

CITY OF WINNFIELD  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 12, 2020

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was called to order at 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 by Mayor George Moss. Those present in addition to Mayor Moss were Councilpersons Holden, Junkin, Miller, Hamms, and Phillips, Katina Smith, City Clerk, and Herman Castete City Attorney.

**INVOCATION**

Councilperson Matt Miller

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

**1. Add New Business Action Item #3- Blighted Properties- Phillips**

On motion by Councilperson Phillips duly seconded by Councilperson Miller, the Council after no discussion or no public comment unanimously voted to amend the agenda.

Yeas: 5 (Hamms, Holden, Phillips, Miller, Junkin)

Nays: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: 0

On motion by Councilperson Miller duly seconded by Councilperson Holden, the Council after no discussion or no public comment unanimously voted to accept the agendas amended.

Yeas: 5 (Hamms, Holden, Phillips, Miller, Junkin)

Nays: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: 0

**Guest and Audience Participation**

None

**Old Business- Action Items**

None

**Old Business- Non-Action Items**

Item #1-Update on Traffic lights on Main Street-Mayor

Mayor Moss states

**New Business-Action Items**

**Item #1- Accept Minutes from the April 22, 2020 Special meeting- Mayor**

On motion by Councilperson Junkin, duly seconded by Councilperson Miller, after no discussion or no public comment, the minutes from April 22, 2020 were approved by unanimous vote.

Yeas: 5 (Hamms, Holden, Phillips, Miller, Junkin)

Nays: 0

0Abstained: 0

Absent: 0

### **Item #2- Accept Minutes from the April 14,2020 Regular meeting- Mayor**

On motion by Councilperson Junkin, duly seconded by Councilperson Miller, after no discussion or no public comment, the minutes from April 14, 2020 were approved by unanimous vote.

Yeas: 5 (Hamms, Holden, Phillips, Miller, Junkin)

Nays: 0

0Abstained: 0

Absent: 0

### **NEW BUSINESS, NON-ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Item #1- Discuss Utility Bill grace period during covid-19- Mayor**

Mayor Moss stated that every citizen needs to pay any past due and current balances of utility bills, because he is anticipating utility cutoff in June and he is working on getting some relief from a state federal agency to assist those that are having hardship.

Councilperson Junkin stated that citizens need to begin to pay utility accounts current by making payments. We do not want the people to think that this free electricity still must pay Lepa and that we are asking that citizens to bring accounts current.

Councilperson Holden ask can citizens began to make payments to bring utility accounts current and people have not received stimulus checks and unemployment, and some have not been able to return to work. Mayor Moss replied that citizens can make payments.

Councilperson Miller asked what current utility office hours are. Clerk replied 8am to 4:30 normal business hours. Councilperson also asked if all departments are back to normal work orders and Mayor replied yes.

**Councilperson Phillips asked if late fees are being waived. Mayor said yes, now but will resume back in June.**

#### **Item #2- Census Forms- Mayor**

Councilperson Phillips encouraged the citizens to complete their census so the City can receive government funding for infrastructures, healthcare and more. Councilperson Holden stated that after sending reminders to citizens on social media to complete their census forms , she was informed that a lot of citizens had not received their census forms so she directed them on how to go online and complete the forms, Councilperson Holden ask citizens to please complete their forms and how it would be a great help for the city. Councilperson Junkin stated that if everyone is counted that our status as a city, we could regain availability and quantity of grants.

#### **Item #3- Blighted Property-Phillips**

Councilperson Phillips discussed numerous blighted properties in the community and how it is a eye sore to the people that live here and visitors and it decreases the property values and the last two years this administration is not doing anything concerning blighted properties. Councilperson Phillips stated that she met and drove around her district and gave him a list to properties for condemnation. She wants the Mayor and Council to clean up these properties and if it is adjudicated to the Parish, that she would like to see us do something about it. Councilperson Holden stated that she too has rode with the city inspector and a lot of the property in her district is adjudicated and so our hands were tied. Councilperson stated that we should move on to those that are not adjudicated.

Councilperson Junkin addressed City Attorney Cassette about what we can do with property adjudicated to Parish and of the Parish want tear it down, if we could still clean-up the property up or tear it down at our own expense. Mr. Herman stated that we will lose money and we will not have a

way of recouping our money for clean-up. He stated the first step is to check with the Parish to tear it down

Councilperson Miller stated that he hopes that we can meet with the Police Jury and get cooperative agreement. He also addressed controlled burning by the City Fire Department

**Item#4- Update from Cpa- Kenneth Folden**

Kenneth Folden updated that since he and his firm can navigate through our current software system that he is moving further along, he will be able to give more thorough numbers for the budget and audit. Councilperson Miller addressed Mr. Folden about when we will be able to have access to grants being on hold and proceed with new applications. Mr. Folden replied once the City get off the non-compliance list and clean up the audit (this has been the problem) and once this done, we can move forward. Councilperson Junkin addressed Mr. Folden if he has a time frame with presenting when the audit that we are late on will be presented to our auditors (Thomas, Johnson and Cunningham). Mr. Folden stated that he is hoping in the next following week, he is working on the scheduling and helping to get the numbers as clean as he can so the audit process will go smooth and faster,

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councilperson Holden, seconded by Councilperson Phillips, the regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council held March 12, 2020 was adjourned by unanimous vote at 6:41 p.m.

*Katina Smith*

*George Moss*

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KATINA SMITH, CITY CLERK

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GEORGE MOSS, MAYOR