

**PROCEEDINGS OF MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF OAK GROVE, LOUISIANA
TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.**

The Town Council of Oak Grove met in Regular session on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Present for the meeting were Council Members Nevels, Gammill, Walker, Allen and Rye. Mayor Holland presided.

Invocation was led by Council Member Allen.

Council Member Gammill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 regular council meeting and the March 23, 2021 special council meeting. The motion passed by general consent.

Mayor Holland stated that the Town Superintendent and Director of Water Operations were not able to attend the meeting; therefore he would like to strike those reports from the agenda. He also stated that he would like to add the approval to hire a part-time dog catcher/park attendant to the agenda as new business. Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to approve the changes and new business added to the agenda. The motion passed by general consent.

Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to approve the March 2021 financial statements and bills for payment. The motion passed by general consent.

Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to adopt a Resolution to sell property at 908 Gaston Street to Randy W. Ruffin. The motion carried.

Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to advertise a notice of intent to sell the property at 111 North Front Street to Wayne Parker for \$15,000.00 and set a public hearing for May 11, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. to hear objections to the proposed Resolution. The motion carried. Mayor Holland announced that the Resolution would be considered for adoption at the May 11, 2021 meeting.

Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to advertise a notice of intent to sell the old water plant property at Railroad and Noble Street to Jason McDaniel for \$6,000.00 and set a public hearing for May 11, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. to hear objections to the proposed Resolution. The motion carried. Mayor Holland announced that the Resolution would be considered for adoption at the May 11, 2021 meeting.

Council Member Gammill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rye to advertise a notice of intent to sell the property at 917 Dye Street to Moses Craft for \$1,000.00 and set a public hearing for May 11, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. to hear objections to the proposed Resolution. Council Member Nevels stated that he felt as if Mr. Craft should be required to pay any amount due to the Town for property tax and/or clean up expenses in full before being allowed to purchase this property. The motion carried. Mayor Holland announced the Resolution would be considered for adoption at the May 11, 2021 meeting.

Mayor Holland stated that Red Hall had turned in a quote for the treatment of fire ants in the park for \$425.00 and in the cemetery for \$425.00. Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to approve the quotes for both the park and cemetery. The motion carried.

Council Member Walker stated that he had received complaints about people making U-turns on Main Street. The matter was discussed with the Chief Russell, who stated that it is not illegal to make a U-turn unless there are signs prohibiting it and there are no signs on Main Street prohibiting this. No action was taken at the meeting.

Mayor Holland stated that the lights that are the Town's responsibility on Constitution needed to be replaced and that he had received one quote from Lusby's to replace those with LED lights for a charge of \$3,152.00. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to approve purchasing the lights from Lusby's at that price. The motion carried.

The Council Members were given copies of proposed policies pertaining to the water and sewer service and billing. The Council was asked to review the proposed policies and make suggestions for changes. No action was needed at the meeting.

Mayor Holland stated that it is often necessary to call an employee on their personal cell phone in order to reach them both while on the clock and after hours in the case of an emergency. He stated that the town has been paying the full-time police officers a ten dollar per month allowance for their cell phones for several years and he would like to also offer this to the rest of the employees. He stated that he would require each employee to sign saying that they understand that they are to answer their phone when called and that they that by accepting payment for a cell phone allowance, their phone becomes a public record. Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to approve offering a ten dollar per month cell phone allowance to all full time employees and require them to sign an agreement. The motion carried.

Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to approve the Mayor to authorize Robbie Waxman to apply for a DRA grant for improvements to the elevated water tank. The motion carried.

Chief Russell gave his monthly report to the council. Following the Chief's report, Mayor Holland read a letter from Sherriff Mathews thanking the Chief and police officers for their assistance with the recent trial at the court house.

Mayor Holland stated that after accepting applications for the positon of part-time dog catcher/park attendant, he recommended hiring Paul Robert Jones for the position. Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rye to approve hiring Paul Robert Jones as part-time dog catcher/park attendant. The motion carried.

Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rye to adjourn at 5:04 p.m. the motion carried.

MELLISSA CORLEY, LMMC

ADAM T. HOLLAND, MAYOR