

**PROCEEDINGS OF MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TOWN OF OAK GROVE, LOUISIANA  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Town Council of Oak Grove met in regular session on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. Present for the meeting were Council Members Nevels, Gammill, Walker, Allen and Rye. Mayor Holland presided.

Invocation was led by Council Member Nevels.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2018 council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to approve the August 2018 financials and bills for payment. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to adopt an Ordinance to increase water rates. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Gammill, Walker and Rye. Council Member Nevels was opposed. The motion passed. The Ordinance was recorded in Ordinance Book No. 3, page 158 as Ordinance No.598.

Mayor Holland stated that the house located at 1005 West Main Street owned by Rodrigo and Myriam Munoz had been torn down and clean-up had begun. He recommended that the council table the condemnation to the next meeting. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to table the condemnation of this property to the October meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Nevels made a motion to condemn the property located at 608 Beale Street (Elbert Ray Copes Estate) and allow the owners 30 days to tear down the house and clean up the property. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to condemn the property at located 1014 Lindsey Street (Annis W. Montgomery Estate) and allow the owners 30 days to tear down the house and clean up the property. The motion passed unanimously.

Wanda Foust with the American Red Cross spoke to the council concerning volunteerism. She left information that is available to the public at city hall.

Mayor Holland stated that he and Council Member Gammill had met with Marios Papadopoulos to discuss the decisions that were made regarding the Town's contract with AWWM at the last council meeting. The Mayor asked that the Council extend the termination date of the contract for the wastewater treatment facility from October 1, 2018 to November 1, 2018. He stated that at the next meeting he would bring a new contract before the council and Mr. Papadopoulos. Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to extend the termination date of the contract for the wastewater treatment facility from October 1, 2018 to November 1, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to introduce an ordinance to amend and replace Ordinance 532 (Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance) and set a public hearing for October 4, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Allen stated that AirEvac had met with the ambulance service and discussed a parish wide membership. He stated that he felt that the town should wait to make a decision about membership for the town employees until the ambulance service had decided what they were going to do. Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to table the discussion to the November meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Holland stated that the West Carroll Chamber of Commerce had been raising funds to purchase a handicap assessable swing for the town park. He stated that the West Carroll Chamber of Commerce had received donations totaling \$2,511.00. The Mayor asked that the council approve him to spend up to \$500 to finish paying for the swing. Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to approve spending up to \$500 to finish

paying for the swing. Voting in favor were Council Members Gammill, Walker, Allen and Rye. Council Member Nevels abstained due to being a member of the West Carroll Chamber of Commerce. The motion passed.

In giving his monthly report, Chief of Police Russell stated that the police department had been taking applications for a police officer. He stated that he recommended moving Jamie Philley from part-time to full-time to fill that position and have him work the swing shift. Council Member Nevels made a motion seconded by Council Member Allen to move Jamie Philley from part-time to full-time. Voting in favor were Council Members Nevels, Gammill, Walker and Allen. Council Member Rye abstained. The motion passed.

Chief Russell stated that every officer is required to twenty hours of continuing education each year. He stated that he has found a company called Virtual Academy that will enable the officers to get the required training at a cost of about \$500.00 per year. This cost is in the budget, therefore does not require action of the council.

Chief Russell stated that he had been researching delinquent fines. He stated that he, the Mayor, Clerk, Police Clerk and Water Clerk had recently met with American Municipal Services (AMS) about collecting these overdue fines as well as overdue water bills. He stated that there are several municipalities in our area that are using this company. He stated that it is at no cost to the town for this company to go back as far as ten years to attempt to collect overdue fines and water bills. The Mayor stated that there is no action to be taken at this time to get started with the company to collect delinquent fines. He stated that there may be something that will have to be voted on later in order to have them collect overdue water bills.

Chief Russell stated that he had an officer that has expressed interest in working some undercover narcotics. The Chief asked that the council approve twelve hours of overtime per month for any officer that is interested in working some undercover narcotics. He stated that the police department has been responsible for 23 prosecutable narcotics violations on 12 different people in less than a year. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to approve 12 hours of overtime in one month for officers to work outside of their regular shift for this purpose. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Superintendent Colquette gave his monthly report.

Byron Lewis with the Water/Sewer Department and Greg Thompson with AWWM gave reports for the water and sewer departments.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Walker to enter into executive session at 5:41 P.M. to discuss possible litigation. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to reenter into regular session at 5:47 P.M. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss at 5:50 P.M. the meeting adjourned.

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MELLISSA CORLEY, LCMC

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ADAM T. HOLLAND, MAYOR