**Village of Jones Creek**

7207 Stephen F. Austin

Jones Creek, TX 77541

(979) 233-2700

**SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING**

**The Board of Alderman of the Village of Jones Creek, Texas will hold a Regular Council Meeting on January 26, 2024, at the Village Hall Located at 7207 Stephen F. Austin Road beginning at 6:00pm Members of the public are able to attend the meeting in person and**

 **Via teleconference**.

This written notice, the meeting agenda, is posted online at <http://www.villageofjonescreektexas.com>. The public were permitted to offer public comments telephonically as provided by the agenda and as permitted by the presiding officer during the meeting. A recording of the telephonic meeting will be available to the public in accordance with the Open Meetings Act upon written request. The matters discussed and acted on at the meeting are as follows:

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

***Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.***

2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE**

 ***Invocation led by Mayor Terry Jeffers. Pledges led by all.***

3. **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

***Alderman A.J. Jinkins- Present. Alderman David Galloway- Present. Alderman Corey Thomas- Present. Mayor Terry Jeffers- Present. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Present. Alderman Glen Jordan- Absent.***

4. **COMMUNICATION OF VISITORS (PUBLIC COMMENT)**

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.

***John Rice- I saw where ya’ll were doing the rumble strips on the paper. I appreciate what ya’ll are doing. Thank ya’ll very much.***

***Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Pie Day, be there, this Sunday. Bring your appetite and bring your pies.***

**5.** **OLD BUSINESS**

 *NONE*

**6 NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Discuss and consider any and all actions to be taken in reference to the services provided by CPA, Lindsey English.**

 ***Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- It looks like we’re about $8,000 over, no, $14, 000 over what we agreed at our last time we discussed this we said we’d allocate $30, 000 start. And I think we all knew there was going to be a start. But she’s a third of the way done, Lauren? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- From what she’s invoiced there’s additional 15 months that’s not complete and of course there is still some information I’m trying to figure out how to get to her because our merchant center which takes our in-person credit card payments it only goes back a year in records. So, I’m trying to figure out how to get information past that so we can separate monies from court or trash or pet registration. I’m trying to not have to go through every receipt that’s in my office so I’m getting with Bella and she’s going to get me what she’s brought in total credit cards and on the online payments I can go back 2 years. So, we just subtract that I figure whatever is left after she’s brought in credit card payments then that would be the amount off of the other credit card company. And then we’ll figure out the trash side. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- I would like to make a motion that we allocate another $30, 000 to allow her to continue with her work. Unfortunately, by law we have to have a CPA doing our books because we haven’t done an audit in 3 years, and I know she has found some significant discrepancies that are cause for alarm and we need to know what those things are so we can face them and fix them. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- Is there a reason why we are sticking with the $30, 000 limit? Because this is 1/3 of it and she’s only 1/3 done. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- I make a motion we allocate $45,000 that’ll cover what she’s already done and give another $30,000. Alderman Corey Thomas- Is that coming out of the General Fund? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- It’ll have to. Alderman Corey Thomas- From Gulf or South Star? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- It doesn’t matter, they’re both general fund. Alderman Corey Thomas- I thought we were closing down one of them? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- The South Star. What’s the interest rate on the South Star? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- On the account itself I think it’s .1% and TGB it fluctuates around 4.75%-5.25%. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Did you second what I did, A.J.? Alderman A.J. Jinkins- I was going to second that, but we can still discuss it. Alderman David Galloway- First and foremost, I would like to say thank you Lauren for bringing this out when this came out. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Agreed. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- Agreed. Alderman David Galloway- That way we could all see what was going on and what we needed to do because we know this is urgent and we knew when we initially went in with the CPA firm originally Green/Michal and they attested that the cost of this was going to be exceedingly high but there was no way to get away from that. So, here we are with someone else who’s focused on doing it, and they’re putting in time and effort and I can only applaud them for moving along as fast as they are so Lauren, thank you for that and on that note…You wanted to second that? Alderman A.J. Jinkins- Seconds motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Makes a motion to close the South Star Bank account and move the funds to the higher yielding Texas Gulf Bank. Alderman Corey Thomas- On that, that’s why I asked why don’t we just pull everything out all 78 or whatever for the CPA. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Right, but if we move it over at least it’ll be getting 4% interest while it’s sitting there and while we’re paying here and Lauren, I would ask that she please be invoicing us monthly because this is sticker shock and it’s not that we didn’t know this was coming but if we’d had it monthly it wouldn’t have crept up on us. Alderman Corey Thomas- Are you talking as she finishes up a month? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Yeah, when she finishes a month bill us and then we’ll pay her and if we put that $78,000 in that 4% yield account, we’re still gonna be early that. Or we take $4,000 out and we’ll still be earning. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- So she’s doing it every 2 months, right? So, I agree we should see it once a month. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- So, if you could please direct her that we must have it that way to be able to continue with her we have to have it monthly, and it spreads it out evenly to us. I’d still like to make a motion that we move the money in the South Star Bank to the higher yield bank. Alderman David Galloway- Seconds motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Is there anything else that Lindsey has brought to your attention that we need to be made aware of? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- She hasn’t brought anything else to my attention but it’s but it’s all getting through that last little bit of information of the merchant center which is our in-person credit card company she’d be able to close out the rest of those months that still remain at 10% but she hasn’t brought anything else to me that seems questionable. Alderman Corey Thomas- So other than you going through the receipts that’s the only way that you can account for that? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- And it's for things I can find. I literally have a crate of receipts and it’s just separating them and separating how much was paid verses how much was charged. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- They can’t give you the reports back father? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- I’ve contacted them and they are not super helpful. But I can see if I can talk to a supervisor and see if I can’t get some kind of records. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Maybe our judge could subpoena our records? Alderman David Galloway- Do they process for a lot of court systems? Or do they just process ours because we selected them? Judge Beverly Widner- They’re Incode, they do a lot of courts. Alderman David Galloway- You would think that the same rules apply. Holding information for years. Mayor Terry Jeffers- Is this Payment Group, Incode, or Merchant Center? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- The Merchant Center. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- I would think the Merchant Center still has to keep records for 7 years. City Secretary Lauren Grayson- I know for a bank, if you go back past when things are available to you on your account then they charge a research fee I don’t know how much it is but technically Merchant Center is a bank so there might be a fee to go past the 12 months. Mayor Terry Jeffers- It’s probably minimal. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty-We have to think about your man hours verses what it would cost us. It would probably be cheaper to pay the $20 per month to go ahead and get them verses all of your man hours. Judge Beverly Widner- Thank God for Incode though! Our court records are spot on thanks to Bella not to me, thanks to her accounting. At least that’s something Lauren can work with and pull out because our records are correct. I hate to beat a blind dog but we just waited too long to take action. Alderman Corey Thomas- I agree. Judge Beverly Widner- We just got in a heap of trouble. That we didn’t even know we were going to be in.. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- I again, just want to thank Lauren for bringing all this to our attention and proving once again how important transparency is because if we as council don’t know what’s happening then we can’t act on it and this is just another example that knowing what’s going on and being able to be transparent and be able to see the books, see things, is so important to us. So, thank you for always bringing stuff to us when we need to know.***

**7**. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

***Alderman David Galloway- For some reason the Drainage Committee or the Drainage Liaison rather has dropped off the normal meetings. Given the rain and some of the calls we received it be nice to bring this back up. Also for a Drainage Committee meeting set up.***

**8. ADJOURN**

***Motion to adjourn made by Alderman Corey Thomas. Alderman David Galloway- Seconds motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried at 6:15 pm.***

 **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this Public Notice was placed on the official Bulletin Board at the City Hall on 22nd day of January, 2024 no later than 5:30p.m

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 Lauren Grayson, 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.