**Village of Jones Creek**

7207 Stephen F. Austin Rd

Jones Creek, TX 77541

(979) 233-2700

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**The Board of Alderman for the Village of Jones Creek, Texas will hold a Regular Council Meeting on August 20, 2024, at the Village Hall Located at 7207 Stephen F. Austin Road beginning at 6:00 p.m. Members of the public are able to attend the meeting in person and**

 **Via teleconference**.

This written notice and the meeting agenda are posted online at <http://www.villageofjonescreektexas.com>. The public are 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**

*6:02pm*

**2. INVOCATION PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE**

*Invocation led by Reverend Brent Pittman. Pledges led by all.*

**3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

*Alderman A.J. Jinkins- Present. Alderman Glen Jordan- Present. Mayor Corey Thomas- Present. Alderman David Galloway- Present. Alderwoman Tammy Butler- Present. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Present.*

**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.

*Riley Bennington- I wanted to speak on an item that I thought was going to be on the agenda, but I didn’t see it. At the last special meeting it was talked about a resolution or a letter made by the council saying they’re opposed to the Texas Gulf Link Project. I know you can’t answer an questions right now, but I was curious why I don’t see that on the agenda and I think it’s an important thing to be done. I know there are some disagreements and not everyone is on the same page and I obviously don’t know everything going on with this project, but what I do know is Sentinel is in their final permitting stages and the federal government is currently accepting comment until the 20th and it’ll be a virtual meeting held September 15th and I would urge you to get back together and talk about that resolution or letter and sign that.*

*Melanie Oldham- I’m with the non-profit group Better Brazoria Clean Air and Clean Water and you know at the special meeting we had a presentation and last Tuesday we were gonna do comments and several people brought up some good points and things we didn’t know about and couldn’t answer. Since then, we’ve talked to people including CEO’s and with the Sentinel and I believe one of them called you yesterday. Mayor Corey Thomas- Yes. Melanie Oldham- Jeff Ballard, the head CEO and you can speak to that later, but it clarified that the project is 100 % active and like Mr. Riley said we can comment up to August 30th against the project. And this form that we can pass out, all you have to do is look at the reasons we oppose it and on the back is lines where you can put your own reason, like I have COPD and don’t want any more pollution. There is some misinformation that the Mayrad and US Coastguard, September 13, you just have to preregister, and they will hold a zoom meeting and anybody can get on there and they can give comments either pro or against and that’ll give us time where anybody can comment. I’ll let Mr. Mayor comment on that because he talked right to the CEO.*

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

 **a.** Discuss and consider accepting the minutes from the Regular Meeting on July 16, 2024, and the Special Called Meeting August 6, 2024.

*Alderman A.J. Jinkins- Makes a motion to accept the minutes. Alderman David Galloway- Seconded motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.*

 **b.** Discuss and consider accepting the financial reports from all departments.

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Makes a motion to accept the reports from all departments but not the financial reports until they are confirmed by the auditor. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- Seconds motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

 **c.** Discuss and consider any updates from CPA Lindsey English.

*Mayor Thomas- In your packet you have a, I guess that’s an invoice? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Yes. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Does she have an estimate of how much longer it’s going to take her to complete the work? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- She didn’t give me one, but I can contact her again and see when she expects to have everything completed? Alderwoman Hardesty- Does this invoice exceed what we allocated the last time we allocated the funds? City Secretary Grayson- It’s right at that earmark. I believe we had 58k already spent and we allocated 75k and this will be about 12k. So we’re right at that threshold. Alderwoman Hardesty- I’d like to know how much longer it’s going to take so that we can estimate appropriately how much more money we need to allocate to this. Alderman Galloway- The only thing I can get from this is the completion of 10%. Is she saying she’s completed only 10% of the bookkeeping? R that she worked on 10 % this time. Alderwoman Hardesty- Lauren, Are these the months you’re having to recreate because you didn’t have all of the records? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Correct. Alderwoman Hardesty- That’s probably why she’s only completed that much. City Secretary Lauren Grayson- I contacted the credit card company and I guess our merchant and they have another system and I can go back to day 1 of when we started with this company but it doesn’t have it down to what department it went to or how much was charged in credit card fees and actual billable. So, I’m having to take that amount and take the credit card charge off of it and have them split it up and see if I can match it to where it goes. Alderwoman Hardesty- Is this mostly court costs and fines? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- On the credit cards it’s basically trash services and anything that would take and permitting and court costs. Mayor Thomas- With the court cost, can’t you track that? Judge Widner- We can track every one of ours. Alderwoman Hardesty- Really what’s left would be trash. City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Trash and permitting. Alderman Galloway- Is she going forward from February to current? Is that the intent? Is that what you discussed with her? Has that been discussed with her? Or is she just stopping February 2023? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- She’s stopping in September of 2023. Once I’ve took over I have kept up with everything. Everything in our system has been split up. All of the credit card fees have been broke down. Alderwoman Hardesty- Is she reconciling everything from September to present because without having an audit for the last 4 years we’re required by law to have our books done by a bookkeeper. Is she also verifying? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- From what I can tell, she’s getting the months finished and she’s reconciling them because it shows an “r” next to the month. Alderwoman Hardesty- I would like to get an estimate from her so that we can allocate that for her to get that finished. Alderman Galloway- So it looks like she’s running at about $2500 per month and with only sitting at 10% and 20% even just the regular ones that are $450 and $800 just a rough estimate is $23,190. And for the 8 months remaining to September that’s gonna be $17,500. Alderwoman Hardesty- We were looking at 100k when we were 1st looking at it. When we met with her in her office that’s what she discussed with us. Mayor Thomas- That would put us over the 100k. Alderwoman Hardesty- She said in between 100-125,000. Myself, the marshal and Alderman Galloway met with her.*

 **d.** Discuss and consider any updates for the 2020-2021 Audit.

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson- When we were moving my office around and getting situated, I found some revenues from that time period so I’m going to get those over to Mr. Craig and see if that’s enough to satisfy the information that he’s needed. Hopefully that will be concluded soon. Alderwoman Hardesty- And will he come and present it to us? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Yes ma’am. Mayor Thomas- Is he gonna do 1 at a time or hold off? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Probably 1 at a time. Alderwoman Hardesty- It shows progress.*

 **e.** Discuss and consider any updates on new or ongoing drainage issues.

*Mayor Thomas- We don’t have anything ongoing yet. Alderman Jordan- Ya’ll were talking about doing those over by Lamb Lane. Mayor Thomas- Lamb Lane is on my road plan along with Stephen F. Alderwoman Hardesty- Is that the road plan that that we turned in? Mayor Thomas- Yes ma’am. Alderwoman Hardesty- Is it the one that the previous mayor turned in? Mayor Thomas- Yes ma’am. Alderwoman Hardesty- So, not the one we wanted turned in? Mayor Thomas- Since it’s already gone before Commissioner’s Court I don’t know if.. Alderwoman Hardesty- Can we go before Commissioner’s Court again and ask them to put what Council voted on and not what our previous mayor took upon himself to submit. Mayor Thomas- We can ask. Alderwoman Hardesty- How do we get on Commissioner’s Courts’ docket? Mayor Thomas- That’s a good question, I guess on their county website I’m pretty sure you can fill out a form. Marshal Tidwell- I’d text Linder about that. Alderwoman Hardesty- Lauren, could you contact Commissioner Linder? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Yes. Mayor Thomas- We do also have work orders in for Creekwood, Nelson, and Ivy to survey and we have to finish up Creekwood. Robinhood we have the materials we’re just waiting on time. Judge Widner- What are we doing on Creekwood? Mayor Thomas- Mr. Fairchild called in and wants to get the grade looked at to see if anything can be done about that. Alderman Jordan- Wouldn’t we want to wait til after the highway gets done? Mayor Thomas- The ditches are already dug, so they won’t dig them out and you can’t go no deeper. I guess you could but you’d get the state on you. All the county is doing right now is surveying.*

 **f.** Discuss and consider updates for the Village regaining water jurisdiction from the TCEQ/PUC.

*Mayor Thomas- Right after the storm I got in contact with a representative with Vasuit and talked to him about the issue here and his office got back with me and the case is still pending with the administrative law judge and once that gets approved and the village can seek to reinstate it’s jurisdiction. On unannounced visits, we’d have to get the residents to file complaints to the TCEQ website. I have the link and I will send it to Lauren and we’ll get it on our website and Facebook page. Judge Widner- Have we not done that before? Alderwoman Hardesty- Yes we have. Can we make a flyer that has graphics on it? I think the graphics are a little more attractive to people from afar to look at and then easier to get on there and simplistic and easy to do, simplified. If it looks too complicated, people aren’t gonna want to do it. Mayor Thomas- I don’t see why a flyer couldn’t be made. Judge Widner- Tiffany is good at that kind of stuff. Ms. Oldham- I don’t know if this is appropriate, but I’ve seen Freeport put stuff like that on their water bill. Alderwoman Hardesty- We don’t have a water bill. But maybe on our trash bill. Mayor Thomas- I wonder if you could put a QR code on the trash bill? I don’t know how to do that. City Secretary Lauren Grayson- I can have Tiffany contact UBS but the messages on the trash bill only has 3 lines, so I don’t know if we could get a QR code that small and that clear for it to work. Alderwoman Hardesty- We could make a flyer that has a QR code on it and post it on Facebook and on the website. Mrs. Laura Jinkins- Don’t they normally send something out at the Fire station for the fundraiser? I don’t know if the timing is correct. Isn’t it coming up? Alderwoman Hardesty- Who could we get to with the fire department? Mayor Thomas- I’ll get with the chief. Alderwoman Hardesty- We could collaborate on that and we could print it. You know, if the city prints it and gives it to y’all to mail it. Mayor Thomas- We’re coming up on the date for all the letters to be sent out so I don’t know if they’ve been sent yet. But I’ll get with chief to find out.*

 **g.** Discuss and consider any updates on the security measures at City Hall.

*Mayor Thomas- If you’ve been in there to pay your bill, you’ve seen the big heavy doors and big glass. It looks really good up there. Mike Chilcote- It looks good but it took the personal touch out of it. Judge Widner- It did, but compared to the safety of the employees, it’s getting crazy. But trust me I was very opposed to it at first. But if you’ve seen some of the issues we’ve had to face, we were actually the only municipality around that did not have safety measures. From our office standpoint it has definitely made our office feel more secure. City Secretary Lauren Grayson- It’s nice to know when we’re sitting at the desk people can’t come up behind us and look at private confidential information about whatever resident that’s pulled up on our computer. Judge Widner- We have 5 workable desks that at any time someone could be at. I really appreciate ya’ll letting us go forward with that using the court allocated funds. Mayor Thomas- Is there any update on the magnetic locks? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Honestly, if we had magnetic locks we’d have 2 locks. The doors are all key and if we had the magnetic locks there’d be 2. I think it’d be an unneeded level of security. From here to the office no one can come in with out a key.*

 **h.** Discuss and consider the subject of the possibility of providing water to property owners along Hwy 36.

*Mayor Thomas- We have not heard anything back since Lin Engineering sent over their price list. Mike Chilcote- Did you ever get an email from the lady that did the presentation to David? Alderman Galloway- I never did. Mayor Thomas- Do you remember which lady? Mike Chilcote- I’ve got her card. She said she would email us the whole presentation and packet with the Water Board.*

 **i.** Discuss and consider City Hall collaborating with the Fire Dept., and Marshal’s Dept. on a unified events calendar.

*Mayor Thomas- I’ve kinda tossed it around at the Fire Department and got mixed reviews. We’d have to take it to our membership and take it to a vote. I don’t see it being a big deal. At least if City Hall and the Marshall’s Department and the Beautification Committee and the other committees use the calendar, hopefully the Fire Department will follow suit so that we don’t do things on top of each other. We’re such a small community we want everybody to be able to enjoy everything.*

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

 **a.** Discuss and consider the tax revenues and tax value from Brazoria County Appraisal District.

*Mayor Thomas- Right now we are current at .33. It looks like no new tax rate would keep us at .30 voter approved is .32. Mike Chilcote- Do you know if all the damage done to Jones Creek effects the tax rate? The property has changed. It’s just no the place it was. I just didn’t know if they take that into consideration. Mayor Thomas- I don’t think we have to make a decision on this tonight. Alderwoman Hardesty- So really the voter approved tax rate is less than the approved tax rate. Mayor Thomas- In theory. Alderman Galloway- Do you know how much was received in ad velorem? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- I think around $319k. Alderman Galloway- Based off the estimated value and taxable value and the .305941 for every dollar that probably comes close to $338k.*

 **b.** Discuss and consider adoption the amended beautification ordinance 556 to replace ordinance 508.

*Alderwoman Butler- It basically just reinstates everybody and start fresh because we ended up not having a Beautification Committee. Alderman Jordan- Is that the thing that lets more people on there or less on there? Alderwoman Butler- This doesn’t have a limit that way we can grow. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Makes a motion to adopt the amended ordinance 566 in replace of 508. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- Seconded motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

 **c.** Discuss and consider the newly discovered past due bills.

*Mayor Thomas- Is it just the 1? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- It’s just the 1 company but that is the total amount that’s due. Alderman Jinkins- When was the work done? City Secretary Grayson- I have all of the invoices printed out. They ranges from services from 7/1/21 all the way through to 11/2022 there is 1 from my tenure but that is because they changed who was sending the emails and it was just accounts payable and I’m not opening emails that I don’t recognize. Mayor Thomas- What was the dates to and to? City Secretary Grayson- Services of 7/1 so billed 8/1/21 through 11/2022. Mayor Thomas- So just 2021 ? City Secretary Grayson- Theres 2021, 2022 and 1 from 2023. Alderman Jordan- You had mentioned that they could work with us on a payment plan? Judge Widner- Yes, I would like to expand on that. I just kind of drafted a letter to explain what I had been told. “After reviewing the bills that were submitted to Bella Ortiz July 30th and after a lengthy discussion with her in regard to how we were billed I called for an explanation.” Bella explained that she does not actually receive the invoices so when the invoices came in I had her go back and check every single one of them. The secretary that was here in 2021 that’s when it started but it was at the end of her tenure so I’m assuming that she was leaving before that bill came in or around the same time. That was the 1st one. Then the next secretary chose to absolutely do nothing with not just these bills but as y’all know most other bills. And do I feel bitter about that, extremely. Bottom line, being the ones addressed to Lauren, I think were the last 3. I explained to Mr. Calamy my utter disapproval with how this had been handled and asked for an explanation as to why we were just finding this out. He told me he was just as dismayed as I was. We talked about ways to prevent this from ever happening again. Bottom line, yes we do owe it. He said they’re assessing no late fees. He said we could pay whatever we could pay to get it paid and up to date. Alderwoman Hardesty- How long will he give us to pay? Judge Widner- Indefinitely. As long as we’re making an attempt to pay and we’re keeping current with what we’re occurring now. What we agreed on bot him and Lauren and myself when they send the invoices to Lauren I will be cc’d in them I will review the invoices and along with Bella to make sure everything is Kosher. I told him we would not accept a bill any later than 2 months at a time. He said he would like for us to be billed on a monthly basis and at the very least 2 months. I told him we would accept that. Alderman Jordan- Could we get that in writing? Judge Widner- Yes, I will get that in writing.*

 **d.** Discuss and consider renewing the interlocal agreement between the Village and Brazoria County Engineering Department.

*Mayor Thomas- Every Year, we just have to sign the interlocal agreement. I don’t think any changes were made. Alderwoman Hardesty- Makes a motion to renew the agreement. Alderman Jinkins- Seconds motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.*

 **e.** Discuss and consider the price increase from our waste removal company.

*Alderwoman Hardesty- Didn’t they just raise the rates last year? Alderman Jinkins- 6 months ago, so yes. Alderwoman Hardesty- So how are they only 6 months later another 3.36%? City Secretary Grayson- We increased the billable trash to residents in September or October. Alderwoman Hardesty- I thought we just did something. I know Alderman Jinkins has something on this subject. Alderman Jinkins- Well, that was the point because I remember bringing it up in my presentation that we’re not getting the service and their charging us more for less. Alderwoman Hardesty- Now we’re being charged more again. Alderwoman Butler- We just discussed at the last meeting about heavy trash not getting picked up. Alderman Jinkins- We were looking at problems we had 5-6 months ago and Willam had had some calls, and I had had some people complain that they weren’t taking some things. For the most part they have been picking up heavy trash. There was a little period after the hurricane that I think maybe they just didn’t know what debris they were supposed to take or not. That’s forgivable, I guess. But inflation is killing us all. I don’t know I anyone else got a 10% pay raise this year, but I sure didn’t. Everyone else is going up on us. I feel it’s our duty to fight any kind of rate increase right now so we can survive until something could offer us relief. Our residents are mostly on fixed incomes and have social security and retirement. Living in small homes and 3% may not seem like a lot to a big corporation but its a lot to Mrs. Johnson who lives down the street and only gets $900 a month. The last time it was in the contract that at 2 years they could raise the rates. This isn’t a contract item and if you’re in violation of contract we’re at liberty to say we need to find someone else. Someone that can do it for less, honestly. I’m not complaining about the quality of work right now, that’s been corrected as far as my perception has been, but no, I didn’t get a pay raise. Why is everyone trying to go up on everything? I’m just a little guy here trying to make it. Alderwoman Hardesty- What is the reason for the increase? Waste Connections Representative- It’s just based of CPI. As you mention, as everyone’s costs go up, our costs go up. I don’t know of the confusion. I should have been more thorough in checking to make sure. But we’re only supposed to deliver the price increase once a year per the contract on the anniversary which is in May. You said July, someone said just recently. Alderman Jinkins- I was mistaken, it was towards the end of last year when the 2 year part of the contract was up and allowed for. WC Representative- I saw that in the early part of the contract not to be any price increase or rate adjustments. Alderman Jinkins- Let’s negotiate that again. WC Representative- We’re coming up on the end of the term in May of next year. Alderman Jinkins- Is that the contract you’ll allow for price increases after the initial one? It can go up anytime you want to? WC Representative- Well, in general it’s once per year I thought. That’s what I read in here. Typically it’s once per year and this contract we have , Let me back up. You mentioned big corporations, in total we are a big corporation but we operate very small. Will has 30 people and 20 drivers everybody lives relatively local so we get costs it’s not like this is 3.36% to our bottom line. The danger of what can happen, and I’m going through this with 2 other chains right now is if we pause and don’t execute the terms of the contract especially when it pertains to price communities end up getting behind so what happens when the term comes up, right now I’m about to deliver a 25% increase on a new round negotiation on a new deal on a renewal contract and we got behind because we didn’t execute the terms of the contract. And you say, that’s when you’ll go shop around, but in general, because we’re so low, we’re behind what the competitors and I’m not talking about you all but in this other case, we got roughly 25% behind which is abnormal, right, we have this inflation for a period of the last 5 years, we weren’t diligent and now the community no matter who they go with whether they go with us or not they’re going to a large price increase. At the beginning of this year we had another similar situation where it was a 14% increase and those folks at that city recognized that it was the right thing to do. Overall, I totally understand about the fixed incomes. I know this is not easy and it’s the worst part about my job coming to deliver the news but in the end for you all it’s $.40. and I know at times with all the other things it just keeps adding up. I get it but at the end of the year here anyway, because it’s just the CPI, but there’s other mechanisms in the contract also, like cost not associated or operational costs that go above CPI which we face and could not deliver any of those. And costs of the landfill which we received a 4% increase. Alderman Jinkins- When the CPI goes down and interest rates go down and things start to level off does that price go down or does it just always stay where it is? WC Representative- Would we love to be in that period. When we have to cross that bridge we will. I would love to cross that bridge. Alderman Jinkins- Would that be something that would be considered? WC Representative- I haven’t seen anything that rules it out in the contract. Alderman Jinkins- So we could , theoretically, when the prices come down and your CPI comes down we could negotiate? WC Representative- With a negative CPI, sure. Alderman Jinkins- Thank ya’ll for coming out. WC Representative- One thing, contract related, I believe I read 60 days prior to the end of the contract you all have to alert us if you are wanting to go in another direction or accept bids. I guess that’s March 19th ish. Contract is up in May next year. City Secretary Lauren Grayson-As the money person, exactly how is that 3%? Is it over what you bill us total or per account that we have, so we have 800 of your carts, so is that 3% per cart or 3% total billable? WC Representative- So some houses have extra carts, so the extra cart would go up too. So currently it’s 1510 and it’ll go to 1560 for a house that has 1 cart.*

 **f.** Discuss and consider any updates on the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl.

*Mayor Thomas- 1ST off I just want to say that our Marshall and Marshall’s Department has done a wonderful job on emergency management and getting what the city needs and getting it done. Thank you marshal! Marshal Tidwell- We picked up as of this morning about 96k cubic yards of material. We are over at the land at Jinkins parking lot. That’s just us. We start August 23, 2024 all that will be mulched. It is undetermined at this point where we will take it. Even county quite hauling as of yesterday. We are, the land fill and everybody wanting there share and getting their money for there share. We just can’t take it anywhere. It needs to be approved. Questions being asked is can we give that mulch away to citizens. Yes we can, however we have to track everywhere it goes. Mike Chilcote- Can’t we take it to Surfside for all the dunes Marshal Tidwell- That was asked, and the county is doing some check on it. That’s what happened with hurricane Nicholas, most of it. It’s been a long 4 weeks. WC Representative- What material did you say? Marshal Tidwell- These are mostly limbs, trees. Mayor Thomas- Did you ever reach out to the tank farm? Marshal Tidwell- We checked with TCEQ o that and they did not approve that. Mayor Thomas- What about Texas Parks and Wildlife? Marshal Tidwell- I can ask about that. For the amount that we have and for it to be approved it would have to go over 600+ acres. And then they gotta plow it in and such. It’s not approved unless it’s at least 600 acres. Mayor Thomas- How big is Justin Hurst? Marshal Tidwell- Down there is at least 1100 acres. At this point what we’re doing now is we started out with 6 trucks and we’re own to 1. We’re gonna pick up until the last day in August. And we’ll put out a phone message about that. We gotta cut it off somewhere. Reducing it down to 1 trck is keeping that truck busy. Stumps that are in the right of way we’re working on those now. If they’re painted red that’s an indication that a gas line is involved. We made plans with CenterPoint to come out here while we do those stumps in case we have a problem and they should be out here next week. Alderman Jinkins- So that means the ones with the red thing on them, I shouldn’t set those on fire? Marshal Tidwell-No, it would burn though. Mayor Thomas- Do we have any plans for the ones that can’t move their piles because their under power lines or such? Marshal Tidwell- We were doing that and still can. The only piece of equipment we have doesn’t make ruts it makes ditches in your yard so we would get them to sign a waiver on that and get that done if they want. We’ve probably got 5 homes out here that have not been taken care of. Right now it’s 75/25% that we offset that with volunteer hours and overtime hours, we offset that by 25%. Did not approve infrastructure yet. We’ve got several roads here that got pretty messed up and ditches we’d have to redo. I’ve been on the phone with Vasuit’S office and Weber’s office trying to get this approved with FEMA.*

 **g.** Discuss and consider exploring an increase in court fees and/or fines.

*Judge Widner- We increased our fees August of 2022 and I did a comparison study at that time and the board approved the recommended fees. Those increases were for speeding citations, the ones approved 2 years ago. I’ve been in contact with the other cities that we did a comparison with and they have taken no action on upping their fees and I’m in complete agreement with that.. I’d like to handle this through what I like to call problem areas and things and when people go look online and they see our costs of traffic fines and if you increase these again and with inflation everyone is getting hit. I would like to find more creative ways still bring in the revenue. On this I type 90% plus take deferred to keep it off their record. I would like to change that to at least 95+% Alderman Jinkins- Why is it only at $100-$200 just out of curiosity? Judge Widner- What it start ed at years ago was $50. Alderman Jinkins- What I just paid to Freeport was $260 for the exact same service and that’s a lot more than what we’re charging. Judge Widner- That’s why I say I think we can recoup. I have reviewed what I have done in the past and it is a time where everyone is getting hit and hit hard. What I would like to do is recommend that we hit the ones that I more or less consider dangerous. As you can see, not just the speeders, I have a right to up the fine to $500. I do not like to do that and do not do it unless it is called for. There are instances that I have done but at this time I would like to recommend that we do not go up on our speeding citations and try to increase our revenue by the means I have laid out here. I think we will surpass what we have done in the past. With the road construction that we have here you can see on there and one of my very pet peeves and I have talked to the marshal about it. That passing in a no passing zone out there, people will not pay attention to that at all. I can not leave this office, going home, going to lunch whatever I do without seeing at least 1-3 near, I mean they have no, they don’t even see the double yellow lines. So I definitely thin we can recoup and exceed what we now do without using these measures. Alderwoman Hardesty- Did you do any research on where we are in relation to Freeport, Lake Jackson, our neighboring cities? Judge Widner- Those are the cities I called first. I have what we did the time before and we were in comparison with Brazoria, Freeport, Lake Jackson, Oyster Creek, Richwood, and Eagle Lake. Eagle Lake only because Bella’s husband had just gotten a ticket there. To me the deferral fees are a biggy and the dismissal fees. We really have not enforced those dismissal fees for whatever reason and I now see the need to enforce those. We need to enforce everything we can enforce. I suggest we do it with not upping the fines of the speeding tickets. Alderwoman Hardesty- I don’t see no insurance on here. Can we add that? Judge Widner- You know what, yes we can, I just left it out. Alderwoman Hardesty- Do you know what the fine for no insurance is? Judge Widner- Don’t quote me on this but I think $275-300. Alderwoman Hardesty- And you want to increase it to what? Judge Widner- By about $50. Alderwoman Hardesty- How hard of a time do we have now collecting these fees? And what more is gonna cost us to up the fee to people that can’t already pay for it? Judge Widner- I guess I would feel better passing this on to someone who’s offense was more egregious. I understand that everybody is getting hi but I understand my job and I would like to at least try these avenues. I think we’d accomplish what we want to accomplish. Alderwoman Hardesty- My question was we have to pay someone to go after them if they don’t pay and if we raise it how can we expect they’ll pay? Judge Widner- Bottom line, it is my intent to collect what we need to in the least most intrusive way possible. I do hear every day, “ I can’t pay this”. When I know the situation, on things I can do, I can cut it down to court costs. Court costs are $134 and you have your other fees to make up the difference. Alderwoman Hardesty- Of the $500 tickets that you have out there how many of them are outstanding? Judge Widner- I couldn’t tell you. If we could collect all of those it would be tremendous, you’re not gonna collect them. We could not afford to go after them. Marshal Tidwell- Every city has many outstanding tickets. Alderwoman Hardesty- That bill from Perdue Brandon, is that rolled into the fee? Judge Widner- Yes. We do not absorb that cost. Alderwoman Hardesty- So it just so happens we did not pay that bill. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Makes a motion to approve the judges’ increases to the court fees as listed and including the insurance fees not listed. Alderman David Galloway- Seconds motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.*

 **h.** Discuss and consider the purchase of cold patch asphalt to temporarily repair storm damaged village streets.

*Mayor Thomas- This is the bag stuff that we normally get. Did they happen to give you a quote? A lot of that is because you lose a lot. I figured this would be the easiest and most cost effective for right now. Alderman Jinkins- Have ya’ll designated which areas are getting this? Marsha Tidwell- It’s all over. Alderwoman Hardesty- I just want to understand that when we present to FEMA we present that these areas actually get fixed and we spent this money temporary. This is something our maintenance worker can do himself. Marshal Tidwell- Yes. Mayor Thomas- On the invoice the liftgate charge is that because they say the tractor can’t pick it up? City Secretary Grayson- That’s to have it delivered to the back storage. Marshal Tidwell- How much are they charging for that? Mayor Thomas- $80. Our tractor could move that. Alderman Jordan- Last time it couldn’t across the street. Mayor Thomas- Do you think Zachary could? Marshal Tidwell- It would depend on timing. Alderwoman Hardesty- Surely we could ask Mr. Shepard if we could use his. Alderman Jordan- Makes a motion to purchase the cold patch asphalt. Alderman Jinkins- Seconds motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.*

 **i.** Discuss and consider First Net Services.

*Marshal Tidwell- We’re in the process or doing this. Mayor Thomas- Is that just internet service or phone? Marshal Tidwell- It’s gonna be both. We’re gonna have the phone right now but First Net will only be used in an emergency. Alderwoman Hardesty- Can you explain what this is? Mayor Thomas- Its pretty much for first responders. It gives you service when your regular phone doesn’t have any. Alderwoman Hardesty- The marshal’s office is going to this? Marshal Tidwell- Correct. Alderwoman Hardesty- So we’re asking if the city wants to do the same thing? City Secretary Grayson- It was put on for a discussion item from the last agenda for the internet services. Alderwoman Hardesty- Do we have a price on this service? Alderman Jinkins- I think we need to wait to discuss this till next meeting when we have prices. Tabled for Discussion.*

 **j.** Discuss and consider revamping the Veteran’s Memorial.

*Marshal Tidwell- We’ll have a new light shining on it Mayor Thomas- It puts it out there that we have a lot of space available and it’s not just for city. Alderwoman Hardesty- Again, we should make up a flyer and have a QR code on there and have a sign up and put the plaque. It doesn’t have to be someone from Jones Creek. Is it possible to do some type of fundraiser to get some money to go do this and take care of some of the costs? Mayor Thomas- So the old Veterans Memorial Committee we did a chicken cook out and we did very well. Alderwoman Hardesty- Is there a Veterans Committee? Mayor Thomas- There used to be. Alderwoman Hardesty- Do we want to form a committee to manage that and fundraise for that project? Alderman Galloway- I’d say have a committee. City Secretary Grayson- As of right now money that is in the Veteran’s Memorial is $5880. Alderwoman Hardesty- Are we sure that money is money hat belongs there? City Secretary Grayson- I know for a fact that Mr. Cambell had donated 5k towards that last year. I’m assuming that $880 is interest. Alderwoman Hardesty- Thank you Lauren, your right. Alderwoman Hardesty- Makes a motion that a Veteran’s Committee be formed. Alderman Galloway- As a veteran I agree. Alderman Gallway- Seconds motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Alderwoman Hardesty- Is there anyone that would like to serve on that? Mayor Thomas- I’m sure my dad would like to. Alderwoman Tammy Butler- I would like to. Alderman David Galloway- I would love to serve on it to. Alderwoman Hardesty- Included in that motion I would like to see Rocky Thomas appointed to that should he so chose and Mr. Galloway and Marshal Tidwell. Marshal Tidwell- I wouldn’t mind. Alderwoman Hardesty- Tammy and I will bake anything ya’ll need for this fundraiser.*

 **k.** Discuss and consider using ARPA Grant interest to replace the back door and the glass storm door damaged in Hurricane Beryl.

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Our back door it has so much weather damage done to it you can see light coming through it now and it will be only a matter of time before our legless friends wander into the kitchen and I don’t want to see any of that. Alderwoman Hardesty- Can we use that money to pay for it and include that in the money we’re turning into FEMA to get reimbursed? Marshal Tidwell- I would say we should do that with the intent that they will approve infrastructure. City Secretary Grayson- Our front glass door it sprung or something and it’s a pain to get opened. Alderman Glen Jordan- Makes a motion to use ARPA grant interest to replace the back door and the glass storm door. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Seconds motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

 **l.** Discuss and consider the progress of the cleanup and expenses associated with Hurricane Beryl.

*Mayor Thomas- We met with the ER Assistance, and she estimated it at 5 million. Alderwoman Hardesty- That was Sarah. Mayor Thomas- That’s the total, and in term we’d only be 25% so it would be 1.25million. Alderwoman Hardesty- I did ask what we should look at to put in our budget and she said about 500k. Marshal Tidwell- We need to see what congress does. We don’t know what they’re gonna do as far as congress does 90% and we do 10% or however. Alderwoman Hardesty- I just want to say on record Jones Creek was hit if not one of the hardest, the hardest by Hurricane Beryl and we really saw a significant change in our community. We really took a direct hit. Alderman Jordan- The whole county was hit hard. I’ve drove around the whole county and it was all hit pretty hard. Mayor Thomas- When they do approve the infrastructure can we2 put our sign on our list? Marshal Tidwell- I already have.*

**7. COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

 **a.** Expression of thanks, congratulations, etc.

*Mayor Thomas- Again thanks to the Marshal’s office and all they’ve done. Alderman Jordan- And the countless volunteers.*

 **b**. Reminder of upcoming events organized by the Village.

*National Night Out- October 1, 2024.*

 **c.** Information regarding Community events outside of the Village.

*SPCA Fur Ball- October 24 at Dow Academic Center. It will be 50th anniversary so 1950’s themed. There will be an Elvis impersonator.*

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty announced her daughter, Sierra, organized a volunteer fair at Brazosport High School September 10, 2024 where non-profits can come and express to students what opportunities there are for kids to earn National Honor Society hours or any other non-profit hours. If anyone has a non-profit and would like to sign up, please contact my daughter. 6pm-8pm at Brazos High School September 8th.*

*September 21- Jones Creek Fire Department Annual BBQ at Jones Creek Fire Department with the drive thru. Depending on if there are enough donations they are not going to be charging for plates. It will be Brisket or chicken with cole slaw and beans serving 11am-3pm.*

**d**. Announcements of public threats to health or safety.

*Ms. Oldham- Some of us were here for the special city council meeting and I think ya’ll voted at the end and it’s I the minutes and you have a very thorough secretary, saying to discuss and possibly take action regarding a letter and it was supposed to be discussed at this meeting and some of us came to just hear that discussion. I know you talked yesterday with Jeff Ballard and you got some new information and when you and I talked briefly you said you could possibly get city council to call a short special meeting next Tuesday to have a discussion.*

*Mike Chilcote- On that topic, not just the tank farms but as everyone is aware our elementary school is in dire straights. It is not profitable to BISD to keep this school open. We are trying to have discussions about what can we do to help them help us bring people in. Now the subdivision they’re talking about bringing in the sand pit out here; if this tank farm goes in it’s gonna be right up against it. People are not gonna want to buy a $300k house and look in the back yard and see a tank farm. We’re trying to bring people in with children, so it’ll be more profitable to keep the school. Talk to your friends and buddies. Put your 2 cents in and we need to do whatever we can do to keep the school. Mayor Thomas- That was 1 thing Mr. Ballard did actually push for was to make public comments on the Mayrad website. Whether you’re for or against. Mayor Thomas- This is another instance where getting a water line on 36 would make a big difference with the school. Alderwoman Hardesty- What did Mr. Ballard say about the tank farm? We didn’t hear from him 2 weeks ago or Mr. Richards or David Linder, and Randy Shroud and they all said the tank farm is not coming. So what did they say to you Mayor Thomas- So David Linder was actually in talks with the tank farms back in 2019. Alderwoman Hardesty- Right, but I’m talking about now. Lats week David Linder said out of his own mouth the tank farm is not coming it’s a dead deal. Mayor Thomas- Jeff Ballard said the Gulf Link is still in the regulatory process their final EIS was recently released July 5th and public comment is current. Following the public comment later this month Sentinel anticipates a record of decision from mayrad later this year. A record decision will come with many conditions that need to be satisfied to get the license and once the license is given the ability to construct pending necessary commercial commitments and investments. Alderwoman Hardesty- Marshal Tidwell, can you please tell us? Marshal Tidwell- They still haven’t talked with the county at this. Mayor Thomas-They haven’t been in contact with the Drainage District since 2019 or 2020.*

*(More discussion on the tank farms however the majority is illegible on the recording device.)*

*Mayor Thomas- The drainage District would still has to give a letter of no objection and regardless if on opposition. Riley Bennington- I don’t want to keep pushing this issue too much but if it seems like most of the community and most of the aldermen if you would be willing to consider like you have in the past writing a resolution to continue to let these companies know and show that you don’t want this project to be built. Alderman Jinkins- Didn’t we already do that? Mayor Thomas- Yes, back in 2019. Alderman Galloway- We had already done this but we had the council all approve it so my question is, can it be revised? Mayor Thomas- That would be a lawyer question.*

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

*\*Executive Session*

**9. ADJOURN**

*8:04pm- Alderman David Galloway- Makes a motion to adjourn. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- Seconded motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

 **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this Public Notice was on the official Bulletin Board at the City Hall on 16TH day of August 2024 no later than 5:30 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 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 COMMITTEE 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. Requests for such accommodation 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 accommodation.