

TOWN OF MANY
January 18, 2022
Regular Session

The Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Many met in regular session, Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 5:00 P.M. at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Robert H. Hable, Jr, Councilwomen Cherry Williams, Anita Darwin, and Mary Perry. Also present were Amie Brown, Town Clerk, Airport Manager Lee Woods, Town Attorney Chris Sylvia, Grant Writer Suzanne Williams, Wastewater, Josh Darden, Suzanne Ammons, Police Chief Cheryl Wooley Street, Jeremy Wilkerson. Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Bobbie Jackson and, Mary Brocato.

Mayor Robert Hable called the meeting to order. Prayer was offered by Mary Perry, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Hable.

Agenda Amended: 1. Introduce Ordinance # 1 of 2022-Community Service Sentencing Guidance. Motion by Perry; second by Williams. Vote unanimous. 2. Change the name of officer to be hired from Marshall Evans, Jr., to James Greg Young, Jr.

Minutes: Minutes for 12/28/2021, regular session was approved. Motion by Perry; second by Williams. Vote unanimous.

Public Comment: none

Guests: Corwin Washington (will speak under Wastewater in New Business); Representative Rodney Schamerhorn, Crystal Hable, Dean & Debbie Crittenden.

Old Business: Alcohol permit for Brookshire Brothers-tabled until next meeting awaiting opinion from Attorney General's office, or until opinion comes. Motion by Darwin; second by Perry. Vote unanimous.

New Business:

1. **A.** Introduce Ordinance # 1 of 2022- to amend the Code of Ordinances for the Town of Many, Louisiana of Criminal Code Chapter 12, Article 1 in General, section 12-1. Persons issued fines for violations can perform community service, each one hour will remove \$16 from the fine. They will concentrate on cleaning up litter around town. Motion by, Darwin second by Perry. Vote unanimous.
1. **B.** Amend Resolution # 12 of 2021, Love LA Outdoors Grant, adding that the Town of Many will use its own staff for Administering the Grant. Motion by Perry, Second by Williams. Vote unanimous.
2. Renew Employee Medical, Dental & vision Insurance, without changes from last year. Town pays 75% of employed medical and 100% of employees Dental but not Vision or families. Motion by Perry; second by Williams. Vote unanimous.
3. **REPORTS-**
 - A-Budget-Tabled until next meeting as they were not completed in time for this one.
 - B. Payables-we spent \$32,000 of ARPA funds to install an ungraded SCADA system at the water plant that will save on communication expenses, going from \$ 5000 per month to \$20 per month.
 - C. Bank Statements-all checking accounts total \$2,261,653.59 ME Dec 31, 2021; Saving accounts total \$ 180,765.14.
 - D. Overtime Reports-July -Dec 2021 \$ 83,215.98
 - E. Verification of Taxes paid
 - F. Verification of Insurance paidReports were accepted as presented with motion by Darwin, second by Perry. Vote unanimous.
4. **Chief's Report.** Written report in packet. One officer in POST, Dr. Holder, another officer, Wiley, will go in May. Overtime on New Year's Eve which will be reimbursed by SPA with grant money for party patrols. Officer Bridges last day was 12-31-21; he went to SPSO. Officer Ben Shaw is our new SRO, his salary will be reimbursed quarterly from LCLE grant, 1 year grant initially with possible 2-year extension. POST certified officer Katie Charest went from PT to FT and is working noon to midnight to cover Detective duties during the night. Been having frequent issues with Epic Touch phone and internet, but they are

January 18, 2022
Regular Session

working on it. Recommend hiring Officer James Young, Jr. as a patrol recruit making \$15.75/hr. to start; going to POST within this calendar year. I have talked to several people who would like to see a Code Enforcement Officer to write tickets for un-mowed yards, fire hazards, junk cars, etc. There is a 2-week school they can attend to become certified in that and I think it's something that may help the Town deal with work orders on cleaning up yards, cars, etc. Need to have an exploratory group to investigate this further. Motion by Perry, second by Darwin. Vote unanimous.

5. **Sales Tax Report:** Increase of 4.10 % over December 2020; Dec 2021 sales tax revenue was \$135,106.70 and Dec 2020 was \$129,790.24. Hable stated he would be attending his first Sales & Use Tax meeting this Thursday as Many's representative.
6. **Tourism Report:** Alderwoman Jackson absent- No report.
7. **Cultural District & Historical Committee Report:** Hable stated he planned on meeting with the group but was sick, so he asked Suzanne to get the people together. Suzanne went over highlights of meeting: 23 people showed and 19 others were invited but couldn't make it. The purpose was to inquire what the residents wanted to see for our Cultural & Historic district moving forward; many ideas were discussed and the group decided to meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at City Hall at 5:30 pm. The next meeting is February 17th. Discussed how to "brand" our town, such as Natchitoches being "the city of lights" and Zwolle with the Tamale Festival. Suzanne gave the group 3 choices for areas of service: Cultural, Historical, and/or Main Street Application. There is no Committee Leader for this group yet. Hable said he saw good feedback on FB regarding musical ideas from country, hip-hop, blues, gospel. The Sabine Drama Club will be having auditions on 2-11-22, with Mon, Tue, Thurs practice schedule from 5:30-8pm at the Sabine Theater. Possible "soft opening" for students on the Thursday before the show opens on April 29 at 7 pm and May 1 at 2 pm. Flashback rescheduled for July 30 from 7-9 pm. Other groups will be scheduled to comply with the grant from the Regional Arts Council from last year. Hable encouraged Council to attend the next meeting. He also stated that the museum project would continue as planned with the No Man's Land and train room exhibits. Looking for information on the deceased son and father that were brought home at the KCS depot in the war, but not sure of which one.
8. **Fire Board Report:** Mayor Hable reported that Central District rating for the town of Many will begin in April. Fire hydrants have been rehabbed and hopefully we can move from a 6 to a 5 to lesson property insurance cost.
9. **Airport:** Airport Manager Lee Woods reported the ongoing work on airport runway. FAA representative will be there in the morning for inspection @ 8:30. Fence should be done in June and road should be overlaid before June.
10. **Zoning:** Town Clerk Amie Brown reported that Scott Viator to place a 1,008 Sq Ft house on an empty lot at 765 Ponder Street. All of the specs and drawings are in the board packet. No opposition to zoning recommendation. Motion by Williams; second by Darwin. Vote unanimous.
11. **Grant Report:** Suzanne Williams provided a written report and verbally under # 6 on Agenda. She added that the LLOP grant was submitted on time, and engineering costs were paid by the hospital as an in-kind donation on the grant. Main Street's Lagniappe program is an 18-month maximum process but can be done sooner. Requested help from Chamber and Tourism Commission with application. LLOP grant requested new restrooms at the ballparks. Hable said Dixie Youth and others will help do a general clean up before ball season. Williams stated there would be at least 100 per night during practice and games. Porta-potties would be put out until restrooms can be rebuilt as restrooms need to be condemned.
12. **Streets:** Street Supervisor Jeremy Wilkerson stated they have been side-arming the back streets, picking up trash, not too much mowing, but having issues with people putting metal trash on the curb that the town cannot pick up along with mattresses. Electrical was approved at the barn, waiting on Justin the fire marshal to come out and do final inspection granting permanent access.

January 18, 2022
Regular Session

13. Animal Control: Street Supervisor Jeremy Wilkerson stated they have caught 3 dogs and 3 cats, with some that had just escaped their gates; returned to owners.

14. & 15. Water & Sewer combined: Supervisor Josh Darden reported that meters are being read; worked on a leak at Texas Hwy. today; jetting a sewer today on Fisher Road; replaced piping at Patrick Lane well. Paint will be secured this week for painting of the water intake and wellhead piping to clear citations on Sanitary Survey; grease trap inspections are ongoing; getting drying beds hauled out; sent quarterly update on I & I issues to DEQ; We need to notify residents who have not yet complied to smoke testing issues on their side that needs fixed. They were given pictures with the letters and time line to fix them. Corwin (Sewer consultant) is going to help with manholes that need repaired. They will put together a list of what needs to fixed. Hable stated Corwin Washington is employed by the city of New Orleans but is our consultant on sewer issues since 2016, and gave Corwin a chance to speak. He said that for the past couple years there have been sewer issues that need to be addressed and he has seen first hand what we need; he gave a written proposal for sanitary surveys and emergency response plan.

16. Garbage: Mayor Hable reported all is fine in this department.

17. Remarks from Council Members: **Perry:** Nothing. **Darwin:** personal thanks to Suzanne Williams for getting SWEPCO lights fixed, nothing yet from CLECO. Same lights from last month are still out. Hable will call Tripp Dugan tomorrow. **Williams:** Also having problems getting CLECO lights fixed. Chris Sylvia is to follow up with travel trailer at residence that was discussed last month.

Next scheduled Regular Council Meeting is on February 15, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:03P.M. was made by Darwin, second by Williams. Vote unanimous.

ROBERT H. HABLE, JR., MAYOR

AMIE BROWN, TOWN CLERK