**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 April 15, 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.**

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**

*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- Present. 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 an 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.

*None.*

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

**a.** Discuss and consider accepting the minutes from the regular council meeting on March 18, 2025.

*Alderman David Galloway made a motion to accept the minutes. 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 verified by the CPA. Alderman David Galloway seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

**c.** Discuss and consider any updates from the CPA.

*Mayor Corey Thomas stated the documents, such as, ones she’s completed, has not completed, and reconciled, from Lindsey English are in the councils agenda packet. City Secretary Lauren Grayson mentioned she will be contacting other CPA’s the following morning as they are no longer using Ms. English. Council discussed the documents received and what has not been completed and what has been completed.*

d. Discuss and consider any updates from Curtis Craig.

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that Mr. Craig had emailed her that day and the only thing they were unable to get figured out is January of 2023 there was a deposit that she assume federal money because it’s claimed as treasury, for $38k and they were unable to see what that was for. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty asked if that was from a 1091 bounced payment? City Secretary Lauren Grayson answered, no, because if it doesn’t clear through QuickBooks, it never leaves the account. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty asked if Mr. Craig was able to do the audit for 2021 yet? City Secretary Lauren Grayson replied he had said he is putting together a spreadsheet of what all he has found with the ARPA money and he has put a memo to help explain some of it and he will get the report by the end of this week. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty requested again, that council is cc’d on all of the correspondence from Mr. Craig, as it is too long to wait a month to find out what is going on with this very important and urgent situation and the council needs to know what is happening and not a month later. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion that any future email from the auditor are copied to the council. Alderman A.J. Jinkins seconded the motion. Alderman avid Galloway asked if the motion could be amended to included requesting a zoom meeting with Mr. Craig once a week and council could be muted and just give Lauren the questions to ask him. Alderman A.J. Jinkins stated he stands by his second. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

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

*Mayor Corey Thomas stated there is a list in the agenda packets from Jay Wied going around and finding all of the existing Tin and plastic pipes and there is only 6 to change out, however they will not be able to do anything about that now.*

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated she had went to a GLO meeting and they have a program that has a study on it that she will forward to everyone on the Drainage Committee. She said it has where you can overlay each major storm event that came through since Harvey so you can measure where the hot zones are and the flooding areas.*

**f.** Discuss and consider the application for establishing the ground water rights for the Village.

*City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated she had contacted TCEQ and the application she had previously presented was for surface water and they would have to go through the Brazoria County Conservation District. She stated she has contacted them but has not gotten a response.*

*Tabled until Mr. Gordan Schlemmer can be present.*

**g.** Discuss and consider reviewing and updating each section of the employee handbook.

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty stated there is an email in the packet about the employee sick pay. She stated that QuickBooks does have a setting that you can put in for how sick time is calculated. She then stated she feels the sick time should be limited to just the five days. Mayor Corey Thomas stated the county pays either 8 or 10 hours per month. Alderman Glen Jordan stated he would like them to check in to what other cities are offering as our pay scale isn’t to other cities pay. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty stated the employees would be getting more sick time than vacation time. She then asked Alderman Jinkins how many sick days he receives. He then answered he gets 10 but teachers are also off work for 4 months out of the year. Alderman Glen Jordan reiterated that he feels they should look into what other cities are receiving. Mayor Corey Thomas asked City Secretary Lauren Grayson to look into what other cities are getting.*

**h.** Discuss and consider addressing any items that were released by any publication.

*None.*

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

 **a.** Discuss and consider proclaiming the month of April as “Fair Housing Month”.

*Alderman Glen Jordan made a motion to proclaim the month of April as “Fair Housing Month”. Alderman A.J. Jinkins seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

**b.** Discuss and consider taking action on Resolution 25-04, allowing health and accident coverage for elected officials and their dependents provided by TX Health Benefits Pool.

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion to approve Resolution 25-04,* *to allow the offer of health and accident coverage for elected officials and their dependents provided by TX Health Benefits Pool. Alderman A.J. Jinkins seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.*

 **c.** Discuss and consider reviewing details of an ordinance for RV consistent living.

*Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty recommended they hand this over to the Zoning Board. Alderman Glen Jordan stated he feels it should go to the lawyer so there are recommendations as to what should be on there. City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated it is an ordinance that they would have 1 hour in the event of an emergency to get the RV moved. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty stated she has seen older RVS in immaculate condition so she would like for this to go to the Zoning Board for them to look over. She then stated she would like to see it added that the RV’s are in road-worthy order so that they can be moved if needed. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty added the question of who would be making sure the RV’s are inspected and road-worthy, to which it was answered that would be Code Enforcement and we do not have that. Alderman David Galloway stated the terminology of Recreational Vehicle and the definition for Recreational Vehicle needs to be stated because there could be some confusion with Travel Trailer, and there should be a clearer definition. Mayor Cory Thomas asked if the existing ordinance is going to have to be changed, to which Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty responded that yes they would need to have edited and adding more definition and terminology. And adding about the road-worthy. She then mentioned they should speak to the lawyer about this. She also stated she would be curious to know if the RV park is governed in some way that they need to keep records of proof that they are road-worthy.*

**d.** Discuss and consider details on a pipeline similar to that of a neighboring community.

*Mayor Corey Thomas stated this is the ordinance that Surfside made and it is in the packet. Alderman David Galloway stated in the document they are determining it based off of a rod; he stated this is the current ordinance and the one they are creating now is based on volume through the pipes. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty commented she feels that is the better way to go. Mayor Corey Thomas stated he will try to talk to someone from Surfside at the BCCA meeting to get an update. He stated he would like them to sit down with the lawyer to discuss this. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty mentioned that the county has a map of all of the pipes that go through Jones Creek. Mayor Corey Thomas stated the Railroad Commission has one as well but it doesn’t give every single one. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty stated she feels they should show the ordinance to the lawyer and let her know it is our intention to come up with something like this as well and include volume per rod. Alderman David Galloway mentioned he would like to see if they could apply this to existing pipes. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty asked if we are permitting them does that give us any liability if anything happens. Alderman A.J. Jinkins read the insurance requirements and how the village is covered as well.*

**e.** Discuss and consider accepting the employment contract between the Village and Alternate Judge John Rice, changing his employment from a salaried employee to a 1099 contractor.

*\*Contract was in the agenda packet.*

*Alderwoman Nicoole Hardesty asked if Mr. Rice is ok with this. City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that he is and he has already signed the contract. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion to accept the employment contract between the Village and Alternate Judge John Rice, changing his employment from a salaried employee to a 1099 contractor. Alderman A.J. Jinkins seconded the motion. All were in favor. None oppose. Motion carried.*

**f.** Discuss and consider alternatives for current internet providers for City Hall.

*Judge Widner stated that her normal work days are 3 days a week and to keep that in mind, however, out of 4 weeks a month at least 2 out of the 4 weeks the city hall and court is without phone service and internet. She stated the phones will constantly ring but are not able to be answered. She stated she has had many concerns about this and people calling into the court is see what they owe and/or to make a payment. Judge Widner then stated they are giving poor service and she asks City Secretary Lauren Grayson if she has reported the issue and she herself has called BTEL to report an issue. Judge Widner stated she they had used the courts technology funds to purchase the back up internet system and was shocked to discover the courts are not connected to that system. She stated that it was her impression that when they went to Starlink it would all be solved and when the BTEL employee came out she stated that she told him this was the worst phone service she has ever seen. Judge Widner then said he explained that it was caused by power surges and outages, however she does not believe that. Judge Widner stated the courts system is not connected to the back up system. City Secretary Lauren Grayson commented the court’s are on a ethernet linked to BTEL, however, the City Hall’s internet is linked to Starlink. She then stated without testing how it will do in a storm and how good it is going to be they won’t know if they should completely cancel BTEL. City Secretary Grays commented BTEL did explain the power surges they have had because of the high winds is burning out their capacitors through out their systems and they are having to come out and re do them. Judge Widner asked why the courts are not on the same thing, to which, City Secretary Grayson replied it’s a matter of getting Jeff out here to swap everything over and she is unsure how the phone systems will deal with having a satellite-based internet. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty asked if we use R&M. City Secretary Grayson responded that is who owns our phone systems. Judge Widner mentioned they have had them out multiple times as well and stated the phone service stinks, and she does not know why she is not on the same internet as City Hall. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty asked why we have internet phone lines instead of landlines. She also commented that she thinks R&M phones may not work on landlines and City Secretary Grayson should call them to check. Judge Widner reiterated that court and city hall needs to be on the same thing. City Secretary Lauren Grayson stated that she can contact Jeff, however the court would be down while he’s running new cables and having to connect all of the computers. Mayor Corey Thomas told City Secretary Grayson to get with Jeff and R&M.*

**g.** Discuss and consider information from GrantWorks representative Luke Kretschmer on the FEMA (applies to TDEM, TWDB also) prepositioning for Disaster Relief Funds.

*\* Moved to a.*

*Luke Kretschmer introduced himself and what locations he represents and stated they are a grant administration firm. He wanted to bring an opportunity before the council that he has spoken to the mayor and Mrs. Grayson about. He stated it is called FEMA (applies to TDEM, TWDB also) preposition. He then explained what this prepositioning does and how it asks the city look at this opportunity as a way to prepare for these disasters. He stated if the city was to hire them or one of their competitors it would give the city the opportunity to be ready and them or their competitors would immediately start that application, and it would get things wrapped up quicker. It stated this grant opportunity is contractual but does not require money upfront and this would put the city in the forefront and they would have help getting all of the documents and photos and applications done quickly. He then commented that he would be working very closely with the marshal getting everything done as the Marshal’s department oversees emergency management. He then mentioned GrantWorks receives no funds; their fee is included in the written grant. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty asked if the disaster has to be “declared”? Mr. Kretschmer responded for the most part it would have to be declared by the county. Alderman Glen Jordan recommended that Mr. Kretschmer meet Marshal Tidwell as he oversees emergency management. Mr. Kretschmer stated he just wanted to bring this before the council so they may be able to discuss it. The council stated they would like for Mr. Kretschmer to meet with Marshal Tidwell and then come back to the council.*

**h.** Discuss and consider approving the contract from Waste Connections for the renewal of solid waste collection.

*City Council discussed the updated contract. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty pointed out the error that in the contract it states heavy haul will be picked up biweekly and that would need to be changed to bimonthly. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion to accept the contract with the changes made. 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.

*Mayor Corey Thomas thanked all those that helped to put the Easter hunt together, including Anna Galloway, The VFD, Lauren Grayson, Judge Widner, and anyone else that contributed or volunteered.*

1. Reminder of upcoming events organized by the Village.

*Tammy Butler listed the upcoming events as follows:*

* *Thursday, April 17, 2025- Beautification Committee Bake Sale 8am-1pm*
* *Saturday, April 26, 2025- Beautification Committee Bi-Annual Spring Clean Up.*
* *May 1, 2025 National Day of Prayer at the Veteran’s Memorial.*
1. Information regarding Community events outside of the Village.

*April 26, 2025 FFH Fishing Tournament 7am-1pm at Brazosport High School. Can goods donations as entry fee.*

1. Announcements of public threats to health or safety.

*None.*

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

*None.*

**9. ADJOURN**

*Alderman David Galloway made a motion to adjourn. Alderwoman Tammy Butler 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 11th day of

April 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.