

**PROCEEDINGS OF MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF OAK GROVE, LOUISIANA
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.**

The Town Council of Oak Grove met in regular session on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall. Present for the meeting were Council Members Nevels, Gammill, Walker and Dunnahoe. Council Member Allen was absent. Mayor Holland presided.

Invocation was led by Council Member Walker.

During the public comment period Dewayne Miles and Bobby Dettenhaim addressed the council to voice their opposition to the proposed Ordinance amending Ordinance 558 to establish a registration program for vacant buildings in the Historic District. Margaret Bennett addressed the council to speak in favor of this proposed Ordinance.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Dunnahoe to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2021 council meeting. The motion passed by general consent.

Council Member Walker made a motion seconded by Council Member Gammill to approve the following new business to be added to the agenda: (A) authorize the Mayor to get quotes for the demolition of the two structures at 111 North Front; (B) executive session to discuss economic development. The motion passed by general consent.

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

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to adopt the 2021 millage rates. Voting in favor were Council Members Nevels, Gammill, Walker and Dunnahoe. Council Member Allen was absent and not voting. The motion passed.

There were no bids received for the materials of the wood frame structure at 111 North Front Street. No action was required.

There were no bids received for the materials of the metal structure at 111 North Front Street. No action was required.

Council Member Walker made a motion, seconded by Council Member Dunnahoe to adopt an Ordinance adding fines for possession of less than 14 grams of marijuana. Voting in favor were Council Members Nevels, Gammill, Walker and Dunnahoe. Council Member Allen was absent and not voting. The Ordinance passed. The Ordinance was recorded in Ordinance Book No. 4, page 1 as Ordinance No. 613.

Red Hall Pest Control submitted a bid to spray the cemetery and the park for fire ants in the month of September. The bid was \$425.00 for the cemetery and \$425.00 for the park. Council Member Dunnahoe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Walker to accept the bid from Red Hall Pest Control. The motion carried.

Council Member Nevels asked questions pertaining to the proposed introduction of an Ordinance amending Ordinance 558 to establish a registration program for vacant buildings in the Historic District. Council Member Walker asked Attorney Lancaster about the legality of the Ordinance. Attorney Lancaster stated that the Ordinance could legally be adopted. Council Member Dunnahoe asked if there were any owners of these vacant buildings in attendance that could explain why they would not want to lease the building to make money on it or provide someone a chance to bring a business in. Faye Ragus stated that she had been trying to lease her building but when she did lease it, that person damaged the roof and caused it to leak. She stated that she has had offers to buy it, but not for the price that she is wanting. Joann Patton stated that she had tried twice to let someone use her building rent free with the agreement that they would fix the roof and the building and that both times the person took everything out of the building, left her with a high utility bill and did not fix anything. After several comments were made by members of the public in attendance, Mayor Holland asked if there was a motion to introduce the Ordinance so that it could be discussed in October. Council Member Dunnahoe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill, to introduce the Ordinance so that it can be discussed at a public hearing at the October council meeting before being voted on during the regular meeting. Council Member Walker stated he would like to compare the proposed Ordinance with the current Historic District Ordinance and discuss it so that they can try to get it worked out for everyone. Mayor Holland stated that over the next month, if more than one council member has anything they want changed, it can be done. The Mayor also stated that it would be changed to only include those buildings in the Historic District. Voting for the motion were Council Members Dunnahoe, Gammill and Walker. Council

Member Nevels voted against the motion. The motion passed. A public hearing will be held on October 12, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

The Town Clerk asked that the council consider purchasing smart locks and security cameras along with internet to necessary to operate the locks and cameras for the Legion Hut. The Clerk provided the council with cost estimates to add these features and asked that the council also consider increasing the current rental fee from \$125.00 to \$150.00 in order to help offset the cost of the monthly internet and the purchase of the locks and cameras. Council Member Dunnahoe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to approve the purchase of smart locks, security cameras and internet for the Legion Hut and also increase the rental fee to \$150.00. The motion carried.

Mayor Holland stated the proposed Ordinance to increase the salary of the Mayor and Council needed clarification on what regular daily office hours at City Hall would be. He stated that he would be acceptable with thirty hours a week. It was noted that any pay increase that would be voted on would not take effect until July 1, 2022 when the new term begins. Council Member Dunnahoe made a motion to introduce the Ordinance and moved to amend by striking Section 1 (the increase of the council salaries). The motion was seconded by Council Member Gammill. Voting for the motion were Council Members Dunnahoe and Gammill. Voting against the motion were Council Members Walker and Nevels. With Council Member Allen being absent and not voting, there was a tie vote. The Mayor, as the Chair voted yes. The motion carried. A public hearing will be held on October 12, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Council Member Walker made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to authorize the Mayor to request \$250,000.00 from the West Carroll Parish Police Jury ARPA funding in order to purchase automatic water meters. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Russell reported during his monthly report that David McAlpin and Malcom Miles have resigned and the police department is short staffed. The Chief stated that he has advertised for the positions and would like to interview and hire someone soon for those positions. He stated that Deputy Pedro Sanchez with the West Carroll Sheriff's Office has agreed to work part-time in order to help out. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Walker to accept the resignations of Officers McAlpin and Miles and approve hiring Pedro Sanchez as a part-time officer. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Colquette gave his monthly report to the council.

Water Superintendent Moody gave his monthly report to the council.

Council Member Gammill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Dunnahoe to authorize the Mayor to get quotes for demolition of the two structures at 111 North Constitution. The motion carried.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to enter into executive session at 5:33 p.m. to discuss economic development. The motion carried.

Council Member Walker left the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

At 5:42 p.m. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to enter back into regular session. The motion carried.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to approve the Mayor to get an appraisal of the Industrial Building as required for the current EDA grant application. The motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, Council Member Dunnahoe made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to adjourn at 5:42 p.m. The motion carried.

MELLISSA CORLEY, LMMC

ADAM T. HOLLAND, MAYOR