

**PROCEEDINGS OF MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF OAK GROVE, LOUISIANA
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.**

The Town Council of Oak Grove met in regular session on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. Present for the meeting were Council Members Nevels, Gammill, Walker and Dunnahoe. Council Member Allen was absent until later in the meeting. Mayor Holland presided.

Invocation was led by Council Member Dunnahoe.

The Town Clerk stated that there had been an error made in the minutes of the October 14, 2021 special meeting. The property belonging to Bradley Harris was incorrectly typed as 215 East Main Street and should have been 102 East Main Street. Council Member Gammill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Dunnahoe to approve the October 12, 2021 minutes and the October 14, 2021 special meeting minutes with the corrections as noted. The motion passed by general consent.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to approve the following new business be added to the agenda: (A) courtyard rental. The motion passed by general consent.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Dunnahoe to approve the October 2021 financials and bills for payment. The motion passed by general consent.

The council was notified that due to a postal error, Bradley Harris did not receive the certified letter notifying him of his right to show cause at this meeting why his building at 102 East Main Street should not be condemned. Council Member Dunnahoe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to reschedule the public hearing to December 14, 2021 to hear why the property should not be condemned. The motion carried.

Attorney Tommy Hayes addressed the council and asked that they adopt an Ordinance to revoke the Vacant Building Ordinance as it is written or adopt a Resolution to forestall the enforcement of the Ordinance until the Town can receive an Attorney General's opinion regarding it. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Walker to introduce an Ordinance to revoke the Vacant Building Ordinance as it is written. Mayor Holland stated that an Ordinance could not be introduced at this meeting because any Ordinance must be presented in typewritten form in order to be introduced. Mayor Holland stated that the Mayor has the right to veto any Ordinance or Resolution. The Mayor added that he would veto any such Ordinance or Resolution and that it would require a special meeting and four votes from the council to override his veto. Council Member Nevels made a motion to request an Attorney General's opinion. Attorney Lancaster advised that an Attorney General's opinion could take six months and if the council wished to either revoke or forestall the enforcement of the Ordinance, it would need to be presented in typewritten form at the next council meeting. No further action was taken.

Council Member Dunnahoe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to accept Ron Hayne's resignation from the Zoning Board. The motion carried.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Dunnahoe to renew the contract with Ouachita Meter Reading Service. The motion carried.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to approve a quote from Steve's Striping Service to stripe the parking lot and employee parking at City Hall for \$760.00. The motion carried.

Council Member Allen entered the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Chief Russell stated that the Police Department is now required to have an advanced firewall protection in order to be in compliance. Infinite Concepts provided a quote for the required device and installation. The quote was for \$1,411.00. Council Member Dunnahoe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to approve the quote from Infinite Concepts. The motion carried.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to authorize the Mayor to apply for a \$480,000 DEQ loan pre-application for sewer line replacement. The motion carried.

Chief Russell stated that due to the Police Department being short-staffed, two officers and Assistant Chief Porter would not be able to take all of their earned vacation and personal time. He stated that there is a policy currently in place that allows officers to be reimbursed for up to forty hours of vacation time only in December, however, these officers have more hours than that policy allows. Chief Russell requested that the council approve a one-time payment for any hours of unused leave these officers have remaining. The Chief stated that he had more hours as well, but was not requesting for himself. Council Member Dunnahoe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to approve the one-time payment for any hours of unused leave that these officers as well as Chief Russell have remaining. The motion carried.

Chief Russell gave his monthly report to the council.

Superintendent Colquette gave his monthly report to the council.

Director of Water Operations Moody gave his monthly report to the council.

Mayor Holland stated that a restaurant owner has approached him about leasing the downtown courtyard during the Lent and crawfish season. The Mayor stated that he would like to hear the council's thoughts on the matter and asked for approval to advertise the intent to lease. Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to take the matter under advisement. The motion carried.

Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to adjourn at 5:02 p.m. The motion carried.

MELLISSA CORLEY, LMMC

ADAM T. HOLLAND, MAYOR