



Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 20, 2017

7:00 P.M.

Members in Attendance:

Aldersperson Simeon Profit
Aldersperson Janice Fleming
Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland

Aldersperson Donald Richard
Aldersperson Leola Keys

The Town of Richwood met for a Regular Meeting held on July 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 Simeon Profit
- III. Pledge of Allegiance -** recited in unison
- IV. Roll Call-** Mayor Gerald Brown called roll with the following results:

** The record shall reflect all (5) Alderspersons are Present*

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Present: Aldersperson Simeon Profit | Aldersperson Donald Richard |
| Aldersperson Janice Fleming | Aldersperson Leola Keys |
| Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland | |

V. Adoption of the Agenda:

**It was moved by Aldersperson Donald Richard and seconded by Aldersperson Simeon Profit to accept the agenda as presented.*

A vote was taken with the following results: The record shall reflect 3 Yes and 2 No Votes

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|---------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|
| Aldersperson Simeon Profit | Yes | Aldersperson Donald Richard | Yes |
| Aldersperson Janice Fleming | Yes | Aldersperson Leola Keys | No |
| Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland | No | | |

VI. Adoption of June 15, 2017, June 30, 2017 & July 17, 2017 Minutes:

- *It was motioned by Alderperson Donald Richard and seconded by Alderperson Simeon Profit to accept the minutes as presented.*

A vote was taken with the following results:

- *The record shall reflect all (5) Alderpersons voted Yes to adopt all minutes.*

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

VII. Financial Report:

Mayor Gerald Brown- inquired if there were any questions on the reports, with no question a request for a motion to adopt the financial reports was requested.

- *It was motioned by Alderperson Donald Richard and seconded by Alderperson Simeon Profit to accept the minutes as presented.*

A vote was taken with the following results:

- *The record shall reflect (3) Yes and (2) No Votes to adopt the financial reports.*

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|----------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|-----|
| Alderperson Simeon Profit | Yes | Alderperson Donald Richard | Yes |
| Alderperson Janice Fleming | Yes | Alderperson Leola Keys | No |
| | | Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland | No |

VIII. Mayor’s Dialogue:

Mayor Gerald Brown- reminded the Board the LMA Conference was in Shreveport next week and advised if there were any questions concerning the accommodations to please see the Clerk.

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised he wanted to address a couple of issues that are going on; first, he wanted to salute the Police Department, and advised the forum court had occurred yesterday, and this was the first time since he had been in office, we had about 100+ people on the docket and approximately (1/3) one-third of those people had paid their fines, and that was an extremely good day in court for us, and that was generated by the work generated by our two officers.

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised, he wanted to make mention of the fact that there was some West Nile found on Richwood Road # 2, about 3 weeks ago and that has been sprayed twice by plane and they will be testing that again in the next couple of weeks, and when he receives updated information on that issue, he would pass on the information.

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised, the Ouachita Police Jury has just recently passed an ordinance to close all bottle clubs by 12:00 p.m. they passed that ordinance and all the unincorporated areas of the parish, bottle clubs will now be closing at 12:00 p.m.

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised, there was recently an accident which occurred at the Family Dollar Store intersection, and he has been in contact with Senator Thompson's office, as well as Representative Hunter, and they have joined with us, and we have been able to get a traffic study ordered for that area; they did one in April of 2015, but of course at that time the Family Dollar Store was not up and running, but now it is, so we have ordered that and it will be run in the Fall when school starts, and there will be more traffic and more data, and he would keep everyone abreast of what goes on with that as well.

IX. Public Comments: (As they Relate to Tonight's Agenda):

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised the forum these are comments as they relate to tonight's agenda, and make sure that the comments relate to the agenda tonight and the comments are limited to 3-5 minutes, to adhere to the meeting laws as well as being courteous to others that are here and would like to speak.

***** NO COMMENTS WERE PROVIDED*****

X. Adoption of Ordinance 2017-09 (An Ordinance Adopting the Town's Expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018)

Mayor Gerald Brown- read the *Ordinance Heading for 2017-09*
(*An Ordinance Adopting the Town's Expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018*)

Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland- advised the Mayor they had had a Special Meeting which occurred earlier this week, and he had overruled the 2 to 2 vote, and everything that was indicated at the 15th of June Meeting, they had asked for a Public Works Director and Code Enforcer as well as Ordinance added to the budget as well as Ordinance 21509

and he didn't know where it was at.... And the Public Works Director and Code Enforcer was not included and he had a problem with that.

Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland- stated he didn't see how we can sit here and entertain a budget, when he has questions about the monies, some we have won and some we have lost

Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland- stated, I just want to make sure I got this on record,

*On the Record ** I have questions about the Transportation Fund, I have questions about the salaries that we asked in this money, because the Board is over this budget you know that, we're the one that have to approve this budget ...*

(Mayor Gerald Brown- commented, you have to adopt it),

***** Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland (continued on the record) *****

*We don't have to, it's up to us to say hey this is what we want; because in the end of it all Mayor, we the ones that are going to be held responsible for this money. *****

Mayor Gerald Brown- inquired, you said you had some questions?

Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland- stated, that's about all I got, I know the others don't have any questions, but we know how this work. I don't have any questions at this point.

Mayor Gerald Brown- inquired if Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland had any questions?

Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland- said no more questions.

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

- It was motioned by Aldersperson Donald Richard and seconded by Aldersperson Simeon Profit to adopt Ordinance 2017-09 (**An Ordinance Adopting the Town's Expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018**)

A vote was taken with the following results: Ordinance Passed

- *The record shall reflect (3) Yes and (2) No Votes to adopt Ordinance 2017-09 (An Ordinance Adopting the Town's Expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018).*

Aldersperson Simeon Profit Yes

Aldersperson Donald Richard Yes

Aldersperson Janice Fleming Yes

Aldersperson Leola Keys No

Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland No

XI. Presentation by David Halloway from Waste Management

Mr. David Halloway- addressed the forum and stated, first, he would like to thank the Mayor for the invitation, and all of the Board Members for allowing him to speak them; Mr. Halloway (Public Sector Solutions for Waste Management) introduced Mr. Kenneth Nance, as who is over the Monroe Office/District, and introduced himself.

Mr. David Halloway – provided information as to the customer service and technical ingenuity aspect Waste Management offers to provide its' customers optimum service.

Mr. Halloway -advised the forum the GPS tracking systems assist with keeping log of the location and where the truck has completed pickup, and if the truck missed a stop.

Mr. Halloway- advised the forum the intention to partner with the Town of Richwood and inquired if the Town was a member of Keep Louisiana Beautiful, and the Keep America Beautiful, which provides grants for cleanup, beautification, and if you are a member they would help the Town with their grants and tell the Town about things coming up, that they may want to apply. (Mr. Halloway also advised of their commitment to recycling and that they would partnership with the schools to have someone come in and talk to the children about recycling.)

Mr. Halloway- inquired if anyone had questions?

Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland- advised he had a question, and advised everyone in Richwood, basically chooses who they want, and frankly everyone in Richwood would like to have a decent price; and he and the Mayor had talked about it and he mentioned something about the Town as an incentive, but he sees in section 2 of the ordinance that there is a penalty if they do not comply with Waste Management, we would have a \$300 fine if we do not keep this agreement with Waste Management, and we are being asked to vote on this tonight.

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised the forum, they were not asking for this to be voted on tonight; and the fines are a part of a standard contract, but these items are not up for vote tonight?

Aldersperson Leola Keys- inquired how would the city collect the fees for the garbage collection?

Aldersperson Leola Keys- inquired if they would be attached to the water bill?

Alderson Leola Keys- stated, this is very important because she is looking at the citizens and she is looking at their faces and she knows what they are telling her, and I have got to know what plans are set in place to collect these fees, because she does not want the hardship put on citizens she knew would be put on some...

Mayor Gerald Brown- thanked Mr. Halloway for his presentation.

XII. Introduction of Ordinance # 2017-10 (An Ordinance Pertaining Residential Households to Receive Garbage Collection Services as Contracted by the Town of Richwood)

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised about 2 weeks ago the bid information from Waste Management was provided to the Board.

Alderson Leola Keys- stated she is looking on the faces of the audience and can see what they are saying.

Linda Clark (Public Attendee) – inquired how the Town can take the right of the people to choose their garbage pickup service.

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised he is not proposing a raise or increase or anything, he has had several citizens and Board Members ask him what are they going to do about the trash, because there are several places where trash is dumped in the front, side and back of peoples yards? The question was posed to him, so what I did was ask folks to come in and tell us what they could do to help us with that problem, now again tonight is for discussion, he is not trying to say you have to have this, that is something the Board is here to discuss, I got the information for the Board as I was asked to do.

Linda Clark (Public Attendee)- inquired what about the second dumpster that was going to be provided for people to dump in.

Mayor Gerald Brown- inquired as to who had said this?

Linda Clark (Public Attendee)- advised the previous mayor.

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised he did not know anything about this.

Alderson Leola Keys- stated, she reiterated, “you have on my table at home a water bill \$200 and some dollars, I am not bragging, I thank the Lord I can pay it, but I know you I have been out here 82 years and I know who can pay and I know who can’t, and I still ask the question, how can these fees be collected?”

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, first of all if you have a \$300 water bill, I need you to come to the office tomorrow so we can talk to Greater Ouachita Water.

Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland- stated, some of the businesses are collecting the money but are not paying any fees, now Waste Management is a company which will give back something to the Town. Me personally my research is not going to be on this mandatory garbage pickup, and I request we just table this now, because if a person is going to be penalized if they cancel garbage service, it says it right here \$300, so if you cancel you will pay a fine. I understand, we do not get anything from that, this Code Enforcer we are asking for right now is what we need, Ms. Woods being the Town Clerk, cannot do all this.

Aldersperson Leola Keys- stated, she wanted to reiterate again, and correct me if I am wrong Mrs. Clark you started it, water sewage and you have said to me and others, will the collection of the garbage be put on there, and if this is added to the water bill you would not be able to pay all this, is that correct?

Mrs. Linda Clark (Public Attendee) -answered that is correct.

Mayor Gerald Brown – stated, what he was saying if they have some other suggestions as to how this can be collected, this is the time to make those suggestions, it has been already introduced, but this is the time for suggestions.

Aldersperson Janice Fleming- stated, listening to everything that has been said, did we post for bids from Better Way and others, can we re post the bid for everyone? Can we agree to re-advertise the bid, so when Best Way and the other people that come to your home, you might tell hem of what we are going to do and if they don't show any interest, then we have no alternative but to go with the person that does.

Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland- stated he made a motion to re-advertise the bid.

Mrs. Barbara Sidney (Public Attendee)- inquired would that apply to where they live?

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised that is a commercial service.

Public Attendee- inquired if this was re bid does this allow Waste Management to change their bid?

Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated they could do whatever they wanted to do.

Public Attendee- inquired was the prior bidding open to the Public, and if Waste Management was the only one that submitted a bid?

Mayor Gerald Brown- answered yes it was, and Waste Management was the only one who submitted a bid, approached us, and came and visited with us.

- **It was motioned by Alderperson Janice Fleming and seconded by Alderperson Donald Richard, to put the Residential Service for the Town of Richwood, Louisiana again.**

A vote was taken with the following results:

- *The record shall reflect All (5) five Alderpersons voted to Yes to re-bid the pickup of Residential Garbage.*

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

XIII. Request for approval to place a 2001 Double Wide Mobile Home at 2819 Honeysuckle Drive

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised the requester has come and filled out all the required paperwork, and at this point it is up to the Board.

Alderperson Donald Richard- inquired if this was the same 1999 mobile home previously requested?

Mayor Gerald Brown- posed this question to Ms. Woods, the Town Clerk.

Mrs. Woods (Town Clerk)- advised the requester decided they wanted a newer model, and has not purchased this trailer yet until the Board agreed.

Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland- indicated once before the Town was put in a position where they were presented a fake picture.

Alderperson Leola Keys- inquired, if the Town Clerk if she had personally had seen the trailer?

Ms. Bettina Woods (Town Clerk)- commented, yes.

**It was motioned by Alderperson Donald Richard and seconded by Alderperson Simeon Profit to allow the placement of a 2001 trailer at 2819 Honeysuckle Drive in Richwood, La.*

A vote was taken with the following results: Yes to Allow Placement

- *The record shall reflect all (5) Yes to allow a 2001 double wide mobile home to be placed at 2819 Honeysuckle Drive in Richwood, Louisiana.*

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

XIV. Monica Fields: (Requesting to open a club on Hadley Street)

Mrs. Monica Fields- addressed the forum and advised her daughter has taken the necessary classes from ATC and she has her Tax Id # and they are ready to proceed with the opening.

Attorney Jay Nolen- advised he was contacted a couple of weeks ago by their attorney concerning opening a new club in Richwood, and he advised him Richwood has an ordinance which does not allow any new clubs, he advised the attorney a club is defined as earning at least 95% of their revenue from alcohol beverage sales.

Ms. Monica Fields- advised the forum they would be selling food and wished to be classified as a restaurant.

Attorney Jay Nolen- commented, he understood they can be classified as a restaurant if they have at least 6% or more of their sales as food sales, which would meet the requirements by the Town for a license as a restaurant.

**It was motioned by Alderperson Donald Richard and seconded by Alderperson Simeon Profit to vote on Monica fields request to be issued a permit to the Hot Spot based on the information provided.*

A vote was taken with the following results: Yes to issue a Permit of Operation to the Hot Spot

- *The record shall reflect all (5) Alderpersons voted Yes to issue a permit of operation to the Hot Spot.*

Alderperson Simeon Profit Yes

Alderperson Donald Richard Yes

Alderperson Janice Fleming Yes

Alderperson Leola Keys Yes

Alderperson Wysinger Cleveland Yes

XV. Barbara Sidney

(Concerns in Regarding Lighting and Traffic on 165 & Richwood Rd #2)

Mrs. Barbara Sidney-stated, primarily her concern was the lack of lighting on the 165 Richwood Road #2 intersection; she understood a study was pending, however meantime there are accidents occurring; these are our kids and they go to school and cross at that intersection point, and at night it is so dark down there you cannot see.

The Board- advised, the area in question, is not in Richwood.

Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated, it is unfortunate on this side of town we don't have the property tax money they have on the other side of town to do some things, we have to rely a lot

more on the Government, DOTD to allow certain things to happen, that is why we asked for this study and have gone to our higher elected officials, to make this thing happen for us.

This has been going on for many years, and we are trying to get this thing to happen, and we are also doing some work with the schools to try and put something together to educate how these kids are walking across, we are also talking about how many buses they have for after school activities, to try to pump that up as well, so they don't have to do all this walking after school, but there is a budget to provide them transportation; those are some of the things we are discussing with the hierarchy of the school.

Aldersperson Leola Keys- indicated, she was with the Mayor at that meeting, and when the Parish placed those two schools there, and with the housing subdivision there, something should have been placed there before now; anytime you have the libraries, and the schools there it is time to get busy and really do something to address this issue.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, he agreed and the first step is to get this traffic study done.

Aldersperson Leola Keys- indicated, it is like the saying, "Justice delayed, is not Justice at all."

Question from the floor... How long before this study starts?

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated it should be completed by November.

XVI. Discussion of Code Enforcement Procedures:

Mayor Gerald Brown- read over the heading sections of each code enforcement area and advised the Judge had looked this over and is willing to preside over our Code Enforcement Hearings, and what he would like the Board to do is take the next couple of weeks and look over this information, so they can act upon it.

Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland- stated, that the Mayor would preside over the Code Enforcement, but he recommended we hire a Code Enforcer, because Ms. Woods have enough to do.

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised she has help.

*****Questions from the Board as to Ms. Woods qualifications to act as Code Enforcer*****

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised based on the requirements given Ms. Woods (the Town Clerk) meets the requirements, and what he is asking the Board to do is review this information, so we can take action on it.

XVII. Introduction of Ordinance 2017-11 *(An Ordinance Amending Ordinance # 2004-01 to set a Fine to Bars/Nightclubs that derives less than 95% of revenue sells of Alcohol)*

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised this ordinance would set a specific fine for the infractions of the ordinance, whereas now the club/nightclub just receives a slap on the hand basically.

*** Question from the Floor** How would this be enforced?*

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised we would have the ATC go in and review those establishments and when they give us their report, and that report would show us the percentage.

Mayor Gerald Brown- asked if there were any other questions?

***Question from the Floor ** to explain this ...*

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised the ordinance states that any entity earning 95% of their revenue from alcohol sells would be classified as a bar, any entity earning 94% or less can be classified as an AR (Alcohol/ Restaurant) but if the ATC goes in and review the establishment and finds out they are earning 95% or more of their revenue from alcohol beverage sales, then they would be in violation of this ordinance.

XVIII. Introduction of Ordinance 2017-12 *(An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2001-02 to set a fine to businesses that Operate without a Liquor License.*

Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated, again we do not have a fine attached to this ordinance, other than shutting them down, so what this ordinance would do is allow the Judge to attach a fine to the ordinance.

Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland- asked the Town Clerk, Ms. Woods, if everyone coming in had to get their liquor license from her?

Town Clerk (Ms. Woods) – indicated yes.

XIX. Introduction of Ordinance 2017-13 *(An Ordinance Setting the Town Clerk's Salary)*

Mayor Gerald Brown- read the heading of the proposed ordinance and requested a motion to accept.

**It was motioned by Aldersperson Simeon Profit and seconded by Aldersperson Donald Richard to accept the introduction of Ordinance 2017-13 (An Ordinance Setting the Town Clerk's Salary).*

XX. Introduction of Ordinance 2017-14 *(An Ordinance Setting the Chief of Police Salary)*

Mayor Gerald Brown- read the heading of the proposed ordinance and advised the budget had to be set first, and now we are going back to introduce the ordinance to amend the budget to set the salary of the Chief of Police. According to the Lawrason Act, we have to set it by ordinance, that is not my call that is state, appointed individuals are set by ordinance, that is the Lawrason Act.

Aldersperson Leola Keys- inquired when would this be effective?

Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated if we introduced it tonight, at the next meeting it would be voted on, and then implemented after that vote.

Aldersperson Leola Keys- indicated she couldn't go for that, if they had more service at night, than maybe then.

Question from the floor about why it is being set now, and why this was not included in the budget?*

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised he had asked the Board to set the salaries initially but they refused because they wanted to do the Budget first, and if they had to go back and make those amendments, then they would go back and make those amendments.

Aldersperson Leola Keys- indicated she cannot vote to increase the Chief's salary from \$30,000 to \$36,000 because we are not getting service out here, and to not have someone out at night patrolling she cannot vote for that.

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised, right now we have two officers and it is not feasible that they could work 24 hours a day and be safe, so right now they have a cooperative agreement with the Sherriff's Department to help.

(Question from the floor)... so although we don't have police on patrol at night, and only two officers you are trying to increase the salary?

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised, we are trying to increase the Chief's salary back to what it had been set by the Board some years ago; when the Fiscal Administrator came in he reduced the salary because there was only the Chief and no staff to supervise; the previous Chiefs salary was \$36,000, my attempt to do is return his salary, because we have one officer and with the budget another officer is due to be hired next week.

Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland- stated he believed the Town Clerk should get her money, the Chief should get his and they all should, because Mr. Walker shouldn't have ever taken their money away.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated this must be done the right way, and the way to do this is through these ordinances.

XXI. Introduction of Ordinance 2017-15 (*An Ordinance to Regulate Fencing Around Commercial Buildings*)

Mayor Gerald Brown- read the heading of the ordinance, and stated we are not talking about anyone specific but we are not wanting businesses to build fences so tall until they are blocking the view of other businesses.

Mr. Leo Kelly (Public Relations)- *provided inaudible comments made without microphone*)

Mr. Leo Kelly (Public Relations)- *advised there are instances of this happening and this is to help with this issue.*

Mayor Gerald Brown- inquired if there were any other questions on this ordinance?
(with no additional questions the agenda proceeded)

XXII. Resolution 2017-05 (*A Resolution to Adopt Revised Statue Title 33:9034.2 Creating and Organizing an Economic Development Corporation for the Town of Richwood*)

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised, this statue would allow an Economic Development Board to be created which works with other entities which are trying to create businesses in the Town of Richwood, it would allow those individuals to enter into Cooperative Endeavor Agreements, which in some form or fashion would benefit the Town of Richwood.

Mayor Gerald Brown- clarified for the Board that this is not positioned for any specific entity, but rather addresses any entity coming into the Town.

Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland- expressed to the Board that he wanted Toys for Tots to make a presentation at this time.

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised, although he was appreciative of their coming, however this is out of order due to the entity not being placed on the agenda for a presentation, and the other entities present had asked before -hand and were placed on the agenda.

Aldersperson Wysinger Cleveland- stated, no disrespect to the agenda, but he just wanted to introduce the Justices' because this was relative to the agenda and with the entity being present he wanted them to speak.

XXIV. Resolution 2017-07*(A Resolution Authorizing the Town to Enter into a Sublease Agreement with Southern Youth Movement)*

Mayor Gerald Brown – read the heading for Resolution 2017-07.

- *It was then motioned by Alderperson Donald Richard and seconded by Alderperson Janice Fleming to adopt Resolution 2017-07.*
- **A vote was taken with the following result:**

The record shall reflect All (5) Alderpersons voted Yes to Adopt Resolution 2017-07
(A Resolution Authorizing the Town to Enter into a Sublease Agreement with Southern Youth Movement) with a 90- day provisional period.)

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

XXV. Adjournment:

- *It was motioned by Alderperson Donald Richard and seconded by Alderperson Janice Fleming to adjourn the meeting @ 9:16 p.m.*