**Village of Jones Creek**

7207 Stephen F. Austin

Jones Creek, TX 77541

(979)233-2700

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**The Board of Alderman of the Village of Jones Creek, Texas will hold a Regular Council Meeting on June 20, 2023 at the Village Hall Located at 7207 Stephen F. Austin Road beginning at 6:00pm Members of the public are able to attend the meeting in person and**

 **Via teleconference**.

This written notice, the meeting agenda, is posted online at <http://www.villageofjonescreektexas.com>. The public were 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 AND PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE *Invocation led by Reverend Jeff Pittman, Pledges by all.***

3. **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS *Mayor Terry Jeffers, Alderman A.J Jinkins, Alderman Corey Thomas, Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty, Alderman Glen Jordan, Alderman David Galloway Present through video conference.***

4. **COMMUNICATION OF VISITORS**

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.

***Anna Galloway- August 13th at 2pm The Lions Club, Marshalls Department, Gulf Prairie Presbyterian Church and Volunteer Fire Department are all teaming up to do a Bike Safety Rodeo. We are going to be teaching the kids road safety and how to repair their bikes and all kinds of fun stuff. It’s going to be a free event so if you know any school-age children please invite them, please bring them. And if you would like to donate to the provide a child with a helmet fund, get with me. 2oclock August 13th at the church.***

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

 a. Discuss and approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held May 16, 2023 and Special Called Meeting held on June 6, 2023. ***Alderman Corey Thomas- I move to approve the minutes. Alderman Glen Jordan seconds. Mayor Jeffers- All in favor say aye. All- Aye Mayor Jeffers All opposed- none. Motion carried.***

 b. Discuss and consider action on financial and monthly reports from all departments and any updates from CPA. ***City Secretary Lauren Grayson- We got an email from Brent Ripple with Green and McElreath CPA Lindsey English who does this type of accounting was splitting off from them and starting her own firm and all amicably and he suggested that we move with her and let her do our bookkeeping because this is what her expertise is in and they said they would do a seamless transition by handing over our QuickBooks file as well as any statements that all the statements that had been dropped off what I believe is 2 weeks ago now. And then we got another email from Lindsey with the offer, or engagement letter and her engagement letter reduces the fees from what Brent with Green and McElreath are going to charge us between $4,500-$5,000 a month to $2,000-$5,000. I would like to make a motion that we make the switch to Lindsey English for our CPA services. A.J. Jinkins- seconds motion. Mayor Jeffers- Allin favor say Aye. All- Aye. All opposed say nay. None. Motion carried. Mayor Jeffers- Can I get a motion to accept these financial reports? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- I’ll make a motion but these are not proper financial reports. They are the best they can do but I’ll make a motion that we accept the reports from all the departments minus the financial reports. A.J. Jinkins- Seconds motion. Mayor Jeffers- All in favor say aye. All- Aye. Mayor Jeffers- All opposed say nay. None. Motion carried.***

 c. Discuss and consider action on drainage improvement projects and updates from Drainage Liaison Corey Thomas. ***Alderman Corey Thomas- The pipe got delivered? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- The 16ft of 24inch came in, the 30inch did not. Alderman Corey Thomas- Do they know when the 30’s will be? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- no. Alderman Corey Thomas- We’ll have to have the grade all come in after that. Our tractor won’t be able to pick that up. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- They finished the 3 on East Stephen F? Alderman Corey Thomas- As soon as we here about the pipe getting ready to come in we can go ahead and put in the work order for the other 3. If you’ve been by the school the county redid the track and black topped over the driveways. I don’t know where we stand on that. Were you getting with the school district? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- It was that Brittney had taken that over. I was communicating with them then she stepped in and started communicating with them so I was cut out of that scenario, but I’d be happy to get back involved and talk to Mr. Massey. Alderman Corey Thomas- We’re done with it now. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Ok, so I will need the invoices for the work done at the school to present to the school district and they’re going to reimburse us. Alderman Glen Jordan- Have you heard anything? When they’re gonna do Frontier. Alderman Corey Thomas- It’s week to week. We’re just waiting on material. I think they’re going to try to asphalt Smith first so we’ll see what we have leftover. Because all of Live Oak and all of Frontier will be paid for us. Whatever is leftover from that Smith we’ll do. Alderman Glen Jordan- We’ll just take out the culvert? Alderman Corey Thomas- Yes we’ll just take the pipe over there when we’re ready to do it. We’ll just change it out. Alderman Glen Jordan- it’ll need to be change out before they do it so we can go ahead and get that knocked out. Have we ordered the pipe for that? Alderman Corey Thomas- No we have pipe next door. Alderman Glen Thomas- So we’re good? Alderman Corey Thomas- Yes. Alderman Glen Jordan- They’re probably gonna have to be shut down for a day while ya’ll dig that out right? Alderman Corey Thomas- They’ll probably do half a lane at a time just to let traffic through. Mayor Jeffers- Any information on Robinhood? Alderman Corey Thomas- No, they have the pipe to do the 10 arm crossings. They haven’t gotten all the boxes yet so they’re gonna start with the 10 arms first. Do the East side of Robinhood moving North towards Stephen F. Alderman Corey Thomas- William, have you heard back from the DOT yet about the outlaws? Marshall William Tidwell- No, I talked to them about it. I told them at some point in time we’re gonna want to have him come back and talk to us about it. One more thing on this drainage, You notice this dike that their talking about building around Freeport and such. I personally think we need to get this person in here and talk to us about how it’s going to affect us. I think it’s going to affect us pretty bad. We didn’t even hear ahead of time. We need to not waste time and once it’s already done wish we’d done something. Alderman Glen Jordan- Do you know who this person is? Marshall Tidwell- Yes, and I get with Lauren and try to come back to ya’ll and see what we’re going to do. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Is this a Federal, State, County…? Marshall Tidwell- Both. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- So it’s Federal and state? Marshall Tidwell- Yes. They’re even revising it from what it originally was and now it sounds even worse. Mayor, we both went when they talked about it over at the Lake Jackson Civic center. Everything I seen over there was not positive for us. Alderman Corey Thomas- Is this a part of that US Army Core? Mayor Jeffers- Yes, they’re working with the Velasco Drainage District. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Have they had their public hearings yet? Marshall Tidwell- Was that considered a public hearing? Mayor Jeffers- I’m not really sure about that. But I do have a letter here about another meeting soon. We just got it today. Thursday July 27th 11:30-1:00pm. It’s the public information session can be accessed via website bit/ly/Freeport-project. Freeport Project is one of 3 projects included in the s2g program focuses on improvement that was authorized by the flood control project 1962 and protects the are from coastal strong events from the Gulf of Mexico. Alderman Corey Thomas- Are they still talking about taking out the west gate? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Yes. 5.5 miles of flood… Alderman Glen Jordan- How far are they gonna come out? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- 70 miles. Marshall Tidwell- They’re talking about revising where they’re gonna pump this water. They’re talking about pumping more towards the Brazos. If they do that, they have a levy on their side, we don’t have a levy on our side. Alderman Glen Jordan- Are they planning on moving the levy over? Marshall Tidwell- No, but we need to get them here and ask and talk to them because I’m not sure. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Can we get the West of the Brazos Drainage District involved, maybe they could communicate with Velasco? Alderman Corey Thomas- I’ll reach out to Joe Hoffman. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- this doesn’t look like there is a physical address to go to for the meeting on the 27th. It just says via website. Alderman Corey Thomas- I’d even think about reaching out to Vasut, if it’s gonna be bad for us he needs to know about it. Alderman Glen Jordan- Maybe even Linder. Alderman Corey Thomas- Definitely Linder. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- If it’s gonna be bad for us, it could also be bad for Brazoria. You never know what could happen. Look what happened with Harvey. Stranger things have happened. We need to get as much support. Unlike what we’ve done before we really need to be proactive about it. Alderman Glen Jordan- I think as soon as we know something more about it then we need to get the drainage out here too.***

D. Discuss and Consider Past & Future Grant applications.

* TxDot City Sidewalks grant (Stephen F. Austin, Primrose, & Bluebonnet)
* CDBG-MIT Grant follow-up - New Water System update/ New approaches for grant opportunities. (RWAF & County Commissioner) ***Mayor Jeffers- You got anything on that Lauren? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- I haven’t heard anything new about the sidewalks. We do have 380 of the surveys ready so when the fire department is ready to get those and do those tickets. Then we have half of those surveys ready to be picked up. We have been passing some of those out to customers paying for their trash. Alderman Glen Jordan- Do you have a count of how many of those surveys ya’ll have done? Utilities Clerk Tiffany Lewis- 380. Alderman Glen Jordan- That’s good. Alderman Corey Thomas- What is the certain percentage of the population that needs to do this? Mayor Jeffers- The more the better. I know everybody’s not gonna do one. Alderman Corey Thomas- Grant Works didn’t come back with anything on that? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- I talked to David with Grant Works. Alderman Corey Thomas- Is that what the new business is about? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Yes.***

E. Discuss and consider the 2% price increase of the Village’s Trash services. ***Alderman A.J. Jinkins- I have lived in this community for 22 years I’ve put my trash by the side of the road in neat pile and I have never had my trash left in 22 years. I was out doing another job and tore down a little well house and put my trash over on the curb ready for Saturdays pick up and I was doing another job for another family on Saturday this guy calls me and says they didn’t pick up your trash. He said the bumper guy stopped to pick it up and the driver stopped and shook his head no. He looked down from his seat and shook his head no. I talked to 2 other people and they both saw him do the exact same thing. I got a tag here that says construction; it says we couldn’t pick your trash up because of construction materials. I’ve been here 22 years and over time when I do something I put my trash out there and they’ve always picked it up. Whoever was our trash service would pick it up. Let me ask some of ya’ll in this room, what do ya’ll put when you put out heavy trash? Do you put out something other that construction debris? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- We don’t put out heavy trash because we see people not get their heavy trash picked up. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- It’s always been construction debris, right? 2\*4’s wood. Construction debris, right. I decided to contact Lauren and I gave her a bit of a bad time. I also drove around Jones Creek and I’ll show my pictures in a minute. I messaged Lauren and said, “What’s up? She said there is a thing on our front page that says what we will or will not pick up. On the Village of Jones Creek website of what we will not pick up. \*Proceeds to quote Village of Jones Creek list of heavy hauls not accepted materials\*. I drove around on Saturday to see if I was the only they did not pick up from. I didn’t go to the north side I stayed on the south side of 36. I don’t know how many there were on the north side, but I counted 11 on the south side. I have never seen that many left by the trash company, so I wanted to show some pictures. \* Alderman Jenkins presently photo evidence of his concerns with waste connections service\*. There is 65-year-old oakwood that belongs to a loving family. This family doesn’t have a lot of money and the wife has Huntington’s’ disease. She was walking through the dining room and she fell through and injured herself. So, my ministry from church got out there. We pulled that dining room side of the floor. June 3rd, we put it out there by the street. A week later trash came, and it was picked up. We came back to do the other half. Did exact same thing with the wood, that was June 24th and it has been passed over twice by heavy trash. Somethings changed since then. This poor lady has to live with all that trash outside of her house because waste connections won’t pick it up. \*Alderman A.J. Jinkins continuing to show photos and give descriptions of missed houses and trash\*. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- I have shown you 11 piles that have been refused by the company that seems rather excessive to me and I believe the company Waste Connections has violated our contract and nullified our commitment and has paved the way for renegotiation. At this point I make a message that Waste Connections doesn’t want to pick up our trash as they used to do then I make a motion Village of Jones Creek begin the research plans for finding another company that will pick up our trash. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- seconds motion.***

 ***Alderman Glen Jordan- There are people her that represent the Waste Connections. I think we should let them speak. Operations Manager Hector Torres- I can tell you I have only been at this particular site for about a month or so. This is all new to me, but I am doing what I can to try to get all this cleaned up. We do have to abide by our contract because we are a business at the end of the day. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- You don’t! You have not abided by your contract. Operations Manager Hector Torres- I understand. I apologize. Like I said our drivers may need to be coached more. I did go I did go out and look at them and where there’s wood they see something that’s been tore down or something small like that they should just go pick it up and if it’s a reasonable amount of construction then we have to question that. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- It doesn’t say on our website for your items that you don’t pick up construction materials. Hector Torres- It is in the contract as far as what materials. But like I said I apologize about the services that have been going on . Our goal is to give you guys the best service. I apologize sir, I apologize. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- I’m not worried about your apology. That doesn’t matter to me at all. I’d like to see you pick up the trash that I pay you for. Hector Torres- Yes sir. In the future we will do better for you guys. If you decide to take legal action, and I hope ya’ll decide not to go down that road, we do have a contract to abide by and in that contract, it does say that we do not pick up construction material. Can we do a little better on our part, yes absolutely, we will do that. If there are any issues call us up and I can just go pull the videos from our trucks. We can tell if the containers were not out or if a pile is not out in time. We have that tech to go over them. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- Do you know who the driver was? Operations Supervisor William Holloway- We had 2 drivers that day. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- You had a bumper and a driver? William Holloway- Correct. We had what we call a rear loader truck and we also had what we call a boom truck that was running that day. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- In the past 22 years that I’ve lived here they have always taken the boom truck and picked up my trash even if it was construction material. William Holloway- I think what may have been confusing is the rear load driver may have been getting some poor advice from the helpers or vice versa. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- No, It was the driver that was honking at the bumper basically and saying no. I heard that from 3 different people. William Holloway- Like Hector was saying we need to get with our people and explain to them what construction material. We don’t have a problem with construction materials, the problem is when these contractors go out there remodel an entire house and throw everything in that pile. Anna Galloway- I know there is a fine line between home renovation and construction. Is there anyway that ya’ll can communicate better with the city so they can put on their website the definitions of what you define as construction materials. That seems to be one of the biggest issues. It’s just not clear guidelines. We’ve been renovating our house for 7 years and we have to be really careful about how much we put out at a time. Maybe there can be more clarity. William Holloway- Absolutely. Alderman Glen Jordan- Some of the places you know they’re bringing their construction materials here. The same house has piles every time. Lauren Jinkins- I was gonna say the same. Getting the difference between new construction materials and just junk leftover. The thing A.J. tore down was little well house thing. Not a lot. Mayor Jeffers- To remedy the 26 places that didn’t get picked up ya’ll are doing it this Saturday though? William Holloway- Yes sir. We’re gonna run the entire city. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- I will withdraw my motion until as such time I see the actual benefit of that.*** ***If they realize their error and correct that we might consider sticking with them. Mayor Jeffers- We have the 2% price increase on the table do we make a motion on this or do we want to table this. Alderman Corey Thomas- I make a motion we table it. Alderman Galloway- seconds motion. Motion passed.***

**F***.* Discuss and consider implementation of the grant survey. (updates) ***Mayor Jeffers- Are ya’ll gonna start going around with the BBQ tickets?*** ***Alderman Corey Thomas- letters just went out hopefully they should be coming in the mail within a week or week and a half. Mayor Jeffers- Anybody wants to come pick up some just come see Lauren and she’ll write down how may you take and we can go door to door. Alderman Glen Jordan- I’d like to again thank the office for getting those surveys done. That’s a big help. Judge Widner- I’d like to say one thing, This office is running well. You have people that are working. Alderman Glen Jordan- And the maintenance as well. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- It is very Jonny on the spot with answers and if they don’t have them they get back to you quickly with them.***

**6. NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Discuss and consider the TML Risk Pool Insurance quotes for next year. ***City Secretary Lauren Grayson- We have found that on the Marshall’s Department we found 3 vehicles that are not functioning at all and getting 3 vehicles removed will be a big number. And I’m gonna work with the Marshall about getting those auctioned off. Mayor Jeffers- Lauren do we need to vote on that? Lauren Grayson- No, I was just bringing everything to your attention to keep my office fully transparent. Mayor Jeffers- Thank you..***

b. Discuss and consider the adoption of resolution 23-07 for the insurance renewal. ***Mayor Jeffers-Is this what they need? Lauren Grayson- That’s what is being reported for the health pool. In the past we had to pay a blanket amount well that amount went up quite a bit. So we would have to pay 186 per person if we do just employees 100% we’d only have to go up the $80 more that what we have agreed on last year instead of having to do 182. It would cover employees 100% but families they would be responsible for. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- I thought we had already discussed this in our budgeting workshop. Last year we didn’t give a certain amount. Lauren Grayson- It was $72. Nicole Hardesty- I know for the Marshall’s department it’s a huge drawback when your salary is not comparable to others and now your salary is only for you. We’ve lost good officers because they were working to pay for their family’s insurance. 2 years ago we gave a stipend. Id likes to have a budget workshop to find a way to support families. Glen Jordan- If we do a workshop, we can do more research. Mayor Jeffers- Does this resolution have a deadline? Can it be tabled till the next meeting? Lauren Grayson- Ill get with TML health. Alderman Corey Thomas- motion made to table discussion. Alderman Glen Jordan – seconds. Motion carried.***

 c. Discuss and consider the future of the ARPA premium pay. ***Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- We voted to do whatever doll amount it was so that we could make it though the end of the fiscal year. Again we will have to look at the budget to see if we can continue the 4$ an hour without the premium pay. Corey Thomas- we have it thought the ARPA. Nicole Hardesty- we’ve been paying for 2 years and they will have a $4cut if we choose not to continue. A.J. Jinkins- we discussed that 2 years ago that when that money ran out they’d go back. Nicole Hardesty- I think we decided we were going to look at the budget. A.J. Jinkins- I remember everyone here saying well when t runs out it runs out. This is a bonus. Marshall William Tidwell- I think at this point it’s a budget issue. Mayor Jeffers- to stay competitive we may need to keep it for our officers. Nicole Hardesty- That’s the marshals’ budget if he can juggle his budget around. I think we need to talk about this is the budget. Rather than decide no one gets it. Makes motion to table. Corey Thomas- seconds motion. Motion Carried.***

 d. Discuss and consider the budget for the 2023-2024 budget year. ***Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Makes motion to schedule budget workshop. Start from the spreadsheet budget., I don’t know how we can do this without proper financial. Maybe call Lindsey and use last year’s budget. We just got the bank statements last week. We’re gonna just must navigate this budget workshop. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- seconds motion. Motion carried.***

 e. Discuss and consider information about grants from Grantworks. ***City Secretary Lauren Grayson- I talked to David from Grantworks and their primary goal is to help a city achieve a grant and manage it. They don’t help find them. He said he was going to see if he could see any grants that help with water. And help finding software grants. Our software is awful. Were doing government budgeting. Were doing stuff that’s not meant to be done on QuickBooks. If we had something that was for government budgeting it would be better than trying to force QuickBooks. I have reached out to Tyler Tech and Harris County Software. To get started between $70,000-$90,000. Between $20,000 for annual. I asked if it was possible to use some of the ARPA for software and he said absolutely because it’s for the betterment of the city. Or if we could get some grant to maybe subsidize that software. Nicole Hardesty- I think we need to focus on finding grants and I’ve been looking, and I’ve found you can go to GuideStar and look for foundations that will make grants for you. There’s several websites that we could utilize and I get that information to you. I think we need to find this. Lauren Grayson- From what I got from INcode they can operate the trash, the budgeting, the maintenance. Nicole Hardesty- I don’t think this is whether or not it’s the one we nee its about the budget. It is of value, yes but we need the grant money. If we get rid of all the other programs. We’d only have to pay 2k more. What if we put out something on Facebook looking for someone to help us look for grants? Anna Galloway- I’ll do it, I just don’t want to. Once you’ve done it once you can do it again. Nicole Hardesty- made motion to find grant to assist with payment and look for help on social media. Alderman Corey Thomas- seconds motion. Motion carried.***

7. **ADJOURNAMENT *7:05 Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty-I make a motion to adjourn. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- Seconds motion. Mayor Jeffers- All in favor say aye. All- Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.***

 **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this Public Notice was places on the official Bulletin Board at the City Hall on June 16th, 2023 no later than 5:30p.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 BOARD 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. Request for such accommodations 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 accommodations.