



Village of Jones Creek

7207 Stephen F. Austin
Jones Creek, TX 77541
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CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 18, 2023 AT THE VILLAGE HALL LOCATED AT 7207 STEPHEN F. AUSTIN RD, JONES CREEK, TEXAS 77541 AT 6:30PM.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - *6:30 p.m.*
2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - *Judge Beverly Widner led invocation and pledges led by all.*
3. **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS** – *All members present.*

4. **COMMUNICATION OF VISITORS**

Section 551.007 of the Texas Government Code allows a member of the public who desires to address the body regarding an item on an agenda for open meeting of the body to address the body regarding the item at the meeting before or during the body's consideration of the item.

1) Larry LeCompte spoke of concerns about the low pressure, lack of communication between customer service and technicians, and quality of service provided by Trent Water Works. 2) Mayor Jeffers thanked those of whom have donated their time and financial support-naming Corey Thomas and Glenn Jordan specifically. 3) Anna Galloway spoke of the soft plastic collection. The collection of 500 lbs. of soft plastic will be recycled into a bench for the city.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Discuss and approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 21, 2023 and Special Called Meeting held on April 4, 2023. *The motion made to approve the minutes by Alderman Thomas, seconded by Alderman Hardesty, all in favor, motion carried.*
- b. Discuss and consider action on financial and monthly reports from all departments. *The motion to approve the financial and monthly reports by Alderman Hardesty, and a comment that there was no monthly financial statement included, the motion seconded by Alderman Galloway. Alderman Galloway questions was asked about the uptick in penal code violations to 16. Alderman Galloway wants to know if there are issues that need to be addressed why we are seeing the uptick. Also, Alderman Galloway also confirmed the breakdown of financials that the court has collected in fines*

(\$36,565.30), what was paid out to collection (\$3,015.30) and the amount the (\$11,000.00) remitted to the state. Judge Beverly Widner confirms the reports accuracy, motion approved by all.

- c. **Discuss and consider action on drainage improvement projects and updates from Drainage Liaison Corey Thomas.** *Alderman Thomas reports the workorder for East Stephen F. Austin Road got kicked out. May 9th will be back on the agenda. Crews have finished digging Oakwood, no pipe was replaced. The county will be starting the back of Robin Hood in a couple months, no box culverts yet. They are going to take care of all metal pipe, in the curve there are 4 of those to see how it does then if it needs address more with the culvert boxes. Mayor Jeffers asks if they are going to clean out ditches, Alderman Thomas confirms yes and clean out everywhere it need to be cleaned out. Alderman Hardesty ask question about concerns where the 4 lanes and becoming 2 lanes and seeing how high the highway is going to be she is getting nervous about flooding issues. She asks if Alderman Thomas is keeping in touch with those who are going the drainage studies, or can you get in touch with whoever is in charge of the drainage studies Alderman Thomas, the lady's name is Maria. Alderman Hardesty says she may need to come and talk to us again. The highway is really high over Steve Perry's place. The higher the road the more the water is coming on to us Marshall William interjects the box culverts they are putting in are going to be way oversized, right now the drainage on the highway has to go down Live oak it can't go over the highway. The other side runs past wag a bag, but it has to cross Stephen F Austin to go down to the creek. At that point it has to go past the old service station that is all plugged up, so they are going to replace all of that with box culverts straight to the creek on both sides so that will help us out quite a bit. Alderman Hardesty responds I just want to make sure we are keeping an eye on what they are doing because it could affect a lot of us.*
- d. **Discuss and consider action on updates for ARPA Funds.** *Alderman Galloway posed a question on the payment types check number ach payments, the last two Coburn supply company and Vernor Material it looks like stuff has been calculates in the amount column but there is no indication how that was actually paid for, has that just not been added. The City Secretary Fairchild answers so sorry yes, the check number for that has not been added but it was paid for by check for the culverts now the material hasn't been because it hasn't been used. Alderman Thomas clarifies, that's for the East Stephen F Austin. Alderman Galloway posed another question, then the other thing I got is where is says premium pay and Premium pay 2 it looks like we still have funds remain in premium pay 1 is there any reason why premium pay 2 the Marshall's office is already accruing that. City Secretary Fairchild answers Paul Stackhouse was not involved in the first premium pay, so we started paying him out of premium pay 2 because that is what he was approved for we all approve that amount. He wasn't originally part of premium pay 1, you only approved for a certain amount of people for premium pay 1 and he was not a part of that. Alderman Hardesty interjects that he hadn't been hired yet. He wasn't a part of that additional premium pay, but we did do that on the second one when we approved these funds, we said that he would be apart and also anybody new so that would attract other applicants for other positions having that premium pay, them we would deal with what happens when that goes away later. So that is why Paul's is coming out. Alderman Galloway asks to as an aside do you remember when we added more to the*

premium pay 2 to extend out past 9/30 it looks like we are probably going to end up not accessing all of that. So, I just want to bring it up as a note that it may roll back into that.

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 *Alderman Galloway, there was as many or more people out there this time.*
- Seed & Seedling Swap- April 1, 2023, *Anna Galloway commented, we traded like 50 plants for free, lots of people can and swapped out plants.*
- Easter Bake Sale- April 6, 2023, *Alderman Hardesty announce we made \$742.00 plus raffle tickets*
- City Wide Clean up/Historical Marker Restoration- April 29, 2023 *Anna Galloway comments the raffle will be drawn at the city wide clean up*
- City Wide Garage Sale- May 5 & 6, 2023- \$10.00 to sign up
- Animal Awareness Day- May 20, 2023
- 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 *Alderman Thomas says that it is at the school this year and they will have an auction, they will have brisket.*
- National Night Out- October 3, 2023
- Veteran's Day Breakfast- November 9, 2023
- Pancakes with Santa – December 2, 203
- Christmas in the Creek – December 12, 2023
- *National Day of Prayer May 4th at the Veterans Memorial for 12p.m.-1p.m. Added to the upcoming events*

f. Discuss and Consider Past & Future Grant applications.

- TxDot City Sidewalks grant (Stephen F. Austin, Primrose, & Bluebonnet) *City Secretary Fairchild reports that we are at the next and final stage of this. She did get the survey from the Community Development Office and have to go door to door for these things. It not only helps us out with this grant but with anything we apply for low moderate income, we have to stay within those guidelines to receive these grants. Alderman Hardesty asks So we just need to go on Stephen F Austin, Primrose and Bluebonnet? City Secretary Fairchild answers yes ma'am but if we continue on with the rest of the city that will allow us to use that information alderman Thomas ask if we can use the ones we used for the HUD. City Secretary Fairchild answers I think those are from 2020 those are the last ones the county used, that's based on the 2020 surveys. Nicole wants to know what all it entails, is it survey that we hand them or question off a survey, is a document and you have to ask these specific questions. The City Secretary Fairchild says they want to know household size. Alderman Hardesty, we fill it out or they do. Alderman Thomas, they do, and it takes every bit of four minutes.*

Alderman Hardesty, - so is it feasible to try to round up a volunteer committee to break up the city streets and tap on. City Secretary Fairchild says if anything it will help with any water system and service response, but as far as that goes, for sidewalks one yes we need to know for sure if you want these this is what is going to happen. And then move on from there then continue on and maybe designation streets for every group of people. Alderman Thomas says before too long the fire dept will be out selling tickets so they can kind of double duty that. Alderman Hardesty says we might want to formalize getting this done because it is a large task. Alderman Thomas says we have our business meeting next week I'll bring it up.

- **CDBG-MIT Grant follow-up - New Water System update/ New approaches for grant opportunities. (RWF & County Commissioner)**
Mayor Jeffers we have to meeting with council and David Linder and the Brazoria County economic development people city sec says she spoke to Daphne and they are trying to get an other date for that since David Linder had to cancel that meeting. And also Alderman Thomas had gone to the HGCA meeting which they had a lot of follow up information on that basically they could help us with get pretty far with these grants which just need to know which one we want to go for. But I did include in the packets for everyone and the types of loans there is financial assistance we just need to know how to apply. And what route to take. To see if whether or not we qualify for low to moderate income will be a huge success in that. Alderman Thomas says there is quite a bit on this that I think and we wanted to move forward but think a subcommittee need to be generated for this I took this information and looked a little deeper into and based the \$7million we were looking for to fund a much larger scope of work. The only one they had listed down was 2022 which was the last one they had available was it would go up to \$9 million. Everything else caps out at \$3million it would go up to \$9million for disadvantaged rural urban areas, but it would have to be associated with a bond to get to that dollar amount but the only thing we can get forgiveness on is \$300k so if we went with \$1.3 million it would come with a 2% origination fee so that's \$40 -\$60k. I think there is a lot there that a subcommittee could work through to bring back to our attention. Alderman Hardesty, can we make a motion to form a committee. Alderman Thomas before we do that, I have reached out to our Regional Project Implementation Team, her name is Nancy. I am still waiting to hear back from her. Todd Running is the water committee guy for HGAC, and we've emailed, and he is looking for other ways as well. Alderman Hardesty I would like to make a motion and see if Mr. LeCompte would like to be interested take a part in that committee. Mr. LeCompte _ absolute. Alderman Hardesty -I make a motion we form the water improvement committee. Alderman Thomas seconds the motion. All approve none opposed. Motion carried.

- g. Discuss and consider the proposed Trust of Gulf Prairie Cemetery Association to the Village of Jones Creek. *Marshal Tidwell, when we met with Karen Black, they wanted the city to take the cemetery, but the family would have to sign go and she felt at that time the family would do it. Essential there has been some talk about this and there is a family reunion in June and at that point there are going to talk about this and either say yes we want the city to take over for the family will maintain. I think it is a great deal for the city to take over, but we got to make sure they are ok with. That's where we are at. Alderman Thomas makes a motion to table this Alderman Hardesty second the motion. Debbie Collins, representing the Bryan Austin perry family, I want to know if y'all are interested. Mayor Jeffers, Alderman Hardesty, and Alderman Thomas answers in the affirmative. Mayor Jeffers there is a motion and seconded to table this until June after this meeting. All approve none opposed motion carried.*
- h. Discuss and consider creating a Historical Preservation Committee for the Village of Jones Creek. *Alderman Jordan I would like to make a motion to table it also. Motion made and seconded by Alderman Hardesty all approve, none opposed, motion carried.*

6. NEW BUSINESS

CLOSED MEETING

- a. Council will convene in **Executive Session** pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Government Code to conduct a private consultation with the City Attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the requirement for an open meeting. *Mayor Jeffers, I need a motion to go into executive session. Alderman Galloway makes the motion to go into executive session, Alderman Thomas seconds the motion all prove, none oppose motion carried. Mayor Jeffers and the council invited a representative from Olson and Olson into executive session.*

OPEN MEETING

- Council reconvenes @7:44 p.m. Alderman Thomas makes a motion to reconvene, seconded by Alderman Hardesty all approved, none opposed, Motion carried. Alderman Jordan had to leave during executive session.*
- b. Discuss and consider an action approving City Administrator to solicit requests for qualifications for accounting firms and/or certified public accounting services. *Alderman Hardesty made a motion to take no action, Alderman Thomas seconded the motion, all approved, none opposed, motion carried.*
 - c. Discuss and consider approving Marshal Office Deputy Paul Stackhouse to move from Part-Time to fill the Full-Time position available. *Alderman Thomas made the motion to approve Paul Stackhouse to be a fill the full-time position, Alderman Hardesty seconded the motion, all approved, none opposed, motion carried.*

- d. Discuss and consider 3rd party inspection options and updates on current inspection company, Bureau Veritas. *Mayor Jeffers, Don Malone has done inspection for us before came back recently and gave us his prices, right Brittney? City Secretary Fairchild, yes sir they the same as our local inspectors per inspection. He has done plan review, everything that B.V(Bureau Veritas) can do as a local resource. I reached out to our attorney and asked if we can hire him as a contract worker and can be as is right now. He has been a building out here before and on our payroll at one time. He's sweeny and retired for the City of Richwood.as their building inspector.*
- e. Discuss and consider approving CenterPoint Energy Denial Resolution 23-01. *City Secretary Fairchild, CenterPoint wanting to raise the rates. Alderman Galloway, just so everyone in the audience I guess understands what we are looking at is CenterPoint is asking to amend the distribution costs coverage factor which means how much money they can get back out of the consumer. Last year they were in the \$80 million range they are asking to approve \$162 million so you can only how our rates went up after the freeze and everything else and them posting record profits I cant stand for this as long as I can so I make a motion that we approve the denial resolution of 23-01, Alderman Thomas seconds the motion, all approved motion, none opposed, motion carried.*

7. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Hardesty, I make the motion for adjournment, Alderman Thomas seconds the motion, all approve, none opposed, motion carried.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this Public Notice was placed on the Official Bulletin Board at City Hall on April 14, 2023 no later than 5:30 PM.

Brittney Fairchild, City Secretary

NOTE: ITEMS WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE DISCUSSED AND ACTED ON IN THE ORDER 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.