

**PROCEEDINGS OF MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF OAK GROVE, LOUISIANA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Town Council of Oak Grove met in regular session on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. Present for the meeting were Council Members Nevels, Rye, Walker and Philley. Council Member Haynes was absent. Mayor Holland presided.

Invocation was led by Council Member Walker.

Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2018 council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Holland stated that he would like to add the following new business to the agenda (A) Resolution for Safe Routes to Schools (B) Resolution of support of Revitalize America Act. Mayor Holland also stated that he would like to suspend the monthly reports from the agenda and move the executive session from item number 19 to item number 7. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rye to approve adding the new items to the agenda and also make the suggested changes to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Walker to approve the financial statements and the January 2018 bills for payment.

At 5:02 P.M. Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to enter into executive session to discuss economic development. The motion passed unanimously.

At 5:20 P.M. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Walker to enter back in to regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Holland announced that at the March 13, 2018 regular council meeting an Ordinance will be introduced authorizing the lease of the Wells Lamont/Industrial Complex to Superior Uniform Group under the terms and conditions that are presently under negotiation. Attorney Lancaster added that at that meeting, there will be a copy of the Ordinance and the lease available at the time it is introduced. Mayor Holland asked the council for approval to make the necessary repairs to the facility with the understanding and documentation that Superior Uniform Group will sign an agreement that they will cover those costs if things do not work out during the negotiation process. He stated that the funds will come out of the economic development fund. Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Walker to approve the Mayor to make the necessary repairs to the facility with the aforementioned understanding. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rye, to authorize the Mayor to negotiate the terms and conditions of the contract and lease with Superior Uniform Group. Council Member Nevels made a motion, Seconded by Council Member Rye to amend his motion to authorize the Mayor to also get an appraisal of the property.

Bosch and Statham presented copies of the 2017 audit report and explained the new agreed upon procedures that are now included in the audit.

Donna Lee with LSU Ag Center introduced herself to the Mayor and Council as the new Horticulturist for West Carroll and East Carroll. She also stated that some of the ladies from DAR had found a cistern on the town's property behind Cook Auction Barn. Some of the ladies with DAR were present at the meeting as well and Ms. Lee stated that they had looked at the property and would like approval to do some demonstration gardens on that property. Council Member Nevels asked if the town owned the property and stated that needed to be looked into before anything was done. Representatives with DAR stated they were just asking for initial approval and they will do all of the investigations required before they go forward with anything. Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Walker to approve the use of the property for demonstration gardens. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council member Rye and unanimously passed, to adopt an Ordinance declaring surplus property no longer needed by the Town of Oak Grove. The Ordinance is recorded in Ordinance book no. 3 on page 154 as Ordinance no 594.

Council Member Philley made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rye to approve budget revision no. 1 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Holland stated that the appraisal of the old water plant property that was purchased from Centruytel was \$15,000.00. He stated that did not mean we had to set the minimum bid at that price. He asked that the council to give their advice on what to set the minimum bid for. He stated that there would be a live auction instead of taking sealed bids. After discussion, the council advised to start the minimum bid at \$8,000.00. Mayor Holland stated that he would like to inform the public that at the March 13, 2018 council meeting the council intends to introduce an Ordinance authorizing the sale of the original water plant property located at the corner of Dave L. Pierce and Noble Street.

Mayor Holland stated that the cemetery is in need of a new lawnmower. Steve Griffin, cemetery maintenance person, stated that the current mower has a lot of hours on it and has needed costly repairs recently. After calling and getting quotes for a new mower, Mr. Griffin received a quote for a grasshopper mower from Farmers Supply Company for \$10,371.90. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rye to approve the purchase of a new mower from Farmers Supply Company for the quote given. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Walker made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rye to purchase speed bumps for Kay Street and Lindsey Street. The motion passed unanimously.

The town received one bid for fire ant treatment of the park and cemetery. The bid was from Red Hall's Pest Control to treat the fire ants once in April and once in September for a total cost of \$1,500.00 for both the park and cemetery. Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Walker to accept the bid from Red Hall's Pest Control.

Mayor Holland stated that he would like the council to approve setting aside one Saturday to encourage citizens to clean up their property. He stated he would like to suspend the burn ordinance for that one day to give citizens a chance to burn leaves and clean up around their property. Mayor Holland stated that he was calling the project "Clean Sweep" and suggested the second Saturday in March. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Walker to approve the second Saturday in March to promote Clean Sweep and suspend the burn ordinance for that day. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Holland stated that Chief Russell had looked at East McIntosh after hearing concerns from the School Superintendent about the sidewalks in that area and school children competing with traffic. The Mayor stated that there is a program called Safe Routes to Schools for this. He asked that the council adopt a resolution allowing him to apply for this grant with a 20% match. Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to adopt a resolution allowing the Mayor to apply for the Safe Routes to Schools Grant with the match amount noted. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rye to adopt a Resolution in support of Congressman Ralph Abraham's Revitalize Rural America Act. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Philley made a motion, seconded by Council Member Walker to adjourn at 5:51 P.M. The motion passed unanimously.

MELLISSA CORLEY, LCMC

ADAM T. HOLLAND, MAYOR