogs.*

f. Discuss and Consider Past & Future Grant applications.

- *FEMA Grant- Marshal William Tidwell, No updates currently.*
- *TxDot City Sidewalks grant (Stephen F. Austin, Primrose, & Bluebonnet) City Secretary, Brittney Fairchild, at this time the 2nd Phase has been approved and accepted, they need more photos and details, the next phase will need to include a survey, environmental study, and would work towards the detailed application to be submitted in June. This is a fully funded grant. We will have to do a door-to-door survey, in which help with other grants as well with our low to moderate income, it will open up many opportunities.*
- *CDBG-MIT Grant follow up - New Water System update/ New approaches for grant opportunities. (RWAf) Marshal William Tidwell spoke and mentioned that he and Brittney (City Secretary) met with David Linder about the denial of our application. We were told that we should have submitted a lower bid down the highway, but it was not communicated to us the expectations prior to submittal. We were expecting to have a chance for review, and this did not happen either. Mr. Linder agreed to help reach out to the county to help us look for other grant options. Marshal Tidwell went on to say that Brittney and I went to Mr. Linders office and Brittney did a very good job. Brittney Fairchild went on to say that they were told expectations were projects that were already in place, needed to be fixed or*

maintained were priority, and we offered a new system which put us lower on the list. Alderman Corey Thomas found Rural Water Assistance Fund, it is a loan, but they do offer financial assistance for this loan. At this time, we have not received a response but as soon as we have more details we will bring it back for discussion.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discuss and consider the Proclamation for proclaiming the month of April as Fair Housing Month for 2023.
Motion made by Alderwoman Hardesty to proclaim April as Fair Housing Month, 2nd Alderman Glenn Jordan, all in favor, motion carried.
- b. Discuss and consider recommendations for enforcing current Animal Control contracts & Ordinances for the Village of Jones Creek. *Animal Control currently comes out at a discounted rate of \$40 per day, these days are not set because we contract out to the City of Brazoria. They can house these animals. Alderman Glenn Jordan mentioned he has seen a lot more animals out lately. They have been picking them up, and there have been citations written for animals at large and not being registered. Alderwoman Hardesty did say they did contract out a place to send animals to go to that location. They sent an officer to an 8hr course that would allow them to pick up and transport them to the facility. This cost is per animal to drop off. Code enforcement officer could also be an ACO officer. If it's an officer, then it's at least 40hrs a week of coverage or while on duty there will always be coverage. Alderman Jordan just wanted to make everyone aware.*
- c. Discuss and consider recommendations for implementing and taking action regarding Code Enforcement violations for the Village of Jones Creek. *Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty stated she believed code enforcement should belong in the Marshal's Department. Alderman, Glenn Jordan mentioned that there are a lot of issues in the city, and this goes back years. People are not maintaining yards, building structures, burned down homes and junk is piling up. The city does not have a certified code enforcement officer at this time, but the Marshal's department does have a certified person. Marshal Tidwell mentioned that any officer can enforce this. Alderman, Corey Thomas mentioned that the City is doing as much as they can up to the point of a citation. Judge Beverly Widner went over the steps we take for code enforcement, She said that the Marshal has been helpful and The City Secretary does go out and take photos, mail violation notices, and collect information needed to proceed and we summons the homeowner in, at this point we speak to them about the violation as well as ticket them. They are for the most part paying for these fines but we do have repeat violators. Some do not answer calls or letters and do not pay. Judge Widner asked what the next step would be after they continue to violate and pay and keep doing it over and over. Bubba Bullin asked about the burned down house near his home. They have not progressed, and it has been sitting for quite some time. It's an eyesore with materials, junk and the house left unfinished. How can someone renew their permit if they aren't complying. The City Secretary mentioned that their permit had not been renewed as it was still within the period for active status. We cannot condemn it due to the costs that the city would incur for this. They asked what do you do to force them to comply even after not renewing the permit. Dana Pomerinke added that she understands trying to rebuild a home takes time, and working out of town does set them*

back but at what point does it end? There doesn't look like there is time for the owner to finish the home since no progress has been made. Marshal Tidwell mentioned that we could ask our attorney to write a letter to these residents. Alderwoman Hardesty motioned to get a letter from the attorney addressing the 4 burned out homes, mentioning that we will be staying on top of them and that they need to comply. Alderman Glenn Jordan added, that this to include all issues, Alderman Glenn Jordan 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

- d. Discuss and consider 3rd party inspection options and updates on current inspection company; Bureau Veritas. City Secretary Brittney Fairchild went over past and present inspectors in comparison, and they are having issues with the transition with the new inspector. She has spoken to the supervisor and worked out a plan of action at this time. The City is now providing stickers of approval and denial of the inspection. This also helps with knowing the inspector was on site if the homeowner was not home at the time of inspection. Bureau Veritas is willing to work with us and relocate this employee if needed as well. The City Secretary mentioned that our contract will be ending soon and to move forward we could look into other options if this plan of action does not work out. Mayor Terry Jeffers mentioned that this company has always been a great asset to the city, and he believes that they will work this issue out, and at this time to just bear with them. Dana Pomerinke asked where the company is out of. City Secretary Fairchild mentioned that the company is out of the Houston area but they have inspectors in different sectors of Texas that also come to us since they are shorthanded. They are a higher rate but this is a one-time fee and can include multiple inspections. They usually handle higher-end inspections such as new buildings or buildings over 200 sq ft, as well as our commercial inspections. If we wanted to look into contracting with other cities this could be an option as well. Alderman David Galloway asked about pricing for the year. Ms. Fairchild stated that permits vary from the base rate for simple inspections to prices based on valuation of the project. Alderman Thomas motioned to move forward with looking into other options, 2nd Alderwoman Hardesty, all in favor, motion carried.*
- e. Discuss and consider approval for Recycling options for the Village of Jones Creek residents in partnership with Keep Brazoria County Beautiful for \$395.00. Anna Galloway mentioned that this is for chemicals such as paint, oil, batteries etc. Alderwoman Hardesty mentioned that Keep Brazoria County Beautiful came out to discuss these options and they loved the idea. Jones Creek residents could take their items to this. AJ Jinkins motioned to approve the \$395 for Keep Brazoria County Beautiful partnership, 2ND Alderman Galloway, all in favor except Alderwoman Hardesty who abstained, motion carried.*
- f. Discuss and consider a Beautification Committee amendment to current Ordinance 508 to change meetings from Quarterly to Monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Regina Tidwell mentioned that regular monthly meetings for Beautification would benefit the city by being a little more organized for events and projects. Alderman Corey Thomas motioned to approve the amendment to Ordinance 508 for Monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 2nd Alderman David Galloway, all in favor except Alderwoman Hardesty who abstained, motion carried.*
- g. Discuss and consider training for cleaning and maintaining Historical Marker Sites & adoption of individual Historical Marker sites in the Village of Jones Creek. Alderman AJ Jinkins discussed specific procedures that are required to restore Historical Markers required by the state. He spoke with Mrs. Sloan about these procedures, they need teams of volunteers. Mrs. Anna Galloway added that they need 8 teams of 2 for this. They have 6*


signed up so far. The event will be held on April 29th, at the City Wide Clean up event. Alderman Galloway mentioned that maybe families could adopt a marker. There are 8 markers in the cemetery, and we will be focusing on them during this clean up. The Highway markers have been taken down, but they will go back up after the Hwy expansion project has been completed. Please spread the word.

- h. Discuss and consider the Proposed Trust of Gulf Prairie Cemetery Association to the Village of Jones Creek. Mayor Terry Jeffers summarized that the Bryan Family has passed down the cemetery within their family, and the sole surviving person available does not have time to maintain and manage the cemetery anymore. She wants to pass on the cemetery with its self-sustainable to the Village of Jones Creek. The Bryan Family has always had 3 trustees for this. Discussion about the workload needed to maintain this would be more than what we can handle with our staff at this time. The cemetery does have people available to handle most of the tasks needed at a cost. We would be handling the phone calls, tracking plots and funds, meeting interested parties and showing the plots, as well as upkeep with their process already in place. Marshal Tidwell mentioned that there were issues with the cemetery in the past, but it was fixed so that they would not be an issue as this part of the cemetery would now have strict guidelines and no more plots sold. City Secretary Brittney Fairchild mentioned that our city attorney was against this due to the debt the city would incur after all plots were sold and no other income would be available to provide the ongoing upkeep. Marshal Tidwell mentioned that a lot of the funds do come from donations. The same letter is sent out every year. Alderman Galloway motioned to table this item until our next meeting, 2nd Alderman Jinkins, all in favor, motion carried.*
- i. Discuss and consider creating a Historical Preservation Committee for the Village of Jones Creek. City Secretary Brittney Fairchild mentioned that if we created a committee this would allow us to have a board to delegate and maintain the cemetery as well as take some of the workload off of city hall staff. She mentioned that downtown Freeport does have this committee in place for the preservation of their downtown area. Historical places attract visitors, and this could be an opportunity for growth. It was said in the Will that the requirements to be buried at this location is to be a direct descendant of the family, must live in Jones Creek or have lived, or have a family member buried in the cemetery. If we chose to do the historical reenactment for Stephen F. Austin's burial, this could fall under this committee to handle as well. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty motioned to move this item to the next meeting, 2nd Alderman David Galloway, all in favor, motion carried.*

- 7. ADJOURNMENT** *Alderwoman, Nicole Hardesty motioned to adjourn, 2nd Alderman, Corey Thomas, all in favor, motion carried.*

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the minutes of this Special Called Meeting have been reviewed and are true.



Brittney Fairchild, City Secretary

NOTE: ITEMS WILL NOT NESSARILY BE DISCUSS. AND ACTED ON IN THE . ER THEY APPEAR ON THE AGENDA. THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN, AT ITS DISCRETION, MAY DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON ANY OR ALL OF THE ITEMS LISTED IN A DIFFERENT ORDER IF A MAJORITY OF THE BOARD SO DETERMINES.

This notice is being posted pursuant to the Texas Open Meeting Act. (Chapter 551, Government Code). In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, on request the Village of Jones Creek will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending meetings of its Board of Aldermen. Request for such accommodations or for interpreter services should be received 48 hours prior to any meeting. Please contact the Village Secretary's office at 979-233-2700 to request such accommodations.