**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 November 19, 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**

*6:01 pm.*

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE**

*Alderman A.J. Jinkins led invocation. Pledge led by all.*

**3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

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

**4. COMMUNICATION OF VISITORS (PUBLIC COMMENT) limit to 5 minutes**

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.

*Mr. John Jasso introduced himself as the chairman of the Brazoria County Veterans Association. He announced that he was there to present a plaque to the city of Jones Creek in honor of the 25 years of service towards the Veterans Dap Parade. He stated that he has been going around throughout the county presenting one to each city. He then presented the plaque to the City Council. Mayor Corey Thomas and each of the City Council thanked Chairman Jasso for the honor and his service as well.*

*Reverand Brent Pittman announced that the churches of Jones Creek will be hosting the annual Thanksgiving service for the community at Gulf Prairie Presbyterian Church this coming Sunday (11/24/2024) at 6:00 pm.*

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

a. Discuss and consider accepting the minutes from the regular council meeting from October 15, 2024, and the Special Called Meeting on November 7, 2024.

*Alderman David Galloway made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular council meeting, October 15, 2024 and the Special Called meeting November 7, 2024. Alderman A.J. Jinkins seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

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

*Alderman A.J. Jinkins made a motion to accept the reports from all departments but do not accept the financials until they are confirmed by the CPA. Alderman David Galloway seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

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

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that she has been working closely with her on some other issues that have come to light and that she has gotten some new information today and has uploaded that report for her (Lindsey English) to look over. She then stated the Lindsey English is working closely with Mr. Craig to come up with a remedy. Alderman David Galloway asked what year was the CPA working up to. City Secretary Lauren Grayson responded that she believed she had completed 2022 and she was possibly 30-40% done with 2023. Alderman David Galloway then asked if the new information that has come in recently was from 2022 or 2023. To which City Secretary Lauren Grayson replied, 2023. Alderman David Galloway asked if the CPA has moved her projection date, to which City Secretary Grayson responded that she has not heard as of yet but will be calling the CPA in the morning once she has time to look over the new things she had moved to the portal. City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that CPA Lindsey English stated to her that she will attend any Special Called meetings in the future.*

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

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that on October 17, 2024, they did approve the tariff. She then stated that she did try to call TCEQ to get clarification on what that means and they gave her an email address to their information center, however, she has not been sent a response email clarifying what that means. Alderman David Galloway asked if the city attorney was ever asked to draft them a letter. City Secretary Lauren Grayson asked if it was to PUC or to Trent Waterworks.. Alderman David Galloway replied to PUC. City Secretary Lauren Grayson commented no. Mayor Corey Thomas asked if that was voted on and Alderman David Galloway answered yes, it was twice. Mayor Corey Thomas stated that they will get right on that.*

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

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that the information that Mr. Craig has requested has been sent by email, however, she has not heard anything back. She stated that he does have everything that was discussed during the executive session at the special called meeting.*

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

*Mayor Corey Thomas asked City Secretary Lauren Grayson if Coburn ever sent back a quote? She then answered that they are still at the same price. Mayor Corey Thomas asked if they could go ahead and order those, to which City Secretary Lauren Grayson responded that she would have to get with the county about unloading them because Coburns does not do that and the city’s tractor is not weight rated. Mayor Corey Thomas stated for her to she call when they are on their way the they could help. Alderman David Galloway asked if there was an update for Robinhood. Mayor Corey Thomas replied that Matt Hanes is working on the drainage study and once we have that we are good to go. He then asked City Secretary Lauren Grayson if she remembered the total for the Interlocal. City Secretary Lauren Grayson responded that it is in the financials packet, the amounts that have been spent. Council asked that in the future she include council approved amounts as well.*

**g.** Discuss and consider any updates on the back up internet for City Hall.

*Mayor Corey Thomas stated that Starlink is up and running and have not had any issues. City Secretary Lauren Grayson commented that we have gotten rid of the tv part of Btel and have went down to the lowest plan for Btel and will have to locate all of the receivers. She stated that she is going to call the telephone company and ask what is the lowest download speed we can have because the phones are through the internet.*

**h.** Discuss and consider creating a google suite accounts for Council.

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that she will need to get with our IT person because we are having to verify our website.*

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a.** Discuss and consider the presentation from Langford Community Management Services representative Ms. Patty Swords and take action if necessary.

*Ms. Patty Swords thanked the council and the mayor for inviting her to attend and discuss the company and what they do. She offered that if anyone would like to discuss it further, she is available this evening or in the future. Ms. Swords mentioned that the owner Jenny Langford was going to attend, however there has been a stomach bug going around at the office and was unable to attend. Ms. Swords explained that she has been in this business a long time and primarily with federal and state grants. She explained that she has been with Langford for a while but prior to that she was a grants coordinator with the city of Angleton and received a lot of experience there working with some of there infrastructure projects. She explained their mission statement and their culture is all about strengthening Texas communities by providing comprehensive grant writing, management and administrative services. She stated that they always act with integrity, expertise, and a commitment to exceptional customer service. She mentioned that they have served about 150 Texas communities and have provided grant and program management services, particularly infrastructure, housing, planning and resilience. She stated that they have managed about 1 million dollars’ worth of grants and have about 30 employees and they specialize in small rural communities. Ms. Swords continued with the presentation to show the different examples of types of grants that their company could do and the life cycles of the grant process. She then walked everyone through the different things they would have to do to get started. Ms. Swords went through examples of different grants that would assist Jones Creek and the different water funds and water projects that could be considered. She discussed for qualifying disadvantaged clients, a principal forgiveness that would be up to 30-year payment period and the benefits for that. Ms. Swords continued to go over different slides of options for grants and plans for the city to consider. She went through everything they would need to be able to apply for the different grants. Marshal Tidwell asked how that organization would be paid if they did write grants for us, to which Ms. Swords explained the different options and how they do include a percentage for grant administration and she gave examples of previous situations. She explained that generally with grants they do not charge any kind of preparation fee.*

**b.** Discuss and consider taking action on the Memorandum of understanding that is provided by grant fund manager GrantWorks, obligating the remainder of the ARPA funds towards streets projects submitted to Brazoria County.

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson explained that the MOA basically obligates them to use the rest of the ARPA funds and will give them until next December 26 to completely exhaust all of it instead of having to send it back January 1st of 2025. City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that the attorney has looked it over and was ok with it. Alderman David Galloway pointed at an error that would need to be corrected that is in the contract. Alderman David Galloway made a motion to approve the memorandum of understanding as long as the money is set aside specifically for streets and drainage repairs. Alderman A.J. Jinkins seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

**c.** Discuss and consider the use of a member of the Freeport Fire Department, perform the Village’s Fire inspections for new businesses.

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson explained that Bureau Veritas does not do these inspections anymore and in the past there was some conflict with Mr. Chris Motley who did the inspections for us in the past. She requested to get the council’s full approval and to stand behind anything that he inspects so that we can start bringing in businesses and have them inspected with Fire codes. Alderman A.J. Jinkins made a motion to use Mr. Chris Motley from Freeport to preform our fire inspections. Alderwoman Tammy Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

d. Discuss and consider taking action on Resolution 2024-11, to cast the Village’s entitled votes from the list of candidates that are provided by Brazoria County Appraisal District.

*Alderman David Galloway made a motion for City Council to cast their 2 votes for Marinell Music. Alderman A.J. Jinkins seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

e. Discuss and consider the workflow for Code Enforcement.

*Mayor Corey Thomas and the Council went over the document provided that listed the steps. City Secretary Lauren Grayson discussed the number of properties that have been looked at for Code Enforcement and the process and whom it involves. Council and City Secretary Lauren Grayson discussed the man hours involved. Judge Beverly Widner stated that in her opinion, she feels like they do not do an adequate job of code enforcement because of the lack of time to do that with other job responsibilities. Judge Widner then explained the time restraints and gave examples of those restraints. She does not feel like this is adequate time available compared to if there was a code enforcement officer and in her opinion that is what is needed. Alderman A.J. Jinkins asked if they were to hire someone who the judges’ time be altered? Judge Widner answered that no it would not. Mayor Corey Thomas asked if this is something that the alternate judge could pick up. Judge Widner responded that she is unsure with his job requirements if he would have the time. Judge Widner went over the work involved. Alderman A.J. Jinkins clarified that what they are suggesting is hiring someone to be out on the streets and doing the photographs and inspecting the properties and then following up, to which the judge confirmed. Alderman A.J. Jinkins asked if this job could be something that Jay Wied was trained to do as well and if he would have the time. City Secretary Lauren Grayson answered that during the growing months he stays really busy. Alderman David Galloway stated that even if Jay was able to do it, it would not take any time off of what the judge has to do or what or what the officers have to do. He then mentioned that he would like to spend more time on this and thanked the City Secretary Lauren Grayson and Judge Beverly Widner for putting the documents together for them. No action taken.*

f. Discuss and consider increasing the Village’s sale tax.

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that our current sales tax is %7.75, %6.25 is what the state collects, we get %1.5. She then stated that most of the county is at %2.5. Mayor Corey Thomas stated that we would have to call an election to raise the sales tax. Alderman David Galloway asked if City Secretary Lauren Grayson had a number of what our total revenue is for the last 2 years to which she responded that she does not have a hard number. Alderman A.J. Jinkins stated that if they went up a half of a percent what the amount would be. The council discussed what businesses are involved in that. City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that there would need to be a hearing and then an election. The council decided to table discussion until the next council meeting. No action taken at this time.*

g. Discuss and consider requiring all unlicensed civil craft contractors to register with the Village.

*Mayor Corey Thomas asked City Secretary Lauren Grayson if this is for non-trade contractors, to which she replied, correct. City Secretary Lauren Grayson confirmed that this does not apply to Electricians, Plumbers, or HVAC, however, this does not apply to tree trimmers or general contractors, because you do not have to be licensed in the state of Texas to do those. Mayor Corey Thomas stated that he does believe that they have to be insured and bonded. City Secretary Lauren Grayson mentioned that there are a lot doing a lot of work and just dumping the trees at the ditch and expecting our Waste Connections to pick up the trees. She then stated that if we required registration, we could verify they have insurance. Alderman David Galloway stated that a potential added subject would be to post signs to inform people that they would need to be registered with the city if they have tree businesses or craft contractors. He then gave an example that the sign could say if you are going to be doing work inside the city you must go to City Hall and register. The council and Marshal Tidwell agreed. City Secretary Lauren Grayson commented that she feels this will also help with construction trash being left at residences houses along with cut up trees along the curbside. Marshal Tidwell commented that this is happening a lot and that contractors should be required to take the debris. City Secretary Lauren Grayson mentioned that she has noticed the stuff across the street getting bigger and bigger. Mayor Corey Thomas suggested that this is definitely something that we should move forward with. Alderman David Galloway suggested that since there is so much already that they have to have the city attorney look at to ask if she can look into the city ordinances related to this to see and see what wording we would need to change to put this in our packet. He stated that we would have to do some type of revolution to be able to change that so he suggested giving it to the attorney so that we can get this going. Alderman A.J. Jinkins asked why there is nothing on there concerning requiring insurance. Mayor Corey Thomas stated that he does not think all contractors are required to have insurance. City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that they do not have to have it. She then stated that she knows, personally, that Sweeny requires tree companies to have a 1-million-dollar certificate of liability and then gave examples of how requiring the to have insurance could be beneficial. Alderman David Galloway stated that when she send it to the attorney to have them look at it to also have them look at the ability to require then provide this and stated that they would probably also have to state a specific amount that the city requires. He also suggested that they all look at the cost and take into account the city hall would have to call and verify that the insurance provided is active and current. Council agreed.*

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

**for Council announcements only**

1. Expression of thanks, congratulations, etc.

*Alderman David Galloway thanked the marshal and all of his deputies for taking care of the community. Alderman A.J. Jinkins thanked City Secretary Lauren Grayson because she is still finding things that needed to be found and remedied.*

1. Reminder of upcoming events organized by the Village.

*Alderwoman Tammy Butler stated that there is the Beautification Committee Pie Sale this Friday from 7:30 am until sold out.*

*Mayor Corey Thomas announced that December 6th is Christmas on the Creek and December 7th is Pancakes With Santa. And he reminded that Christmas on the Creek is on a Friday this year.*

1. Information regarding Community events outside of the Village.

*Alderwoman Tammy Butler announced that this weekend is Festival of Lights in Lake Jackson.*

1. Announcements of public threats to health or safety.

*None.*

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

*\* Discuss and consider taking action on increasing the Village’s sales tax.*

*\* Take action on requiring all unlicensed civil craft contractors to register with the Village.*

**9. ADJOURN**

*7:23 pm- Alderman David Galloway made a motion to adjourn. Alderwoman Tammy Butler seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

 **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this Public Notice was on the official Bulletin Board at City Hall on the 15th day of November 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.