**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 December 17, 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**

*6:03 pm.*

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE**

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

**3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

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

**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.

*Marshal Tidwell notified everyone that Zachary will be shutting down on December 20th and will not resume work until January 6th. However they will have a small crew if the city needs them. He informed that they will be out tomorrow to put back some signs that they took down.*

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

a. Discuss and consider accepting the minutes from the regular council meeting from November 19, 2024, and the Special Called Meeting on December 3, 2024.

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion to accept the minutes for November 19, 2024 and the meeting on December 3, 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.

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion to accept the reports but not the financials until they are certified by the accountants. Alderman A.J. Jinkins 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 Lindsey had sent her a list of reports and bills that she needed and Lauren had sent that to her. Mayor Corey Thomas asked if she was any father along. City Secretary Lauren Grayson responded that she was waiting for the statements from the credit cards so she can finish all of 2022 to 2023. Alderman Glen Jordan asked if the council could get a written statement from Lindsey English once a month. City Secretary Lauren Grayson said that, yes, she will request that.*

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

*Mayor Corey Thomas stated that he has not heard anything and has no update. He stated that he had reached out to State Senator Joan Huffman and he has not gotten back with him yet. Alderman Glen Jordan stated that the water at his house has been really yellow and his service if from Trent Waterworks.*

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

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that Mr. Craig sent her a long list of things he needed and she said that there is only one thing that she still needs to get from the bank and then he can finish. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty requested that City Secretary Lauren Grayson ask Lindsey English and Curtis Craig to attend the January regular called meeting along with the city attorney, to which City Secretary Lauren Grayson replied she would do that.*

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

*Mayor Corey Thomas stated that he recently discovered that Coburn, who they normally get the pipe from is the middle man and since the city does not have a set contract we can go through whoever. He said the city can go through their supplier which is Dale Zotto and the grand total was around $9100 and with Coburn it was almost $19,000.City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that the city is paying for this along with the resurfacing out of the ARPA funds. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty stated that there is still $9k that needs to be allocated. Mayor Corey Thomas responded that Live Oak was never finished and there was 6 pipes that was never switched out including the plastic. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty requested that Mayor Thomas price the pipe to see if that falls under the $9000. Mayor Corey Thomas asked City Secretary Lauren Grayson if she had heard anything from CBDG to which she replied she had not. Mayor Corey Thomas stated that the county is just waiting on Matt Hanks to approve the Drainage plan and then the county can get started. Marshal Tidwell stated that he will be talking to TXDOT about the situation with the right of ways and the drainage issue there.*

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

*Marshal Tidwell stated that they are still working with the grant people and they shouldn’t have to pay a cent but may even be getting a check. However, the check would be for cleaning up the ditches and cleaning the remaining trees and debris and there may be a check to help with drainage as well. He stated that they are claiming all the damage and it is still in the process along with the upcoming infrastructure.*

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

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that she did get with the attorney and the only contractors we cannot charge are HVAC, Electricians, Plumbers, but all others we can charge a yearly fee and make sure they have insurance. She then stated that the attorney is looking into the legality of it all.*

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a.** Discuss and consider taking action on Resolution 2024-12 to execute settlement release documents with retail pharmacy Kroger.

*Mayor Corey Thomas stated that the last settlement checks were $1500 and &1800. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty had the council explain what the settlement exactly was. She then verified that the attorney had looked it over. City Secretary Lauren Grayson responded that the attorney was the one who gave it to her. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty stated the she would like to find when this originated. And she would like to know what Kroger joined and what exactly they are signing and what the original settlement was. Conversation tabled until next meeting.*

**b.** Discuss and consider the use of Special Called Meetings.

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty stated that she had requested this topic because she has noticed that the special called meeting tend to have more on the agenda that what it was specially called for and makes the meeting a lot longer and happening quite often. She then requested that special called meeting be for only the emergency topic and used sparingly. No action taken.*

**c.** Discuss and consider taking action on the street and ditch repairs from Hurricane Beryl.

*Marshal Tidwell stated that it was discussed in section g.*

**d.** Discuss and consider submitting a letter of support to the group of citizens against the school closure.

*Mayor Corey Thomas stated that he feels that it would show the citizens that the city is behind them. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty thanked Mayor Corey Thomas for putting this on the agenda and stated that what they have found in the school board meetings is that any other schools that have been closed in this district no one was making any noise about the closure and this is the only school that has been fighting against what they are doing here. She then stated that to have the Village also make a resolution or send a letter of support saying that the City of Jones Creek is against the closure and it will be detrimental to our city and lower income families and non English speaking families. She feels like this is really thoughtful for this subject to be brought to the council. Alderman Glen Jordan made a motion to have the city attorney write a resolution and letter of support on behalf of the Village of Jones Creek. Alderwoman Tammy Butler seconded the motion. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty requested that it also state of how this effects the family units in our community. Alderman Glen Jordan stated he would also like it mentioned about the historic factor. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

**e.** Discuss and consider taking the next steps toward increasing the Village’s sale tax rate.

*Mayor Corey Thomas stated that the current sales tax is .775 and the state receives .0625 and the county gets .005 and the city only gets .01. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty commented that all other cities it is 8.25% and she believes that Houston is actually higher than that. City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that they could add more to it but it has to be for certain things. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion to raise the current tax by .0025 to get to 8.25% to bring it up to all other cites taxes. City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that it would have to go up to the next elections which is in May or the it could be a petition. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty commented that it should be explained that the reason we are raising the sales tax is so we don’t have to raise property taxes and it ‘s not just taxing the residents but it’s everyone that comes through Jones Creek. Alderwoman Tammy Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty requested that City Secretary Lauren Grayson work on the verbiage to explain this to the residents that they do not want to raise the taxes for property and that this is the better option.*

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

**for Council announcements only**

1. Expression of thanks, congratulations, etc.

*Mayor Corey Thomas thanked Lauren Anna and Jay for all of the work they did for Christmas on the Creek.*

*Alderman Glen Jordan stated that he did miss the other ladies that used to help such as, Linda Shepard. Marshal Tidwell stated that there was reasons they were unable to come that didn’t involve the city.*

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty thanked the Beautification Committee for all of their hard work with the craft and the Pancakes with Santa and the ornaments ideas were amazing. She then stated the new additions they have had like Melania has such a creative force and how Tammy and Lauren was the ones that decorated the kitchen.*

1. Reminder of upcoming events organized by the Village.

*City Secretary Lauren Grason stated that Pie Day is coming up quickly, but there will be more details to come.*

1. Information regarding Community events outside of the Village.

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty mentioned that the SPCA Thrift Store is having a sale and everything is ½ off and it’s the last hurrah from 3pm-8pm.*

1. Announcements of public threats to health or safety.

*Mayor Corey Thomas stated that he had received a phone call from a journalist that he has been in touch with about the Gulf Link Project and Miralad was supposed to make their decision on the 12th and they put out a notice that says because of the over 40,000 comments received at the public hearing and on the final impact statement to determine if the proposed Gulf Link Project is in the public interest, they are postponing that decision.*

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

* *Discuss and consider taking action on Resolution 2024-12 to execute settlement release documents with retail pharmacy Kroger.*
* *Review and update Employee handbook and compare to same size surrounding cities.*

**9. ADJOURN**

*6:57 pm- Alderwoman Tammy Butler made a motion to adjourn. Alderman A.J. Jinkins seconded the motion. All were 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 13th day of December no later than 5:30 p.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 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.