**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 January 28, 2025, 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.**

Join the meeting on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/9792331826>

Or dial the following toll-free numbers and enter the Meeting ID: 979 233 1826; and:

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US; or +1 301 715 8592 US

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**

*6:00 pm.*

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE**

*Mayor Corey Thomas led the invocation. Pledge led by all.*

**3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

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

*Mr. Rocky Thomas stated that there is to be a meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at the Jones Creek Baptist Church at 6:30 pm and he has fliers that could be handed out if anyone would like to take some. The meeting is to discuss Stephen F. Austin Elementary School potentially closing and the actions parents or concerned citizens could take along with what was discussed at the previous meeting with the school board.*

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

a. Discuss and consider accepting the minutes from the regular council meeting from December 17, 2024.

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion to accept the minutes for the meeting held December 17, 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 from all departments excluding the financials until they are completed by the CPA. 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.

*Mayor Corey Thomas announced that CPA Ms. Lindsey English cancelled due to the large amount of missing information. She stated that it would not be cost effective for her to attend. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty asked what she is missing. Mayor Corey Thomas answered that she had sent a large list to Lauren to which he stated that City Secretary Lauren Grayson mentioned that she had already sent a bunch of that to her. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty commented that time is of the essence. City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that CPA Ms. Lindsey English, for the fiscal years 2022 and 2023, she had sent a cash summary and analysis today and she will provide that to the council during the executive session. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty requested that City Secretary Lauren Grayson impress on Ms. Lindsey English that time is of the essence, and we need to be caught up sooner rather that later, because this is going to effect us in more ways that we realize. City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that she believes that a lot of what is missing is the payroll breakdown, taxes and insurance to be able to finish out 2022. Alderman Glen Jordan requested to see the list that was sent of the missing documents requested to which City Secretary Lauren Grayson responded that she could print that out.*

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

*Mayor Corey Thomas stated that Mr. Curtis Craig is not in attendance. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty stated that until CPA Lindsey English completes her tasks, Mr. Craig will no be able to complete 2020-2021 audit.*

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

*Mayor Corey Thomas stated that the city will need to send in work orders for Live Oak and what we can use can be put in. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty asked if the money for this is coming out of the ARPA grant. Mayor Corey Thomas responded that Zachary had donated a lot of pipes and that is what we will try to use before we use money. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty asked if there is a work order that needs to be put in, wouldn’t the city have to pay the county, to which Mayor Corey Thomas replied, no, it is part of the interlocal and the only thing we have to pay for is materials. Mayor Thomas stated that stabilized sand is about 350 a load. Alderwoman Hardesty asked if that was already approved for drainage. Mayor Corey Thomas stated that he was unsure if that was for Live Oak, but he is sure it was approved for Robinhood. Mayor Thomas stated that they would most likely start at Live Oak on the intersection and they would start at the outfall and work their way up. Mayor Thomas stated that concerning Robinhood, they are still waiting on parts because the track hoe is down, and he is unsure when it will be back up and running. Mayor Corey Thomas informed the council that the county decided to split that on Robinhood, so this year they will only be doing the box culverts and 1 crossing and next year, all of the other driveways. The council discussed the different streets they thought was on the drainage schedule. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty requested the Drainage Committee put together a spreadsheet that the streets can be listed with the dates so the council can be sure what is being discussed and know what they are looking at. Alderman David Galloway mentioned that City Secretary Lauren Grayson will have to bring to the Drainage Committee everything that has been approved by council. Alderman Glen Jordan mentioned that for the Drainage meeting they should have a representative of the Drainage District present to go over updates.*

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

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that Electrical, Plumbing, HVAC is already to be registered with the city. Council members suggested who we are asking to be registered is general contractors, tree service, concrete services, roofing, siding, framing, lawn care. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty asked if there would need to be an ordinance for this. Alderman Glen Jordan responded that it would be up to the lawyers. Mr. Daniel Sylvia, the lawyer that works alongside Bridget Begle, the city’s attorney, stated that he will take notes and brief her on what was discussed, and he did agree it would need to be an ordinance. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion to direct the attorneys to create this ordinance for this, and .* *requiring all unlicensed civil craft contractors to register with the Village. Alderman David Galloway seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

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

*Mayor Corey Thomas pointed out that in the packet is the previous resolution that was done in 2021 and the only thing that has changed from the old one to the new one is that Kroger was added to the new one. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion to approve the Resolution 2024-12 to execute settlement release documents with retail pharmacy Kroger. Alderman David Galloway seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

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

*Mayor Corey Thomas pointed out that in the packet was the letter written by City Secretary Lauren Grayson stating that the City Council and Village is supporting our group of citizens against the school district closing Stephen F. Austing Elementary School. Alderman A.J. Jinkins suggested some edits before it is signed and sent.*

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a.** Executive Session (enter executive session) Tex. Gov’t Code §551.071- the governmental body seeks the advice of its attorney.

*6:25 pm- Alderman David Galloway made a motion to go into executive session. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

*7:36 pm- Alderman A.J. Jinkins made a motion to return to regular session. Alderman David Galloway seconded the motion. All in favor None opposed. Motion carried.*

**b.** Discuss and consider taking action on any items discussed in the executive session.

*Alderman David Galloway made a motion to authorize the mayor and City Secretary Lauren Grayson to seek engagement letters to seek potential additional accountants. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

*Alderman David Galloway made a motion to authorize City Secretary Lauren Grayson to reach out to Lindsey English, the CPA, to officially request a timeline for completion of 2022’s payroll. Alderman A.J. Jinkins seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion to direct City Secretary Lauren Grayson to engage in Olsen & Olsen to negotiate with the IRS on the city’s behalf. Alderman David Galloway seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

**c.** Discuss and consider taking action to “Request for Proposals” / “Invitation for bids” for contracted solid waste removal notice.

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that she included, in the packet, 8 different solid waste removal companies in the area. Mayor Corey Thomas stated that the problem with going with another company is the city would have to pay extra for the use of the landfill. He then stated that Waste Connections has not been keeping up with their end of the bargain. Alderman A.J. Jinkins stated that they have not been too terrible lately. City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that heavy haul was not missed all together this past Saturday but that they would be making up for it the upcoming Saturday. Mayor Corey Thomas asked if there was a reason to which City Secretary Lauren Grayson responded that the freeze pushed everything behind. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty stated that she would like for the city to go out for bids and see if we could find recycling at a reasonable rate. City Secretary Lauren Grayson mentioned that Waste Connections does offer recycling but not at a reasonable rate. Alderman David Galloway suggested reaching out to other services to speak with them about our unhappiness with the service and seeing if they would put in bids. Alderman David Galloway made a motion to approve going out for bids and beginning the process of listing it in the newspaper. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

**d.** Discuss and consider taking action on Ordinance 560 to regain water jurisdiction from the Texas PUC**.**

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty explained that this is to give the city the right to go to Austin to represent themselves instead of having to have TCEQ to do it. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion to accept Ordinance 560. Alderman David Galloway seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

**e.** Discuss and consider taking action on Ordinance 561 to call for the election of three aldermen positions at large.

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion to accept Ordinance 561. Alderman David Galloway seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

**f.** Discuss and consider taking action on Ordinance 562, a proposition to increase the Village Sales Tax by ½%.

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion to accept Ordinance 562. Alderwoman Tammy Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

**g.** Discuss and consider taking action to contract Brazoria County Elections Department to conduct the Village’s Election on May 3, 2025.

*Alderman Glen Jordan made a motion to contract Brazoria County Elections Department to conduct the Village’s Election on May 3, 2025. Alderwoman Tammy Butler seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

**h.** Discuss and consider allowing the Beautification Committee to place an “Alligator Crossing” sign on Peach Point Road.

 *Alderman David Galloway made a motion to allow the Beautification Committee to place an “Alligator Crossing” sign on Peach Point Road. Alderman Glen Jordan seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

1. Discuss and consider resuming the updated office hours for City Hall.

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty mentioned that there was an issue with this that was brought up by a resident that if there is an emergency on a Friday afternoon they feel as though there is no one to get a hold of. A resident complained that she needed her gas or electric turned back on but could not get it turned back on because they couldn’t get a hold of City Hall after noon on Friday. She then stated that she called Marshal Tidwell and it was handled but that it is not sustainable. City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that our inspector does call us on our personal cell phones when he does inspections if it is after noon on Fridays so that we can release it right away but if the paperwork is not turned into Centerpoint by 3:00 pm, it will not be connected until the next business day. Alderman David Galloway asked when the phones are off what the message says. City Secretary Lauren Grayson replied it states that our office is currently closed. Alderman David Galloway mentioned that he feels the recording should list an emergency number to contact. He then suggested it be the mayor that they would need to contact. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty stated that she wouldn’t want him to be bombarded on Friday afternoon because there’s a cat up a tree. Mayor Corey Thomas stated that it would be a fire department issue anyways. It was suggested that the recording state, “If this is a health and safety issue, dial 911”. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty suggested some wording state if you need to pay your bill you can go online and if this is an emergency that cannot wait until Monday morning contact and then list Mayor Corey Thomas’s phone number. She then stated that the message would need to change at 5:00 pm so that after 5:00 pm on Friday he doesn’t still have people calling him. City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that she would check with R&M and see if they can change the message. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion to change the updated office hours to the permanent office hours until further notice. Alderman David Galloway seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

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

**for Council announcements only**

1. Expression of thanks, congratulations, etc.

*None.*

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

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that Pie Day is on February 16, 2025 at Stephen F. Austin Elementary School. Public tasting is from 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm, pie drop offs are from 8:00 am- 11:00 am and if you preregister it would make the process faster and if anyone knows of who would like to be a judge to just let her know.*

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

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty stated that there is a group of concerned residents that have formed a committee so to speak to save Stephen F. Austin Elementary School in which BISD Board of Directors and Superintendent Massey are going to vote on in February whether it closes or not and with the discussions they have kind of said that’s what’s going to happen. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty informed everyone that the are holding a town hall meeting at 6:30 pm on Thursday evening to ask residents to come and share their stories on how this is going to affect them negatively and also speak about the bond and how BISD proposed and how everyone feels about it and it will be encouraged for the residents to share their concerns about Stephen F. Austin being closed at the next BISD meeting where they will be voting on whether or not they will be closing Stephen F. Austin Elementary School. Alderwoman Hardesty stated that it is very important that all residents, whether or not they have children in the school, come to the meeting because this will affect the entire community if the school closes. Mayor Corey Thomas encouraged the council to be there as well.*

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

*None.*

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

*None at this time.*

**9. ADJOURN**

*8:00 pm- Alderman David Galloway made a motion to adjourn. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty 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 24th day of

January 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.