



## 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.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** 6:00pm
2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE** *Invocation led by Rev. Jeff Pittman, Pledges by all.*
3. **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS** *Mayor Terry Jeffers, Alderman Glen Jordan, Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty, Alderman Corey Thomas, Alderman A.J. Jenkins, Alderman David Galloway absent.*
4. **SWEARING IN OF OFFICALS** *City Secretary Lauren Grayson swore in Alderman A.J. Jenkins, Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty, and Alderman Corey Thomas.*
5. **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.

*Larry Lacompte- I was appointed 2 months ago to the water improvement committee, I still have not discovered who the committee is. There has been no access to them. Second point, Hwy 36 traffic is crazy, It's more of a caution than anything else. I pulled out the other day and turned west on 36, here comes a truck with his emergency light s flashing; I thought it was the Marshall. So I pulled over and it's a guy/road worker in a yellow t-shirt/safety shirt driving by. So I fallowed him, got down to the intersection and he pulled over. I addressed him and said "Why are you driving 36 traffic with your emergency lights flashing", He responded I forgot. I told him I pulled over thinking it was an emergency and because of you next time I might not because I don't know if it's an emergency. Mayor Jeffers- Who was it? One of the construction workers? Larry Lacompte- Construction worker, yes sir. I was chastised a couple months ago by a state trooper because I was driving with my flashing lights and the state trooper stopped me and said you can't do that. My son in law was sitting gasping for air and we sat there for 15 minutes waiting for the ambulance to come get him right there at the intersection of 36 and 2004. Then he took him to the hospital in Brazosport and we were trying to go to Angleton. Reverend Pittman-I wanted to relay an issue: when are they going to finish with our ditches? If it's not one thing it's another. First, they moved the gas line and tore up the ditches, then they put in culverts and messed up the ditches some more and areas where I used to mow I can't mow anymore. I'm too old to fling that weed eater through that ditch. Mayor Jeffers- I can't answer your question, but William (Marshall Tidwell)*

might have an idea. Marshall Tidwell- You're talking about the ditches in from of the church? Reverend Pittman- Yes and in front of the house. Marshall Tidwell- Well If you look down this way (gesturing towards the left) you see lots of culverts every day. And they're bringing them all the way down the highway from the wildlife preserve, past primrose. So we will not be completing ditches at all till both sides are done. But in the meantime, it's a 3 year project so we gotta live with it. Along with that is Peach point, TX dot, they wanna shut done a minimum of 2 weeks to a month where their will be no through traffic at all ; issue with that is, we have no way to get there, Marshal's department, fire department will have to go all the way around. So we are trying to come up with some plans of action; like leave a fire truck and Marshall's office vehicle over there and swap out. But we're trying to work that out. It's coming, it's gonna be after July 4<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Jeffers- When does that start William? Marshall Tidwell- Should be the day after July 4<sup>th</sup>. Once you see the signage go up on the roads, they got 7 days to start the work. You see the signs, avoid that route. Nicole Hardesty- I have a question. Is there any master plan someplace where we can see? Because they've got the other side of 36 shut off now and for how long? How long is that gonna be? Because I was almost hit twice right there by Wag-A-Bag because people aren't understanding and if we could at least know ... you're telling us after July 4<sup>th</sup> they're gonna close Peach Point, great, now we know it's gonna be messed up after July 4<sup>th</sup>. But how long are those barriers gonna be on 36? How long is this nonsense gonna be going all to Freeport? Marshall Tidwell- This a 3 year project, Ok. And this right here that you're seeing by Wag-A-Bag and such as that, on this side is at least a year. And then they're gonna swap to the other side. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- But are they actually gonna be working for the year because they're not doing diddly. Marshall Tidwell- They have to get the culverts set first then you're gonna start seeing them tear up all that up then you'll see them start pouring concrete. If you notice the mailboxes along the barricades, Post Master has to stop deliver the mail in the traffic. I've watched it several weeks now and it's not good. Talked to all the residents along the highway, well not quite all yet but we're gonna try to have one central place for the mail boxes on city property and we'll look into that. If that happens the state will provide all the mail boxes for everybody. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Someone even wrote on their mail box "Do not stop, Unsafe!" Marshall Tidwell- I haven't seen that yet. Last thing, do you remember years ago prisoners from Clemens would come out here. We'd have a crew about 15 prisoners every day and only thing we'd have to do was feed them. And they work hard to get a good meal don't work hard get a bad meal. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- They never got a bad meal. Not from me they didn't. Marshall Tidwell- Yes they did, didn't do a good job they got peanut butter and crackers. The Warden up there contacted me and he is wanting to revive that. And so we are in contract negotiations to find out how to do this and get the prisoners out here to work. Mayor Jeffers- Thank you William.

## 6. 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. Motion made to approve the minutes made by Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty. Alderman Core Thomas – motion seconded. All approve, none opposed. Motion carried.

b. Discuss and consider action on financial and monthly reports from all departments. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made a motion to accept the reports

*from the departments. But there are no financials yet to approve so as long as we strike financials... Alderman A.J Jinkins- I second. Mayor Jeffers-Signify by saying Aye. All-Aye. Mayor Jeffers- Nay opposed. None. Motion Carried.*

**c. Discuss and consider action on drainage improvement projects and updates from Drainage Liaison Corey Thomas.** *Alderman Corey Thomas- We haven't really had any changes since last meeting. County's getting ready to finish off East Stephen F. Thought it was gonna be sooner but they're behind right now. Jo Hoffman was gonna be here tonight but he wasn't able to make it. He's stuck in Santa Fe and won't make it. Alderman A.J.Jinkins- Have you got all that information yet? Or are you getting it? What we were talking about the outfalls and stuff like that. Marshall Tidwell- Along with this highway expansion we have talked about 9 outfalls, but the state claims they have, I'm still talking with them because the last meeting I had with them was they were just gonna clean part of it out and some of it goes to S.F.A and some of it goes to 2004 and some goes to the Creek. And you can't just do a portion of it and not do all of it. That's just gonna dump water on us. At some point we're gonna need to get TXDOT back in here and talk to them. These outfalls are in bad shape. Alderman A.J. Jinkins- As soon as we get that information we'll have a Special Counsel meeting and we'll get everybody together and TXDOT and the drainage district and everybody involved.*

**d. Discuss and consider action on updates for ARPA Funds.** *Mayor Jeffers- We have a report here in our packet. No expenditures have recently come out of it. I don't think, have they Lauren (Lauren Grayson – city secretary)? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- The only thing that has come out of that is the Marshall's Department has completely depleted Premium 1 and has started the premium 2. Check number for Coburn's Supplies the last one was found, so that was updated in the system. Alderman A.J.Jinkins- The issues that we've had with all the checks that you've been finding, will this be subject to change if you find any issues? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- As far as I know everything is up to date and I have not found anything that needs to be put in to ARPA.*

**e. Discuss and Consider Past & Future Grant applications.**

- **TxDot City Sidewalks grant (Stephen F. Austin, Primrose, & Bluebonnet)** *Mayor Jeffers- They haven't contacted us at all about this recently that I know of, right Lauren? City Secretary Lauren Grayson – No I don't think they have either. Mayor Jeffers- Maybe we need to see if we can find the email and get a hold of them and see what's going on with that. City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Ok.*
- **CDBG-MIT Grant follow-up - New Water System update/ New approaches for grant opportunities. (RWF & County Commissioner)** *Alderman Corey Thomas- I went to a seminar Thursday in Huntsville with the Texas Water Board and right now unless we go through Federal grants we're pretty much at a stand still with the Water Board because they want books. Right now our books are not in any kinda shape to be handing out. Alderman A.J.Jinkins- That ain't to say we can't approach them at a later date? Alderman Corey Thomas- Right. Normally December is when they start taking applications for loans or for Water Board and spring time is when you'll here if you move*

*forward in the process. And then you fill out the big packet. Alderman Glen Jordan- Are these loans or grants? Alderman Corey Thomas- Some are loans some are grants. There's a lot more, but those are the main ones that are in that book. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- I'd like to look into contacting Grantworks and asking them if they could be on the look out for a water system grant that we could apply for. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty made motion to direct the city secretary to contact Grantworks to locate a grant that we would fit into to be able to put in a ne water system. Alderman Glen Jordan- Seconds. Mayor Jeffers- All in favor say Aye. All- Aye None opposed.*

**f. Discuss and consider the update on the proposed Trust of Gulf Prairie Cemetery Association to the Village of Jones Creek.** *Marshall Tidwell- They voted to keep it in the family for now. I think they'll be back to us at some point in time. Mayor Jeffers- I think they just had their family reunion, right? Marshall Tidwell- Yes.*

**g. Discuss and consider creating a Historical Preservation committee for the Village of Jones Creek.** *Mayor Jeffers- Well just not at this time. Alderman Corey Thomas- Could we also talk about the Water Committee? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- I did recently contact our attorney about creating that and that's in that email in your packet. Alderman Corey Thomas- It says here we have to figure what we'd want to do with it and discuss the sequence of it and the purpose of it. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Maybe Mr. LaCompte has some ideas and maybe Mr. LaCompte and council could get together and write this. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- The first step would be to have with a single council member and staff come up with what roles the perspective committee except to apply. Both committees would be advisory in nature and would then send in their recommendation to council with formal action. We'd need to get people together to figure out what the objective of the plan is. We could do that right now. Alderman Glen Jordan- I think that Corey took the ball and ran with this a little bit with the meetings and going out of town and taking his time, I'd like to appoint him as lead. Mayor Jeffers- I'd go with that. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- I'd go with that too. Maybe you and Mr. LaCompte could get a meeting with Lauren and you guys can hammer out... Alderman Glen Jordan- Make sure Williams apart of it. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Yeah, and they can hammer out what the role of the perspective committee be and then we'll move on to step 2 and we'll create the board at the next meeting. Mr. Larry LaCompte- Mr. Mayor, I understood some 3 months back that we had option from the state to get municipal water service in, did I misunderstand that? Mayor Jeffers- It was denied. Mr. LaCompte- When did this happen? Mayor Jeffers- A couple months ago. Alderman Corey Thomas- 2 or 3 months ago, yes sir. Mayor Jeffers- Did I hear a motion to appoint Corey Thomas on a Water Board, right? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Yes. Mayor Jeffers- Any discussion on that? Signify saying Aye for. All- Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- Do you think it would be in our best interest to work towards starting the historical part too? Since we have a lot of stuff going on. Alderman Glen Jordan- That's what I was thinking too, just 'cause we don't have a cemetery, there's other historical, but I thing the Beautification Committee is involved in that. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- What I'd like to say on forming other committees or more committees is that it can't be the same people on them all the time. So let's put out for if there's interest and see if people would. I would love for there to be a historical Committee, I told the Marshall 10 yrs. ago that I wanted to see a museum here, but if we don't have the people then it's gonna be the same people showing up to everything over*

and over and doing all the work. And that's a lot to ask. We need to get other people involved, we need to somehow entice people, and I think that with the Beautification Committee doing the monuments and you guys going out and adopting one we're enticing people to get into the history of Jones Creek and the more people that come and adopt a monument and wanna take care of them then maybe we'll have a little info meeting at a Beautification meeting about the history and how we could fulfill that and then maybe we could splinter off that group rather than have 10 groups that have the same 6 people on it. Alderman Glen Jordan- We've talked about all the properties, some of these properties that's already going to the tank farms, there's stuff out there. There's cisterns and brick cisterns and old stuff There's a lot of stuff that could be preserved if we had access to them. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- We need to contact the state. The state historical society, see if they can help us. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- These concerns is why I suggest we have some kind of committee. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Well honestly, I don't mean to sound crass, but Nobody cared about all that stuff when they decided with the tank farm to let them take it and destroy it. Unless we do it no one else is gonna help us. They already said it was unworthy of being saved. I hate to be blunt but that was what the state and federal government said to us was that our history wasn't worth protecting. Alderman Glen Jordan- We had some ladies come out one time for a meeting out here, I don't remember, A few of us was there, when the tank farms come in, that's something that maybe somebody can reach out to. Mayor Jeffers- They have a meeting once every few weeks, I get an email from them. They've changed names 3 times. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- They're kinda more concerned about Quintana and Surfside and the effects of the water. Marshall Tidwell- I think it's good we're getting on this because we are loosing a lot of stuff and there's a lot of things people have out here. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- One of the things Lauren and I have discussed is the extent that West Columbia has went to, to enhance and interest in the historical and the mayor and the secretary over there are just phenomenal. Laura Jenkins- I would actually be interested in being in the historical committee I minored in History in college, I love history. I would be cool if we went to sister cities and helped each other out and Stephen F. Austin died in West Columbia, but he was buried here in Jones Creek. If we could to things together to promote the rich history that is Jones Creek. And the rick history that basically runs down through highway 36. Alderman Corey Thomas- Do they have regular meetings? Do you know? Laura Jenkins- I don't know. I'd have to talk to Laurie. Laurie Kinncannon. We bonded over china, the dishware, not the Country. She's passionate about preserving our history and I think she would be a good person to visit with and say you've done some amazing things for West Columbia and how can we get started in Jones Creek and what can we do besides reenactment at Stephen F. Austin burial. What do you suggest we do? Marshall Tidwell- Which we plan to do, we haven't do it for about 3 or 4 years, but that's gonna happen again this year. One thing I could tell you also, is if you've never been to the Bryan Museum in Galveston, it's huge, it's about 3 stories. Jones Creek is all over that place. Jones Creek is a big deal and Steven F. Austin's home was here. This was his home. This is where Texas began. Mr. Larry LaCompte- What about the cemetery? Are we still in contact with them? Mayor Jeffers- They just had their family reunion about 2 weeks ago and William (Marshall Tidwell) went to it and they're gonna keep it within the family for now. It might come back to us later, more than likely. Pat LaCompte-Williams- Let me just introduce myself. I grew up in Freeport, but this is my mother's home. I've always been interested in the history of this. While I work a lot of hours (whispers) taking care of him, I would be interested in finding out a schedule that would work with me. I would be very interested in finding out how we can preserve this, because when this area is gone, that's it. The young people in the community do not care. The traffic doesn't pay attention; they don't care, so I may be one of the last generations that cares that originated in on

*this area. This is home But I also know that it made a big difference with the appearance of this community. Mayor Jeffers- What's your name? Pat Lacompte-Williams- It's Pat Lacompte-Williams. Pat Lacompte-Williams- I'm sorry I didn't to overstep, I'm just very interested. I don't know what I can do but I would love to try to help. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- That's wonderful. Mayor Jeffers- will you try to get a hold of Mrs. Kinncannon? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- I would be happy to. Alderman Corey Thomas- I would be interested in doing something to. Mayor Jeffers- We already got 2 people here on the board already. Alderman Corey Thomas- We need to do the letter the lawyer said and that's our first order of business before we can actually do that. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- But if he's on council is it a council member and...Alderman Corey Thomas- I believe there is some issues about voting, anybody can work on it but if there's a vote there's just some regulations we'd have to follow. Alderman Glen Jordan- I think we could set this up without a council. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Whatever she said was incorrect. That was all incorrect...Alderman Corey Thomas- was he wrong? So we cannot sit on another committee where we have to vote? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- He did clarify it. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- I feel like a ping pong ball going back and forth. Mayor Jeffers- Ok lets just move on.*

## **7. NEW BUSINESS.**

**a. Discuss and consider the appointment of a new Mayor Pro Temp.** *Alderman A.J.Jenkins nominates Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty for Mayor Pro Temp. Alderman Corey Thomas seconds. Mayor Jeffers- All in favor say Aye. All- Aye. None opposed.*

**b. Discuss and consider the 2% price increase of the Village's trash service.** *Mayor Jeffers- There's a letter in the packet from Waste connections. They are in their right to increase the 2%. The question is do we want to raise our rates 2%? Alderman Glen Jordan- What is our percentage that were making? I don't think we're making anything off of trash. Besides what it covers the cost of service. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- No, we are making something after. Alderman Glen Jordan- You're talking our rate and stuff like that, right? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- When we did the last contract with them, we looked at different pricing and how much we would make and what the top is and what the garbage was and we started in the middle so we were still making a profit. I think the reason why we weren't making a profit is because the bills weren't getting paid. Now we're getting paid. If they pass on the 2% to us do we have those numbers? What we're being charged? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- I don't have them. I'll have to find out what we're being charged and where to look for our contract. Alderman Glen Jordan- Is this something we have to approve tonight? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- It's already gone through the rate adjustment for June billing. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- So when does Waste Connections come up for contract renewal? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Every 3 years or so I think. Mayor Jeffers- Yes we have 3 years to go out for bids and last time we went out for a bid was about 3 years ago. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- so if they raised their rates within a contract period that's legal for them to do that? Mayor Jeffers- Yes. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- How about we put a call out to see if we can get it done cheaper anywhere? Alderman Glen Jordan- That's the problem. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- What's the other garbage companies? Alderman Corey Thomas- You've got Adams, Waste Connections is this one, Freeport was talking about making there own trash department so I don't know where that is. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- No, but there is another one. Alderman A.J. Jenkins- You've got Waste Management. Mayor Jeffers- The reason Waste Connection's come in cheaper is because they own the dump. Everybody else has to pay them to dump the trash. It's common sense, and that's the reason we went with Waste Connections. Alderman Corey Thomas- We used to have Waste Management. Mayor Jeffers Yeah for years we had them. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- But the were gonna have to charge us*

for shipping it all the way to Alvin. Mayor Jeffers- The question is do we want to absorb this 2%, the Village? Or do we want to go up on our rates 2% to cover the cost? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- I think I need to know more to make that decision. Mayor Jeffers- Lauren, could you get those numbers and bring it to our next meeting? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Yes sir.

c. **Discuss and consider the price increase for the health care benefits for all employees of the Village, and possible other alternative plans.** Mayor Jeffers- We have that in our packet also. I think the general consensus is to keep it about the same as coverages prior. It will cost us a little more, insurance rates go up here. It could be with automobiles and everything else. Rates are going up. Alderman Glen Jordan- I've said this before we need to really get with the county and see, because I know Lake Jackson uses it. Alderman Corey Thomas- You don't get with the county, you get with next level. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- I know it's free to go to the clinic, I don't know if it's a benefit. It's an idea we've talked about before but I think it never got to the floor is to contact them and see if maybe we can call Lake Jackson or just call direct up there to the clinic up there and find out information about that. I know it's a benefit for us because we don't have to pay anything to go to that clinic. Mayor Jeffers- What clinic? Alderman Corey Thomas- The wellness clinic in Angleton behind the juvenile center. Any county employee or city of Lake Jackson employee can use that clinic. And it's a decent clinic. Alderman Glen Jordan- It's another option we can explore. Mayor Jeffers- Do we have a contact with the county? Alderman Corey Thomas- No you don't contact the county, you get with Next Level themselves. We'll look into that tomorrow. We'll try to find a contact. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- It's a benefit to have options. And we can explore that option whether we use is or not. I use it all the time. I don't have to pay this doctor all the time. If you need a specialist then they refer you but it's cheaper there too. Mayor Jeffers- Alright Corey will check into that too. And report back on it next meeting.

d. **Discuss and consider the quotes received for road repair and culvert expenditures.** Alderman Cory Thomas- I was meeting with the county about the driveways on East Stephen F, I don't know if it was lost in between us and Coburns or but we're short 5 pipe. I think they were 24in and 30in. 24ft of 30 and 16ft of 24. We approved this all months ago but to replace the remaining driveways on East Stephen F. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- But we approved a price? Mayor Jeffers- Yes. Alderman Corey Thomas- It was 8 something. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- I know we padded that amount. I think it was 3900? Alderman Corey Thomas- It was 4,400. Was for the 6 driveways on SFA. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- How much is it gonna be? Alderman Corey Thomas- This new (points to price quote on document). Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- So it's gonna cost us double? Alderman Corey Thomas- 2900. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- 2900 plus 880? Alderman Corey Thomas- Where did the 880 come from? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- There's an asphalt bill here Alderman Corey Thomas- Waller County, that's for our cold mix, filling pot holes, so that's a whole different.. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- So that's not apart of this? Alderman Corey Thomas- Technically... Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Still if it cost 4400 for the whole job and now we have to pay another 2930 for some short pipe that doesn't make sense. Alderman Corey Thomas- I don't know if it was on our end but what we ordered is what came in. Alderman A.J.Jenkins. What was ordered we got, but what we wanted we did not get. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- So what we paid for we got? Alderman Cory Jinkins- Yes sir. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- Is there anything we could return and get our money back? Alderman Corey Thomas- No and we're actually using some of our pipe. To do this so we don't have to buy more. Mayor Jeffers- So, it'll still be under 4100 right? Alderman Corey Thomas- Yes we have the quote here for 2930. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Was the correct pipe ordered? So that gives us another problem. We have the wrong pipe. Alderman Corey Thomas- No we have the right. So, what we wanted we did not get but what we ordered we got. Does that make sense? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- So we ordered the wrong pipe? Alderman Corey Thomas- The sizes are right but we didn't get enough of it. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- So we just need

more to fulfill the obligation? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- It's coming out of the grant funds? Mayor Jeffers- Yes. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- I make a motion that we a lot 3000 just in case, its 2930, Oh I'm only padding that 70. I make a motion for 3500 to go towards finally completing the last 6 driveways. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- Seconded. Mayor Jeffers- All in favor say aye. All- Aye. None opposed. Motion Carried.

Alderman Corey Thomas- Waller County Asphalt is stuff we did get a few years back that wasn't store correctly and we lost it, it got wet. This stuff it doesn't matter if it gets wet. Alderman Glen Jordan- As long as it's not the same stuff we got last time. I make a motion that we purchase this. This is to repair the pot holes that we have to . Alderman Corey Thomas- These are 60lb bags. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- They're gonna do the labor right? Alderman Corey Thomas- No maintenance will. He just rips open the bag and fill the hole. Mayor Jeffers- How much is it? Alderman Corey Thomas- 884 which is 65 bags. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- Makes motion to approve the spending. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- seconds motion. Mayor Jeffers- All in favor say aye. All- Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

e. **Discuss and consider implementation of the grant survey.** Alderman Corey Thomas- Is that what this is? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- That is for the tax rates so everybody has a schedule. Mayor Jeffers- When is the Fire Department gonna start going around? Alderman Corey Thomas- As soon as we get the letters out and we start selling tickets, we could get a bunch of survey. Mayor Jeffers- We've only got about 30 printed now. Alderman Corey Thomas- We could do the whole city. There's 750 houses. Mayor Jeffers- They will be available pretty soon, maybe this week. Alderman Corey Thomas- Could you put some out in the front? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Yes. Alderman Core Thomas- And put it on our website? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Our website isn't currently running. I don't know if anybody has tried, but our website has a big red screen. Mayor Jeffers- Lets find out what it's gonna take to get this straightened. Alderman Glen Jordan- And the people at city council can fill those out. We could stay after and fill those out if that helps. If people come in the office also, if they come in and pay a bill. City Secretary Lauren Grayson- yes we could do that.

f. **Discuss and consider tax rates for the upcoming budget year** Alderman A.J.Jenkins- This is something we have to do before we start the budget, right? Mayor Jeffers- Yes, we'll have to let Kristen Bulanek know what maintenance and operations amount are is. Alderman Glen Jordan- Does she make recommendations on that? Mayor Jeffers- She'll come back with 3 alternatives. She always does. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Maintenance and operations is what actual what it costs us to administratively run the city which most of our cost are administrative. So that's a number Lauren will have to get. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- So what do we need to do here? Mayor Jeffers- Maintenance and Operations we can take our current budget and multiply it by the estimated inflation for next year and give her that amount. I think the inflation rate is about 7%. When we approved these drainage and culverts this was not something that was budgeted. We could probably through in another percentage to cover that. Inflate it to maybe 8%. Alderman Glen Jordan- She might give you an idea of how high. Mayor Jeffers- Lauren has talked to her. City Secretary Lauren Grayson- I actually talked to her yesterday she's been out of the office for about a week, she just got the email and let me know if I need any information from other cities just to let her if I needed any other help to just get back to her. Alderman Glen Jordan- Maybe she can give us some guidance on that? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- I think we all need to remember that all of our tax bills were astronomical this year which means were gonna be.. the county taxes are gonna be higher. The home values are higher so whatever our tax rate is right now is less than it's gonna be. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- The home values are going down significantly. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Your taxes didn't go up this year? Alderman A.J.Jenkins- No, the home values are going down. Mayor Jeffers- These taxes are based on a year. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty-



on the 2022 or 2023 what the valuation was they're not gonna take into account that the values are going down. They're going by what's been sent out. Mayor Jeffers- 2020, 2021, 2022 we kept it at 44cents per 100 as it worked out and when they really jumped everybody's price evaluation for this year right now it went down to .3925cents. They inflated it again. And I expect that figure to come down. But as soon as we give them this 8% more than we have budgeted they will be sending us back 3 options. Usually it's an option to raise the amount of revenues, or no new revenue. Mayor Jeffers- this for that she sent out it's for estimated amount too, I don't think it's really holding to it . Alderman Glen Jordan- Is there any action to this. Mayor Jeffers- Lauren just needs to fill it out and get it back to them. City Secretary Lauren Grayson- I just need to make sure that I have all of your correct emails so I put you all on the questionnaire. Mayor Jeffers- So we are in agreement to use last years budget plus 8%? Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Makes a motion to use last years budget and add 8% inflation increase. Alderman Corey Thomas- Seconds motion. Mayor Jeffers- All in favor say aye. All- Aye. None opposed. Motion Carried.

**g. Discuss and consider the possible purchase of new accounting/ payroll software-Incode**

Mayor Jeffers- We now use Encode for the judges department and we found out that Encode is owned by Tyler Technologies, and you see some stuff in your packet on that Tyler Technologies. And Lauren has information on this software program. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- Can you elaborate on this Lauren? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Yes, Just looking into Tyler Technologies, basically they do run a whole city from top to bottom; police department, dispatching, everything. They also have Asset Management, they have an app customers could download and they could report any kind of maintenance or pot holes and it sends an email to our maintenance Department instead of them have to call up here when we are open or come up here. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Is this the one the county uses? Or the sheriffs department uses? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- I don't know about them but Tiffany and I called around to Oyster Creek, Brazoria, Sweeny and West Columbia and they cannot say enough good things and incode. I know for a fact Oyster Creek runs their police department and all their municipal services on it. Judge Beverly Widner- I think ya'll have seen by our past financials in regards to our accounting, Bella does a fantastic job, but it figures it for her and she is accurate to the penny. So it is a phenomenal system for us. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- So what's the cost on this? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- I'm still waiting for Tyler Technologies to get back with me on a quote. I did notice on our ARP that we still have \$18,000 left for software upgrades. I was wondering if we could use that money to get us back on incode. Right now I've spent over 15 hours trying to get QuickBooks up and running and we can't get an answer. I keep getting told 72 hours, well that was 21 days ago. And that's desktop and online. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- So we still have the program a year or 2 ago that was brought to us in exactly the same manner, and told it was gonna do everything for us and we never used it. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- It was never compatible with our system. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- So what assurances do we have that it's not gonna be the same. We don't wanna spend another 10k and it just sit there. City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Because this is incode that our court uses. This is what our court is using. Judge Widner- And this is what other cities use. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- And it's compatible with everything we got? And William can use it? Because the other one William was supposed to be able to use it too and he never could use it. Judge Widner- And how it was marketed to us was up to the very final date that Bella and I was supposed to be trained on it was former secretary had to us it was incode. Well guess what, the day of it Bella tells me it is not incode and I called and they told me the same people that had developed the program also worked for incode before. It was gonna be as good, but I said so its not incode and she said no. so she said do you want to do the training and I said no we're through. We have no issues with incode it's a clean cut deal. What I understand, the Marshall has to call to see who lives at what address, and with this they would have access day or night that they can go in and pull up the address and they wouldn't have to call in to

us. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Would they come and do a presentation for us? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- As soon as I hear back from them I will get them to send over information and do a presentation. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- I'll tell you one thing if I approved, my approval of a program that's costs thousands of dollars is gonna be had y'all better not only be using it in the offices. I'm so irritated that we spend thousands of dollars on it and never used it. Mayor Jeffers- A.J. what you're not understanding is that most of that money had not been spent. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- We spent like \$20,000? City Secretary Lauren Grayson- No it was \$6,000. Out of \$24000. Mayor Jeffers- so there's money there allocated for software. Alderman Corey Thomas- before we adjourn can we get an update on accounting. City Secretary Lauren Grayson- Yes. I'll have more for you. Right now with QuickBooks down I'm having to do payroll old-fashioned way. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Have you been able to get the bank statements updated? City Secretary- I called Lisa at Texas Gulf Bank today and I am officially on the account there. I have to get a signature or 2 for South Star and get that paperwork over there in the morning and then I'll be on that one. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- And then you'll be able to get all those bank statements'? Judge Widner- Let's understand this completely, so they'll understand it. Once you're on those accounts, you could put your passwords in and you'll have access; because that has been a nightmare. Alderman Glen Jordan- I hate to say this, but there ought to be some kind of back up system to where someone else could have access besides just you. Not to say your password isn't important but if something happens to you, you quit or God forbid anything happens, somebody has to have access. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Me and Terry both are on the bank account. All we have to do Terry is send an email I believe and we can get our own online accesses to the bank accounts. If anything happens you have it and then I have it as well. Alderman Glen Jordan- Not only to the bank accounts, we need to have access to account, to the software, and all that stuff too. Not us, but certain people. Like I said, again, we'll be in the same situation where we can't get access if something happens we're dead in the water. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- I know we could go to the bank and have them give us online bank access. Marshall Tidwell- Two things, I just got a text July 5<sup>th</sup> Peach Point will be closed down. Second thing is, I've been here probably way too long, I've seen a lot of minutes wrote for the City Council meetings, but if you haven't read the last one, I guarantee if somebody sneezed it's there in those minutes. That was the best minutes I ever seen. Lauren, you're doing a very good job. Alderwoman Nicole Hardesty- Thank you Lauren.

8. **ADJOURNMENT** 7:05pm Alderman Core Thomas- I make a motion to adjourn. Alderman A.J.Jenkins- 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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