

**PROCEEDINGS OF MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TOWN OF OAK GROVE, LOUISIANA  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.**

The Town Council of Oak Grove met in regular session on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall. Present for the meeting were Council Members Nevels, Gammill, Walker and Allen. Mayor Holland presided.

Invocation was led by Council Member Allen.

Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Walker to approve minutes of the July 13, 2021 council meeting. The motion passed by general consent.

Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to approve the following new business to be added to the agenda: (A) adopt Citizen Participation Plan for LCDBG grant. The motion passed by general consent.

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

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill and unanimously passed to adopt an Ordinance declaring surplus property no longer needed by the Town of Oak Grove and authorizing the sale of surplus property to the highest bidder of sealed bids. This Ordinance was recorded in Ordinance Book No. 3, page 178, as Ordinance No. 611.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen and unanimously passed to adopt an Ordinance amending and supplementing chapters 4 and 8 of the Town's Code of Ordinances. The Ordinance was recorded in Ordinance Book No. 3, page 179, as Ordinance No. 612.

Mayor Holland stated that he was appointing Robin Dunnahoe to fill the council position left vacant due to the resignation of Council Member Rye. Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to approve the appointment of Robin Dunnahoe as Council Member. The motion carried.

Robin Dunnahoe submitted his resignation as Zoning Board Member to the council. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to accept the resignation. The motion carried.

Attorney Lancaster opened sealed bids for surplus immovable property at 917 Gaston Street. The bids were as follows: Tijuanna Clark and Maurice Brown III - \$3,009.99; Oreatha Hearn - \$2,750.00; Shenona Glass - \$2,700.00; Jharon Toston - \$5,000.00. Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to accept the highest bid of \$5,000.00 from Jharon Toston. The motion carried.

Attorney Lancaster opened sealed bids for surplus immovable property at 908 Gaston Street. The bids were as follows: Jharon Toston - \$2,500.00; Dorothy Moore - \$1,100.00; Tijuanna Clark and Maurice Brown III - \$1,106.00. Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to accept the highest bid of \$2,500.00 from Jharon Toston. The motion carried.

Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to approve amendments to the Covid Policy. The motion carried.

Mayor Holland announced that the Town will adopt millages at the September 14, 2021 council meeting.

Mayor Holland stated that he had requested quotes to have a tree cut down on North Street and a cedar tree cut down in the cemetery along with cutting and removing dead limbs from live oak trees in the cemetery. For the tree on North Street, Jacob Harrison submitted a quote of \$900.00 and Johnathan Bolton submitted a quote of \$400.00. For the tree and dead limbs in the cemetery, Jacob Harrison submitted a quote of \$1,800.00 and Johnathan Bolton submitted a quote for

\$1,600. Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to accept the lower quotes from Johnathan Bolton for the tree on North Street as well as the tree and limbs in the cemetery. The motion carried.

Mayor Holland stated that Representative Thompson had a line item appropriation in HB1 that will be paid to the Town of Oak Grove in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the Lingo Center for them to begin the process of purchasing a generator to use in emergency circumstances. He stated the funds are a pass-through that needed a public body to run through. The Mayor asked for the council to authorize him to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Directors of the Lingo Center for this project. Attorney Lancaster explained that the purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is because there are plans and reports that are required to be submitted in order to receive the funds, therefore there needs to be something in writing that the Lingo Center agrees that they will be responsible for all plans and reports that are required. Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to authorize the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Directors at the Lingo Center for these funds. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Holland stated that there was also a line item appropriation in HB516 that will be paid to the Town of Oak Grove in the amount of \$50,000.00 to be split between the Town for water/sewer infrastructure and the West Carroll Chamber of Commerce for theatre repairs. He stated that a Memorandum of Understanding is required for this as well and he thinks that the wording should be added to say “not to exceed a 50/50 split on the Chamber of Commerce side so that if the quote for repairs is less than that, the money would revert back to the water/sewer. The Mayor did disclose that the funds to the Chamber were for air conditioning at the Fiske Theatre. Council Member Nevels asked if this would be in writing that the theatre is ran by the Mayor and his family. Attorney Lancaster explained that that information is required to be disclosed and would be in writing. He also recommended that someone other than the Mayor, such as the Mayor Pro Tem sign the Memorandum of Understanding. Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to authorize the Town to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the West Carroll Chamber of commerce for these funds. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Holland explained the different funding opportunities available to the town through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He explained that the first round of funding that the town will automatically be getting soon from ARPA can be used for water, sewer, broadband or small business recovery and asked that each council member come by his office over the next month to sit down and discuss their ideas and come up with a plan for those funds to benefit our community in general. The Mayor stated that the town would also be receiving \$330,000.00 in Capital Outlay funds to paint the outside of the elevated water tank. Mayor Holland asked Jatinder Goel with MB Designs Consultants to talk about the Water Sector Program and the application process for a grant in the amount of five million dollars to replace water lines. Mr. Goel stated that if the town submitted an application for this grant and is approved, the town would be required to put up a 1.25 million dollar match in order to receive the funds. Mayor Holland asked that the council commit to Jatinder Goel with MB Designs Consultants to allow him to submit an application on behalf of the town. It was discussed that if the town were to be awarded this grant, plans on how to come up with the money for the match could be discussed at that point. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to commit to Jatinder Goel to allow him to submit an application for Water Sector funding. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Holland stated that a Resolution would need to be adopted at the next month’s meeting.

A group of downtown merchants were in attendance at the meeting to make the council aware of their concerns about the vacant buildings in the Historic District. Rebecca Elliott spoke on behalf of these merchants and read a letter asking the council to introduce and pass a Vacant Building Ordinance for the Historic District. Mayor Holland asked Council Member Allen and newly appointed Council Member Dunnahoe to sit down and make suggestions to present to the Town Attorney in order to have an Ordinance to introduce at the next council meeting.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Walker to introduce an Ordinance adding fines for possession of less than 14 grams of marijuana and set a public hearing for the proposed Ordinance for September 14, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief of Police Lewis gave his monthly report to the council.

Superintendent Colquette gave his monthly report to the council.

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

Council Member Gammill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to adopt a Citizen Participation Plan that is required as part of the LCDBG grant application. The motion passed unanimously.

At 5:41 p.m., Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

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MELLISSA CORLEY, LMMC

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ADAM T. HOLLAND, MAYOR