

**PROCEEDINGS OF MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF OAK GROVE, LOUISIANA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020 – 4:30 P.M.**

The Town Council of Oak Grove met in regular session on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the council chambers at city hall. Present for the meeting were Council Members Nevels, Gammill, Walker, Allen and Rye. Mayor Holland presided.

Invocation was led by Council Member Gammill.

Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2020 regular council meeting and the September 1, 2020 special council meeting. The motion passed by general consent.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to add the following new business to the agenda: (A) sewer issues on Old Kilbourne Rd. South. The motion passed by general consent.

Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to approve the September 2020 financial statements and bills for payment. The motion passed by general consent.

Mayor Holland opened sealed bids for surplus property. There was one bid for the 2007 Ford Crown Vic. The bid was from Santonial Rice in the amount of \$1,300.00. Council Member Walker made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to accept this bid. The motion carried.

Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to approve a rental agreement for for-profit rentals of the Downtown Courtyard. The motion carried.

Mayor Holland stated that the concrete between the park pavilion and bathrooms was uneven and a trip hazard. The Mayor stated that he had contacted Chester Dixon for a quote to remove and replace the concrete in that area. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to take the matter under advisement and bring it back up at the November meeting. The motion carried.

Mayor Holland informed the council that he had been notified that the town has Tier 2 water violations. The Mayor briefly explained the reason for the violations and that there was no need for concern and that the water was safe.

Mayor Holland stated that he had been contacted by the board at Mary Biggs about the possibility of leasing a portion of land in the Industrial Park from the Town in order to build a new school. There was no one from Mary Biggs in attendance at the meeting and the Town Attorney was not at the meeting. No action was taken.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to adopt a Resolution to transfer a 2009 Ford truck from the water department to the street department. The motion carried.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Walker to approve a Hazard Pay Policy for police. The motion carried.

Chief Russell gave his monthly report to the council. He also informed the council that Michael Murphy had turned in his resignation and that the police department had begun taking applications.

The Town Superintendent and Director of Water Operations were not in attendance at the meeting. Mayor Holland gave an update for both departments.

The following resolution was offered by Council Member Walker and seconded by Council Member Nevels:

A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF OAK GROVE

TO NAME A STREET IN HONOR OF J.T. AND HELEN MARTIN

WHEREAS, J.T. Martin Sr. and Helen Hornsby Martin have been life-long residents of Oak Grove, LA. Their lives epitomized servant leadership and civic engagement. GOD fearing, patriotic, selfless service - these are the values they instilled in their eleven children, and in the exemplary life they lived before us all.

WHEREAS, J.T. Martin Sr., the son of a sharecropper, who lost his leg in a horrible accident before his second birthday, vaulted over his destiny and handicap, hitch-hiked to Grambling and became the first person in his family to attend and finish college. He taught 30 years in the West Carroll Parish School system and served 4 terms on the West Carroll Parish School Board, including multiple tenures as President of the Board. He selflessly served on the board of the Mary Biggs Center and served as Superintendent of Sunday School at Church Street Church of God. Mr. Martin was a fixture in the Oak Grove community as a towering figure of fairness who served others with humility and dignity.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Helen Hornsby Martin: Mother, devoted wife, community leader, and stalwart Minister of the Gospel, served the Oak Grove community with absolute honor and distinction. While rearing eleven children, she selflessly served as PTA President for 7 consecutive years at Combs McIntyre High School; she served with great distinction for the state of Louisiana in the Office of Family Services and in 1992 was recognized by the state, being awarded the prestigious Charles Dunbar Award - an award that epitomized excellence and outstanding service. A life-long volunteer in the community, in 1991 she received presidential recognition, a "Thousand Points of Light" award winner for her outstanding volunteer contributions to the community. She exemplified devotion to duty in service on the Boards of the Council on Aging, Chamber of Commerce, and the Mary Biggs Center. In over 60 years of membership at Church Street Church of God she held every office in the Church except Pastor, providing meritorious service beyond the call of duty. For 46 years Mrs. Martin served the community as a volunteer correspondent for the West Carroll Gazette, compiling well over 2,000 columns; she informed and educated us, and exhorted us to be our best!"

WHEREAS, these two outstanding citizens spent a lifetime epitomizing the ideals of community first, selfless service. They lived through the Great Depression, War, Civil Unrest and Poverty, but with God illuminating their way, they exhibited the strong-willed character which set an example for their children and earned them the respect of this entire community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Town Council and the Mayor of the Town of Oak Grove do hereby resolve that the 200th block of East Jefferson Street, Oak Grove, Louisiana shall forevermore be named "Martin Way" in honor of two of the greatest citizens our town has ever produced so that generations to come will understand that character counts and one can accomplish anything girded by a strong faith and commitment to excellence.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS:	5
NAYS:	0
ABSENT:	0

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 13th day of October, 2020.

Adam T. Holland, Mayor

Attest:

Mellissa Corley, Clerk

Mrs. Barbara Russell addressed the council concerning sewer issues that she and others in her area are experiencing every time that it rains. After discussing the issue and possible solutions, the council and Mayor agreed to contact Chris Patrick with Denmon Engineering to study the problem and suggest a solution at the November council meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

MELLISSA CORLEY, LCMC

ADAM T. HOLLAND, MAYOR