



Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 20, 2017

7:00 P.M.

Members in Attendance:

Aldersperson Simeon Profit

Aldersperson Donald Richard

Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland

Aldersperson Leola Keys

Aldersperson Janice Fleming

The Town of Richwood met for a Regular Meeting held on April 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Richwood Multi-Purpose Center, 2710 Martin Luther King Drive, Richwood, Louisiana to consider the following business:

I. Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Gerald Brown at 7:00 p.m.

II. Prayer- was offered by Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland

III. Pledge of Allegiance - recited in unison

IV. Roll Call- Mayor Gerald Brown called roll with the following results:
All (5) Board Members Present

Present: Aldersperson Simeon Profit
Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland

Aldersperson Donald Richard
Aldersperson Leola Keys

Aldersperson Janice Fleming

V. Adoption of the Agenda-

Mayor Gerald Brown- requested a motion to adopt the agenda.

*It was motioned by Alderman Wysinger Cleveland and seconded by Aldersperson Simeon Profit to adopt the agenda as presented. It was then voted under consensus by the (5) five Alderspersons to accept the agenda as presented.

VI. Adoption of March 16, 2017 Minutes:

***It was motioned by Alderman Wysinger Cleveland and seconded by Alderperson Simeon Profit to adopt March 16, 2017 minutes.** It was then voted under a consensus vote by all (5) five Alderpersons to adopt the March 16, 2017 Minutes as presented.

VII. Financial Reports:

Mayor Gerald Brown- requested a motion to accept the financial reports as presented.

- **It was motioned by Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland and seconded by Alderperson Simeon Profit to accept the Financial Reports as presented. It was the voted under a consensus vote by all (5) five Alderpersons to accept the Financial Reports as presented.**

VIII. Mayor Dialogue:

Mayor Gerald Brown-informed the Board Northern Exposure on May 2, 2017 and if they wanted to attend fill in the enrollment sheet provided by April 27, 2017; it was also verified the Town would pay the cost of riding the bus and registration fee to attend the meeting.

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised the meeting would end at 7:30 p.m. and if the attendee chose to drive their own personal vehicle to let him know.

Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland- inquired if the Town would pay mileage?

Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated yes mileage would be taken care of by the Town.

Mayor Gerald Brown- addressed a questioned posed by Mrs. Blackmon, one of the citizens, pertaining to information she heard on the news about funds being received by the City of Monroe; it had sounded as if the citizen had indicated she had heard on the news the City of Monroe was to receive 2 million dollars in funds from FEMA)

Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated he wanted to clarify this comment; Mayor Brown explained first of all the funds are assigned by parishes not towns, city etc.

Also, Ouachita Parish is to receive \$5.9 million dollars, which would be a grant, but to activate the grant 1.9 million will have to be paid in, so it is a total of a little under 7 million, but these funds are not to be used for residential homes, but rather infrastructure to prevent future flooding; now there are supposed to be some additional funds later in the year that may address residential concerns, but these are not those funds.

Alderman Wysinger Cleveland- indicated there had been an article in the newspaper where homeowners would have the opportunity to tap into available funds.

Mayor Gerald Brown – indicated there will be a meeting at the Civic Center, he thought on May 9, which this would be discussed.

Mayor Gerald Brown- also addressed an issue questioned in the prior meeting on March 16,2017, pertaining to how the introduction procedure and motion steps in which the Board was requesting a motion, second and /or voting on an ordinance.

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised the Board he had examined the Lawrason Act as well as verified with LMA the current procedures in introducing and the motion and seconded act by the Board is correct.

IX. Chief Dialogue:

Chief Johnny Cleveland- stated he was addressing (2) two complaints he had received. First, he was addressing a complaint by Alderperson Fleming, questioning if the Richwood Police had responded to an alarm call at her home. Chief Cleveland stated Alderperson Fleming had confirmed the police department had responded to the call, however, the police department was not advised that Mrs. Fleming was coming to the residence, if they had been advised they would have stayed and gone in to check the residence inside for her. Chief explained in the future they will have door tags to leave to let the resident know that there was an alarm call at that location and they had answered the alarm call.

Chief Johnny Cleveland- addressed the second complaint; he advised the forum the issue with cars parking on both sides of the street is being addressed; there is an ordinance he is requesting the Board to pass that will help with that. Chief Cleveland asked the forum to please call the sheriff department if there is a problem when they are not on duty.

Alderperson Janice Fleming- inquired what would be the penalty for parking on the street, have there been a determined 1, 2 or 3 penalty phase?

Chief Johnny Cleveland- stated the person(s) have already been warned and now this has gone into the penalty phase of issuing a ticket; and what they are needing at this point is the Board to pass the parking ordinance.

Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland- questioned the Chief if he had thought about building up the Police department, and perhaps adding speed bumps for safety reasons?

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated he wanted to piggyback on what Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland mentioned about the speed bumps, and advised the forum this was something he had addressed with the engineering firm, as to the possibility of this being implemented.

**X. Public Comments as it Relates to Agenda:
(No comments provided by public)**

**XI. Presentation from Economic Entrepreneurial Development Services of
La Incorporation:**

Mr. Ray Jones Jr. (Presentation Orator) – went over statistical information he had compiled concerning the demographics of the Town of Richwood.

Mr. Ray Jones Jr. (Presentation Orator)- advised the forum his plan dealt with creating economic growth in the Town of Richwood through using the Old Richwood High School/ Head Start to create a Richwood Business Incubation Center.

Mr. Jones provided additional information as to certain businesses in Richwood, and their parent company, as well as the products sold by that company, and how some of them should be made in Richwood.

Mr. Ray Jones Jr. (Presentation Orator)- also discussed the importance of having our own beautification, as well as establishing a Richwood Convention and Visitation Bureau, which would open other avenues for income to the Town of Richwood, and in closing Mr. Ray Jones Jr. requested the forum provide (2) two things, the authorization to use the Head Start Building for Richwood to grow, and a resolution accepting what the legislature passed in 1992.

Mayor Gerald Brown- thanked Mr. Ray Jones Jr. for the presentation and inquired if there were any questions.

XII. Resolution 2017-01 (A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to hire Lazenby and Associates Inc. as the Town's Engineering Consultant Firm)

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised the Board in their packet there were rate packages from the (2) two engineering firms that responded back.

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised Denmon Engineering was a larger firm located in the area, however he felt Lanzeby would be a better fit for the Town. Mayor Brown indicated this was based on his discussion with the engineer from Lanzeby; this discussion presented insight the engineer had to the needs of the Town of Richwood as well as information he(the engineer) already has on issues and projects we would like to proceed.

Aldersperson Leola Keys- inquired of available funding and grants the firm would assist the Town of Richwood?

Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated had been informed there is possibly some funds that will be accessible in this area left over from Gustav, that may be used for the Raccoon Bayou area.

Mayor Gerald Brown- requested the motion to adopt **Resolution 2017-01** (A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to hire Lazenby and Associates Inc. as the town’s engineering consultant firm.)

***It was motioned by Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland and seconded by Alderperson Simeon Profit to take the vote on Resolution 2017-0101 (A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to hire Lazenby and Associates Inc. as the town’s engineering consultant firm.)**

- **The vote was taken to adopt Resolution 2017-01 with the following results:**

Alderperson Janice Fleming	Yes	Alderperson Leola Keys	Yes
Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland	Yes	Alderperson Donald Richard	Yes
Alderperson Simeon Profit		Yes	

- **The record shall reflect all (5) five Alderpersons voted: YES to pass Resolution 2017-01((A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to hire Lazenby and Associates Inc. as the town’s engineering consultant firm.)**

XIII. Introduction of Ordinance 2017-06- (An Ordinance prohibiting smoking in public places, places of work and other locations within the Town of Richwood.)

Mayor Gerald Brown- invited Mr. Tyrone Dickens a public figure to come and introduce the speaker on this issue.

Mr. Tyrone Dickens- addressed the forum and introduced the speaker addressing the proposed Ordinance 20170 Mrs. Jennifer Haneline.

Jennifer Haneline- addressed the forum, and reminded the public forum of the Louisiana State Laws previously passed prohibiting smoking in bars and restaurants.

Jennifer Haneline- advised the forum there has been verified studies showing the effects of second and even third hand smoke; she further advised the forum and provided handout information pertaining to this issue.

Alderperson Leola Keys- stated she is very health conscious and am concerned for the citizens, but also, she has also got to look at the revenue of the bingo hall, in particular she wanted to direct the Board to the fact at one time Richwood was the only one which was doing liquor sells on a Sunday and there were opposition to Richwood allowing alcohol sales, but when Monroe City began to sell, there was nothing said; and she has concerns if this law is passed, an individual living close to a Bingo Hall where smoking is not allowed, is not going to drive 5 miles out of the way to come to Richwood and smoking is not allowed because the other hall would be closer, and she is looking out for the revenue of the Town, and the revenue of the Town must always be of concern.

Aldersperson Leola Keys- reminded the Board and the Public Forum of the previous situation whereas Richwood was the only place allowing Sunday liquor sales at one time, and how Monroe City and West Monroe changed to sell liquor on Sunday and this had an adverse effect on the revenues the Town.

Mr. Tyrone Dickens- stated he is not trying to force people to stop smoking, that would be their decision, what he is trying to do is have them not smoke inside; if they wanted to smoke they could step outside of the bingo hall and smoke.

Aldersperson Leola Keys – reiterated what she had previously stated...

(if this law is passed, an individual living close to a Bingo Hall where smoking is not allowed, is not going to drive 5 miles out of the way to come to Richwood and smoking is not allowed because the other hall would be closer, and she is looking out for the revenue of the Town, and the revenue of the Town must always be of concern; and her point is she has to look at the revenue, she must always look at the revenue.

Jennifer Haneline - stated she could provide copies of revenue studies, if that would be helpful.

Tanisha Jolla (Fiscal Officer) – inquired of the Board if perhaps a dry trial period of banning smoking in the designated establishments, may serve as a litmus test as to the affect banning smoking would have on the revenue stream from those businesses.

Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated if a business is informed of a certain period of time as to a trial period concerning the non-smoking in establishments, the findings could strategically obscure the numbers, but if we take a look at the findings of about a year of the City of Monroe and the surrounding areas which implemented this, we would get a better evaluation of what affect this had on those areas.

Jennifer Haneline- stated she would check to see what she could pull together for the Board.

Mayor Gerald Brown- requested a motion on the Introduction of Ordinance 2017-06 (An Ordinance prohibiting smoking in public places, places of work and other locations within the Town of Richwood.)

- **No motion was received to introduce Ordinance 2017-06 (it was decided under consensus of the Board more information was needed on this issue.**

XIV. Discussions of Legal Matters:

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated Attorney Jay Nolen requested legal matters be discussed in executive session.

- **It was motioned by Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland and seconded by Alderperson Simeon Profit to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters.**
- **All (5) five Board members voted by consensus to go into Executive session @ 7:55 p.m.**
- **The BOARD RETURNED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION @ 8:53 P.M.**

XV. Adoption of Ordinances 2017-02 (An Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinance to add guidelines for property owner to De-Annex)

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised the Board they were addressing Ordinance 2017-02 An Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinance to add guidelines for property owner to De-Annex)

Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland- stated he felt if they started allowing de-annexation on the highway, it would be a lot more businesses trying to de-annex.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated although this would be just implementing the guidelines for annexation, he was in agreement with the statement Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland mad, and he believed also once you start allowing businesses to de-annex, more businesses would possibly follow

Mayor Gerald Brown- requested a vote be taken.

- **It was then motioned by Alderperson Simeon Profit and seconded by Alderperson Donald Richard to vote on Ordinance 2017-02.** A vote was taken with the following results: **ORDINANCE FAILED**

Alderperson Janice Fleming	No	Alderperson Leola Keys	No
Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland	No	Alderperson Donald Richard	No
		Alderperson Simeon Profit	<u>Abstain</u>

- **The record shall reflect there were (4) four No votes and (1) one Abstention, Ordinance 2017-02 fails for lack of support.**

XVI. Adoption of Ordinance 2017-03 Ordinance to De-annex Ouachita Wash Wasateria

Mayor Gerald Brown – asked for a motion to vote on the Adoption of Ordinance 2017-03 De-Annex Ouachita Wash Wasateria.

- **It was motioned by Alderperson Simeon Profit and seconded by Alderperson Donald Richard to vote on the Adoption of Ordinance 2017-03.**

A vote was taken with the following results:

Alderperson Janice Fleming	No	Alderperson Leola Keys	No
Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland	No	Alderperson Donald Richard	No
Alderperson Simeon Profit	Abstain		

- **The record shall reflect there were (4) four No votes and (1) one Abstain, Ordinance 2017-03 fails for lack of support.**

XVII. Adoption of Ordinance 2017-04 (An Ordinance to Amend the Sewer Tapping Fees)

Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland- inquired if this included the sewer fees for Commercial Business Tapping Fees, as to how much we would charge them?

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised this ordinance deals specifically with mobile homes etc. and he believed commercial taps was in section A, but this was revising B, and C, and this was not currently the section being and he would pull the information and look at it.

Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland- stated he thought this issue should be tabled until the commercial fee taps could be included in this ordinance.

- **It was motioned by Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland and seconded by Alderperson Simeon Profit with general consensus from the Board to table Ordinance 2017-04 until additional wording concerning revised fees for commercial sewer taps could be included.**

XVIII. Adoption of Ordinance 2017-05 (An Ordinance to Amend Parking Violations)

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised the forum the previous ordinance did not specify the placement of the tires as they relate to proper parking; he explained the importance of the vehicle not blocking the flow of traffic and that being relative to anytime you park both right hand side tires should be on the shoulder, rather your car being in the middle of the street.

Mayor Gerald Brown – expressed the necessity of this ordinance due to vehicles parked on the street presented safety issues to pedestrians and other vehicles.

- It was motioned by Alderman Wysinger Cleveland and seconded by Alderman Simeon Profit to adopt Ordinance 2017-05

- **A vote occurred with the following results:**

Aldersperson Janice Fleming	Yes	Aldersperson Leola Keys	Yes
Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland	Yes	Aldersperson Donald Richard	Yes
Aldersperson Simeon Profit		Yes	

- **The record shall reflect that all (5) five alderspersons voted yes to adopt Ordinance 2017-05 (An Ordinance to Amend Parking Violations)**

Mayor Gerald Brown- answered a question posed by a citizen attendee, (Mrs. Blackmon) concerning the trash and dumping currently occurring within the Towns’ limit, and advised there is currently code enforcement procedures and requirements being reviewed by the Town’s Magistrate addressing these issues as to what legal actions we can take as a Town, and once this okayed we will move accordingly.

Aldersperson Simeon Profit- advised the public attendee (Mrs. Blackmon) the Town does not currently have an ordinance dealing with the illegal dumping, that is why this is being addressed, many times when this issue is brought up, there is talk concerning the “poor folks in Richwood” cannot afford these things.

XIX. Adjournment:

It was moved by Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland and seconded by Aldersperson Simeon Profit to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m.