



Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 16, 2017

7:05 P.M.

Members in Attendance:

Aldersperson Simeon Profit

Aldersperson Donald Richard

Aldersperson Margie Davis

Aldersperson Leola Keys

Aldersperson Janice Fleming

The Town of Richwood met for a Regular Meeting held on February 16, 2017 at 7:05 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 7:05 p.m.**
- II. Prayer-** was offered by Aldersperson Donald Richard
- 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 Donald Richard

Aldersperson Margie Davis

Aldersperson Leola Keys

Aldersperson Janice Fleming

- V. Adoption of the Agenda-** Mayor Gerald Brown requested a couple of items be added to the end of the agenda as follows:

Item X – Mr. Eric Amaker Discussion regarding Aldersperson Debate;

Item XI – Attorney Jay Nolen Providing an update on the Police Manual

Item XII- Mayoral Updates

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

*** It was then motioned by Aldersperson Simeon Profit and seconded by Aldersperson Donald Richard to adopt the agenda with the additions as stated.**

VI. Adoption of January 19, 2017 Minutes-

Alderson Margie Davis- stated she had questions about the minutes, and directed the Board to page 2, Item #7 (Financial Reports) of the minutes which stated J. Walker & Associates were paid the sum of \$6100.00. Alderson Davis referenced what she said was a prior statement made by Mayor Gerald Brown in which was indicated J. Walker & Associates would not be paid more than \$1500 per month for the “Monthly Reconciliation”;

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated that was correct, he did say J. Walker & Associates would not exceed \$1500 per month as payment for the Monthly Reconciliation, and the amount noted in the minutes of \$6100 was paid to J. Walker, however the fee shown was not just for monthly reconciliation.

Alderson Margie Davis- also questioned the notation concerning the Profit & Loss Budget sheet, page 1, # 5126, (Professional Services) where it indicated there should be an adjustment showing the fee as “Audit funds” rather than professional services and if that adjustment had been made?

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised the audit firm had advised while the audit was on going to leave the items as they were until the audit was completed; and now the audit was completed, but at that time the audit was not complete.

Alderson Margie Davis – inquired if the Mayor had a number at this time?

Mayor Gerald Brown- responded not at this time.

Alderson Margie Davis- indicated she had another question concerning page 4 of the January 19, 2017 Regular Minutes. Alderson Davis indicated Mrs. Clark, (a public attendee) was noted by name in the minutes when she had addressed the Board, but the other individual addressing the Board was not noted by name, and if the Board had to respond to the person’s question, they would not know who had posed the question, and she thought that should be indicated.

Alderson Margie Davis- referenced a prior comment pertaining to the “vandalism” which had occurred in the park, and the park is now locked,

****And for the Record**** children are now climbing the fence and trying to get into the park anyway they can and that is a liability to the Town and questioned how long will it be closed or locked?

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated it is not locked all the time.

Aldersperson Margie Davis- inquired had it been posted the times when the park would be opened so the children would know and suggested the times be posted on the gates so they would be aware of the days and times the park is opened.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated Aldersperson Davis's suggestion to post the times on the gate, was a good idea and is duly noted.

Aldersperson Leola Keys- stated she was just looking at the minutes, which the minutes are one of her pet peeves, because they represent from a legal stand point if we had to go to court, whatever is going on in the town.

Aldersperson Leola Keys- addressed the Town Clerk (Ms. Woods) and inquired if the reason Mrs. Clark was noted by name and the other public attendee was not due to the recording not being clear to recognize who was speaking?

Town Clerk (Ms. Woods) – stated Mrs. Rainwater does the minutes now.

Aldersperson Leola Keys – stated to (Ms. Woods, she is the clerk).

Aldersperson Leola Keys - stated the minutes was legal “and if we ever had to go to court we would be in trouble” the minutes should be as close as possible to what went on in the meeting.” It was hard for her to understand how we could note Mrs. Clark in the minutes but unable to note the other speaker.

Mrs. Clark (Public attendee)- indicated this is why she questioned that night (referring to the January 19, 2017 Regular Meeting) what was meant when the Town Clerk stated she had to make some kind of adjustment like critiquing, because when you critique, that's what bothered me because when you critique, you didn't say that specifically but you said something else, it had to do with the minutes, you said something dealing with the minutes, that it takes time to get this done, but you got to have it on (*inaudible word @10:18 on the tape*) what really happened because those can be viewed as legal documents, they will stand up in court.

**A back and forth exchange occurred at this point*

Mayor Gerald Brown – stated he thought what they could do going forward is #1 (number 1) to have a signup sheet as to who is attending the meeting, and secondly anyone who has a comment to state their name prior to or to making any comments.

Aldersperson Leola Keys – stated whatever we do as a solution it should be to get the name of the person, rather that state their name or stand, signing the list, whatever it is, it needs to be done, I mean if we gone half do, half step, you know Richwood has been half stepping for a long time.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- inquired if it was required the Board approve or adopt these minutes?

- **Mayor Gerald Brown-** (*reiterated the questioned posed by Public Attendee Audwin Madison if it was required that these minutes be approved or adopted*), and replied to the question, adopted, and approved are two (2) different things, and yes, they have to be adopted not approved, if not adopted they must be re-presented at the next meeting.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- inquired as to what happens with the January minutes if the Board does not approve or adopt them?

Mayor Gerald Brown – stated and confirmed with the Board, and they must come back up for the next meeting based on whatever their reason for not adopting them.

Mr. Audwin Madison- inquired what happened to September’s minutes they were never approved or adopted? (For last year) Special Meeting there was only one (1) ... they were never approved or adopted by the board.

**** There was an overlap on the tape of questions and comments being made from the floor and the board members. ****

Aldersperson Leola Keys – interjected during questioned being posed by Mr. Audwin Madison (public attendee) we have two (2) clerks.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated they were brought back twice and they were never approved, you had two (2) members absent and they were never adopted, so that’s why I asked.

Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated the minutes should be adopted.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee) – stated no they weren’t adopted, you brought them back twice but you had two (2) members that were absent, but you did have three (3) but they never were approved or adopted.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated they would have to look back through the minutes.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated “I’m sure”, that’s all I have to say.

Aldersperson Leola Keys- stated she wanted to add something to this, you may call it “nit picking”, so be it, we have two (2) clerks, we have clerk and deputy clerk and I know very well we can do better than this, just because we are all black don’t play, don’t play like ...(*inaudible words*) I’m finished.

- **It was then motioned by Aldersperson Simeon Profit and seconded by Aldersperson Donald Richard to adopt January 19, 2017 minutes with the necessary adjustments.**

VII. Financial Reports-

Aldersperson Margie Davis- stated she had a few questions about the financial report; on the last page (page 3), number 12470 Louisiana Workforce Commission Unemployment Taxes, \$ 14,101.00, if that was correct?

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated yes.

Aldersperson Margie Davis- asked, “is that a quarterly tax?”

Mayor Gerald Brown-stated we owe unemployment taxes, that’s an amount they charged us that we need to send in at that time, and that was from prior years.

Aldersperson Margie Davis- stated/ asked aren’t we suppose to pay these quarterly?

Mayor Gerald Brown- yes we do, but these were back from 2013, 14, 15, 16 that were never initially paid.

Aldersperson Margie Davis – stated, when Mr. Walker was here,

***** For the Record***** and we didn’t pay unemployment tax?

He was the Fiscal Administrator, this is something you pay quarterly, and if I can remember correctly the reports we were getting then, said that we were up on everything, and when he signed off, he said we were up on everything. ****For the Record**** Somebody lied. Cause quarterly unemployment as well as Workmen’s Comp. is supposed to be paid quarterly and we \$14,000 behind? He as a CPA and was the Fiscal Administrator, if he lied and said we were up on everything, and that’s what he said.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, I don’t know that to be the case.

Alderspersons Margie Davis – asked/ stated to the Mayor “you didn’t get the report? They gave it to all of us when he signed off, we all got copies of it.

Aldersperson Leola Keys- stated, “I know he said it, I know he said it.”

Aldersperson Simeon Profit- stated, we still owe on our bonds too, we didn’t pay everybody off, we just caught up on a lot of things and we got current.

Aldersperson Margie Davis – stated, “That’s not what he said, Simeon, I’m going by what the man said, if he’s not a person of his word, then he’s just not a person of his word, that’s what he said; and that’s what I’m going by what he said and what was written on that paper.”

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, I don’t have a report saying we don’t owe anybody anything.

Aldersperson Margie Davis- stated, she was just wondering about that, because that is a lot to have to pay at one time for unemployment tax.

Aldersperson Margie Davis- stated the next question she had was there were two (2) bills on there for the Free Press for the 5th of January for advertisement and again on the 30th, was one of those for February?

Town Clerk, Ms. Woods – confirmed that was correct.

Aldersperson Margie Davis- inquired as to what was being repaired from Russell Moore?

Aldersperson Leola Keys- stated that was her question as well.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, that is what he wanted to highlight, that was for repairs made to the park, and also on page 2 the first check for Gerald Perkins # 12431 was not for the Multi-Purpose roof but was to repair the roof on the pavilions in the park, restrooms as well and light fixtures; and those items are in regards to that, and they also did a little sprucing-up on the playgrounds.

Aldersperson Margie Davis- inquired/ stated ... for Mr. Wilson, you had stated earlier that the commodes and things were ripped out, was that on replacing the commodes and things that were torn out?

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated he did not do all of those, but he did replace some pipes and things, he did some of the work.

Aldersperson Donald Richard- stated he had a question and referred the board on page 1 of the Profit & Loss # 4070, and requested confirmation the Town collected Beer Tax right, but what about liquor tax?

Town Clerk, Ms. Woods- advised the beer tax was received every quarter and the liquor taxes are collected prior to the 1st of the year and was noted on the January Financials.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee) – inquired on the status of Euckle Hunter with the Town of Richwood, and has he been back to work?

Mayor Gerald Brown- inquired when?

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated since he has been on sick leave?

Mayor Gerald Brown- commented no he has not.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- inquired if he was still being paid supplemental pay?

Mayor Gerald Brown – stated yes.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee) – inquired of the Mayor what was his position now?

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised officer.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated, if Euckle Hunter's position was changed while he was on sick leave and he had never come back to work to police officer, Mr. Cleveland took his position, and he is continues receiving supplemental pay that is illegal.

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised we contacted Supplemental Pay about that very question, about that very situation, we explained that to them and they advised he should still receive supplemental pay.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated if he doesn't even have a position with the Town, you can't make him a police officer until he comes back to work.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, "that's contrary to what we were advised by LMA as well, we were advised, when we talked to LMA about his particular situation if we were to appoint a new chief his role, unless he decided to end his employment with us, that, his role would be moved officer.

Aldersperson Margie Davis – asked if that was part of workmen's comp, if he was off on workmen's comp?

Mayor Gerald Brown – advised Aldersperson Davis he is off on workmen's comp, but no supplemental pay is not part of workmen's comp.

Aldersperson Margie Davis- inquired if we paid him the supplemental pay or the state paid it?

Mayor Gerald Brown – advised, the state paid it.

Aldersperson Margie Davis – stated that was fine, as long as we not paying it, if the state want to give away their money, that's fine.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, we did contact them because there is information we have to sign off on for them to receive the supplemental pay, so we asked if we should still be doing that, we explained the situation, and they said yes.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- inquired who said this, LMA attorneys?

Mayor Gerald Brown- inquired which question, you got two (2) different questions.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- replied, changing his position from chief to police officer?

Mayor Gerald Brown- answered, lead counsel Jennifer Rae, I think her last name is Rae.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee) – asked, you agree with that Mr. Nolen?

Attorney Jay Nolen- stated, yes, I do, in fact the Mayor had requested the Attorney General's opinion on that and several other matters, I've been in contact with the Assistant Attorney General, as far as his position as Chief of Police, his term expired when Mayor Jackson's term expired. If the Board does not appoint somebody, he by default maintains that position; the Board did approve Chief Cleveland. Mr. Hunter is still injured on workmen's comp. he just drops back down to a police officer.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated he never heard of that, I mean, you can change it when he returns to work, but I never heard of you changing somebody's position while they out on sick leave.

Attorney Jay Nolen- stated, It doesn't matter if he is out on sick leave or not his term of Chief of Police has expired.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee) – stated he disagreed with that.

Attorney Jay Nolen- advised him he needs to read the Lawrason Act

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated no that wasn't in the Lawrason Act, he read the Lawrason Act and it is not in there, he was talking about the sick leave...

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated he was not going to argue about that with him, and inquired if there were any more questions on the financials?

Aldersperson Leola Keys- inquired about page 1 of the transaction detail, about the Louisiana Flood Plain Management, yearly dues \$50.00;

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised we are part of the Louisiana Rural Water Association we are a member of that and we have to pay a certain fee, they come out and help the staff review our lift station and give them training on certain items that will happen and certain products we can use for our lift stations, what's good for the size of the ones we have, where we can get the best products for the best price, things of that nature.

Ms. Blackmon (Public Attendee)– inquired, does Richwood have a certified person to attend to the lift station?

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated we have people that's going through the training we don't have anybody that has reached level three (3), but we have a level one (1) and a level (2) person and there is a training he think is going to happen in April, that we will be sending some gentlemen.

Ms. Blackmon (Public Attendee)- inquired what does level 1 and level 2 have to know?

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised, he was unable to give her all the details to that.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated Mr. Godfrey is level 2 and Mr. Potter is level 1.

Aldersperson Simeon Profit- indicated there are 3 stages which must be obtained

Mayor Gerald Brown – indicated there were 3 levels, and Mr. Potter had been to training but is not certified yet, there are several different sessions they must go through.

Question asked if we must have someone certified?

Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated we must have access to someone certified and that is part of what we get out of being a part of this association.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated he had another question, pertaining to Mr. Hunter if he ever or how often asks for a medical update as far as his condition?

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated he go through Workmen's Comp for that, he does not ask him.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee) – stated that's not what he was saying, as far as is he coming back or he just want to stay like that for the next four (4) years and just ride the wave, I mean cause its' to his benefit and not the town, cause the town have you asked and they say come back in 90 days , 30 days I mean does he give an update.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated again, we go through Workmen's Comp.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)-stated but yeah, the Town should get something too Mayor, ah what is his medical status, not going into detail violating HIPAA LAWS, but you should know about a timeframe is he going to be able to come back or is he not.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated I don't know any other way to tell you, we asked those questions of Workmen's Comp, to avoid any kind of legal situation.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated, "I wasn't arguing with you, I was just saying I disagree with what you were saying, because Mr. Nolen also said Mrs. Rainwater's position you can do that without a resolution or ordinance and no job description, and I still think that's illegal, so I don't put much merit into uh you telling me that its' legal."

Mayor Gerald Brown – stated, Mr. Nolen did go to law school.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated, I ain't gone comment on that, I'm just saying, just like it's good and bad Mayors there are good and bad lawyers.

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

Aldersperson Margie Davis- stated she had one other question, "I see on here where we paid Mr. Cleveland for personal mileage for use of his vehicle. Now he have a vehicle, where did it come from, the white one?"

Mayor Gerald Brown- it came from the Sherriff's Department.

Aldersperson Margie Davis- the Sherriff Department donated it to us?

Mayor Gerald Brown – stated, Yes, they donated it to us.

Aldersperson Margie Davis- indicated she did not see that anywhere on this.

Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated he had mentioned that to the Board when it was donated.

Mayor Gerald Brown- asked if there were any other questions on the financials, and if not, requested a motion to adopt.

- **It was the motioned by Aldersperson Simeon Profit and seconded by Aldersperson Donald Richard to adopt the financial report as presented.**

VIII. Public Comments as it relates to Agenda-

Ms. Clark (Public Attendee) – questioned why it has to relate to the agenda?

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised, because the agenda are the items that are supposed to be discussed, if you don't add something at the time of the adoption of the agenda.

(Interrupted during explanation by Mrs. Clark, asking how do we know this?)

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, that's why there's an opportunity at the time we adopt the agenda to add things, if something needs to be added or somebody has something they want to be added.

Mrs. Clark (Public Attendee) – stated, you have a meeting, a Town once a month, there are things going along in this Town all the month, and then we have a meeting one night and we can't discuss what's going on? I want to discuss these houses falling apart around here, have you'll tried to find grants or something to demolish the houses that are standing around here that are being used, the animals are in there, drug people are going in there smoking or whatever, I want to ask about that, I have a problem with that.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, let me say, the proper procedure to do that is to call us or come by and say you would like to add that to the agenda for this particular meeting, if you have that question.

Mrs. Clark (Public Attendee)- inquired, suppose something happens today?

Mayor Gerald Brown – advised, if it comes up today, here at Item V, where we adopt the agenda if you have something you want to be added, ask the Board to add it, and if two-thirds (2/3) of the Board votes to add it, then it can be added to the agenda; but anytime you have a question about anything, my office is always open, you call me, you can come by and ask any question you want.

Mrs. Clark (Public Attendee)- asked when or if you have any plan on reactivating the police department? Because we are wanting businesses to come to the Town, but they are not coming without a police department.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, I think we are trying to do that, but we are at this point, when you say reactivate, I'm not sure how many officers you are talking about adding, but that is something we are attempting to do. We have added one (1) additional officer, and if the Board allows at some point and the budget allows, we will continue to do that, I agree with you, we need to beef up our police department, but I think we need to do it in such a way, that it doesn't bankrupt the town.

Mrs. Clark (Public Attendee)- stated, well no, we don't want to go through that same thing where we have all these police and not enough cars for them, at one time we had seventeen (17) police and two (2) cars.

Mayor Gerald Brown – stated, we need to be able to support our officers and our equipment, so we need to take the steps to do that, I think we are doing it the right way right now.

Mrs. Clark (Public Attendee) -replied, yes but it is something you are thinking about.

Ms. Blackmon (Public Attendee) – inquired as to what was the Mayor's plan for all these broke down, raggedy streets out here, there is a hole been on Gay Drive in front of the Parker house for 10 years?

Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated, yes she was right, there are a lot of streets that need a lot of care, and he has reached out to three (3) separate engineering firms and we are getting rate schedule information back from them, because what he is not wanting to do, is just go out there and patch a hole, and create a bigger problem than what they have today; what he wants to do is get expert care to this situation.

Ms. Blackmon (Public Attendee)- stated that's true, but first of all, Greater Ouachita Water is got to come out here and redo their water lines, because their water lines are no good; it sprung a

leak over here, they come patch it over here, it puts pressure over here and there is another leak, they patch this one, and its' just an ongoing thing, you first got to do that before you can do anything to the streets.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, that was a different problem, we have been have an issue with Greater Ouachita.

Ms. Blackmon (Public Attendee)- inquired, if the Mayor thought that it would make good sense to do something to the water lines? Because if you come in and patch the streets, where is the water going to go, just come in and tear them up.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, Absolutely, our case is made stronger if an engineering firm comes in and says, yes sir we can patch these streets, but these pipes underneath are going to rupture there are going to be problems, and what we did is going to nothing. Just me saying it, to be honest with you is not going to carry the weight that an engineering firm is going to carry. When you can put that information on paper and add data and numbers to it, that's what carries weight and that's when you can get certain things done.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, we have pipes we have been calling Greater Ouachita about in Pine Bayou Extension for five weeks straight and to get somebody out and we just got a truck out today.

Ms. Blackmon (Public Attendee) – stated that she calls them and they come right out.

Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated yes, they come but will they do anything?

Ms. Blackmon (Public Attendee)- indicated yes, they do.

Mrs. Clark (Public Attendee)- stated there are usually 5-6 cars parked on the road preventing movement through the street and blocking the drive.

Aldersperson Leola Keys- stated, she understood what Mrs. Clark said, she has seen the Sherriff's Department go through the parked cars and that is why she said we need patrolling out here, because the sheriff's department could care less about the cars parked on the side of the street; if you call them about drugs and you have a problem they're coming, but I have seen them go through those cars on each side.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated again he think it's' if they have been alerted to what that issue is and they don't necessarily know what our ordinances are, and Mrs. Clark if you feel uncomfortable calling the sheriff department if you see this, she can call him. Again, if they are just riding through that is not their primary focus and if they hadn't been alerted they may not address that issue.

Aldersperson Donald Richard- suggested putting a street sign saying can't park on the side of the road.

Alderson Leola Keys- indicated, if you live in Richwood you already know that and that's the way it has been for years. We need some officers out here that know the laws and can take care of this

Mr. Edward Bolden (Public Attendee) – Inquired on the discussion of the De-Annexation as to the nature of that item?

Mayor Gerald Brown- asked if we can cross that bridge when we get to it?

Mr. Edward Bolden (Public Attendee) – stated he thought we were on it

Alderson Leola Keys- commented we had added somethings to the agenda

Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated he would answer Mr. Bolden's question, and stated it was pertaining to the Washateria on Hadley Street, and asked Mr. Bolden if he was familiar with it, and stated they are annexed into the Town of Richwood but obtains water service from the City of Monroe and they are added a surcharge on that water which the owner is paying almost triple from what he previously paid for water.

Mr. Edward Bolden (Public Attendee)- inquired how long has the City of Monroe serviced this facility?

Mayor Gerald Brown – advised he was not sure, but the owner is at the meeting and should be able to answer that question when the item is discussed.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated "I just have 2 quick points to add on to what Mrs. Clark saying; now last month you said somebody come out here and threatened the police, nobody was arrested, nobody went to jail, that you say. Now you say, then you say the police is progressing. If somebody threaten the police, what are the citizens supposed to do? I mean you saying you all were advised to call the Sherriff's Office, they were supposed to handle that, that's what you pay a Chief for, that's what you pay an officer for. It doesn't matter whether it was electronic or something else; no other agency in this area are you going to threaten the police and nothing happen, that's a disgrace to the Town of Richwood. Mr. Cleveland should've been fired and so should the Mayor. That is a disgrace to the Town of Richwood, that somebody can threaten the police and nothing happen. (un-audible word spoken) ... Richwood is better than that, you know you can forget about patrolling, if they scared to go down there an address somebody, they might as well not be here.

Mayor Gerald Brown- asked to address this point, and said, "It's not that they were afraid to address the issue, we already had a pending litigation situation against that entity, we were advised for legal reasons, it would be best for us not to contact them as regard to that, because that could do something with the pending case we have , it would be best if we allowed another agency to handle that, since we have another agency we work with closely.

Aldersperson Leola Keys- asked if the other agency handled it?

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- asked what did the Sherriff's Office do?

*** Discussion occurred concerning understanding how the Town could be scared***

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised they would have to talk to Chief Cleveland pertaining to that.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated, "My second(2nd) point is, last month you mentioned about putting cameras in the facilities; now October 2016 I asked you and the Board about drug testing; okay, I took it as an insult, last month you say, I got equipment and supplies missing, so I'm uh make it plain to you, your Public Works Department, that's a drug house, they smoking crack, they smoking marijuana, they stealing gas from Stewart's, they going up there to AutoZone getting parts, charging it to the Town and nothing ain't been done about it, nothing.

Mayor Gerald Brown- asked, "You got proof of that".

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated, "Come on Mayor", its' out there.

Mayor Gerald Brown-asked, "Do you have proof of that"?

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated, "Yes, I got proof of it".

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, "Please bring it and talk to our officers."

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated, "Its' out there, they're using drugs, they was using illegal drugs when you was an alderman, under Mayor Jackson, the late Mayor Jackson, they still using drugs; okay, you sent the police down there investigating one person, but what about all the rest of them?"

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, I didn't send the police to investigate one.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated, "whoever sent them down there," but if you want to know where fifty (50) percent of your stuff is, start with your supervisor; that's the ring leader right there.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, "Any proof you have of that, please bring it to our officers.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated, "yeah I have proof, they stealing gas, they getting parts from up here to AutoZone, and yawl just pretending like you don't know it's going on, its' been going on.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, its' not, its' not, "in this particular administration, its' not possible for it to go on.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee) -stated, "Mayor its' been going on, I know Darrin Ragland just like we brother's, some of the cars that come get gas, Mayor its not even vehicles for Richwood, and they filling up gas down there, its' been going on.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated that's not happening, they cannot obtain gas without the Town Clerk, are you saying the Town Clerk is in those vehicles taking gas? Because our Public Works Department cannot obtain gas without the Town Clerk, they can't obtain it without her, they can't go to Stewart's and get gas on their own, they cannot. They can't do it.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- asked, "So why is the gas bill so high the last couple of months?"

Mayor Gerald Brown- repeated the question, "So High"?

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee)- stated, you don't even have a 24-hour police department but you still have a high fuel bill. I mean I ain't just saying this Mayor, I already know what I'm talking about, now you set there pretending like its' not happening, yeah its happening.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, we have mowed some grass, and we have two (2) police cars that roll all day.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee) stated, "But You'll spend a whole lot of money for cameras and a engineer, but you won't spend a couple hundred dollars, nobody, no elected official has said whatever paper work Mr. Nolen has said we needed, let's get the paperwork together and drug test all our employees, all our employees; not just Public Works, but all our employees, all of them. You get them some help, and either they voluntary accept the help or terminate them, but to just sit here and allow people come to the Town of Richwood collect a check and use illegal drugs, that's bad Mayor, the Town of Richwood is better than that; you know what's going on you been in Richwood all your life, and everybody, just about the majority of citizens sitting in here, know what's going on; you can sit there and pretend like, oh I didn't know, it's been going on. It went on the whole-time Mayor Jackson was in office, and now that you took over, they just got more of it, they still smoking it. And you pretending like I didn't know, that's B.S.

Mayor Gerald Brown- asked if there were any other public comments?

IX. Discussion to De-Annex Ouachita Wash Wasateria

Mr. Edward Bolden (Public Attendee)- inquired can his question on this issue be now answered. (pertaining to how long has the owner of the Washateria been charged the higher charge?

Mr. Zoufan the (owner of Wash Wasateria)- stated he has been charged for about 2 years.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated that where he is located is in the Town of Richwood, but he has to get water from the City of Monroe; he is in a unique situation where he is approximately 10 feet from a Richwood tie in, 10 feet in Monroe and 10 feet in the parish.

Aldersperson Margie Davis- stated that a couple of meetings ago we discussed doing an ordinance policy to provide policy pertaining to De-Annexation; I do understand he is caught in a unique situation, but Richwood needs a tax base.

Aldersperson Janice Fleming- says that yes, we need a policy in place that everybody won't have a run in trying to get de-annexed from the Town of Richwood.

Aldersperson Margie Davis- stated the way she feels about it we should have had a policy pertaining to this yesterday, but we cannot do this without a policy in place because there would be a run-on people wanting to de-annex from Richwood.

***** Un-Structured discussion ensued*****

Mr. Zoufan (Owner of Washateria)- indicated that he has to do something, because his surcharges are going up but his profit is not changing and he refuses to increase prices .

Aldersperson Janice Fleming- stated our problem is not that you want to be de-annexed, our problem is that your actions may cause a domino of businesses behind you, your concern may not be of what's going to happen, because you are just wanting to get what you need, I understand that, but we still need something to stop the domino that is going to happen. I understand you are in a unique position, but so are we, we need to get something in place to prevent a domino effect.

Mayor Gerald Brown- apologized for mis-understanding what the Board wanted, he understood they wanted him to check to see if he could be connected.

Mr. Edward Bolden (Public Attendee)- explained that he has to pay a service tax although he doesn't sale anything across the counter, he still has to pay taxation and revenue for the services he provides and de-annexing this business takes that away from Richwood. He can see they don't understand sales tax and he was just going to leave it alone.

Mr. Audwin Madison (Public Attendee) – again inquired of the Mayor, if he was going to initiate a drug policy or are you going to just let them do their thing?

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated we have a drug policy in place, and the policy does not support across the board drug testing.

*** A number of individual unstructured discussions at the table and on the floor on- going *****

Attorney Jay Nolen- stated the drug policy must be amended to allow for random drug testing.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated pertaining to Item IX we will create an Ordinance/Policy for the De-Annexation as well as a Resolution to vote on for Ouachita Washateria to be De-Annexed. He would get with Attorney Jay Nolen to make sure it looks good legally, and soon as that is done we will call a Special Meeting and advise Mr. Zoufan (the owner) to have him present.

Aldersperson Janice Fleming- inquired if this was just for the Washateria?

Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated the Ordinance would be for everything, and the Resolution just for him.

Aldersperson Margie Davis- inquired when would we have a resolution on the Drug Testing?

X. Mr. Eric Amaker Discussion regarding Aldersperson Debate

Mr. Amaker- presented information to the Board pertaining to the possible hosting of a debate for the Alderspersons that are running in this election; because of schedule constraints, Mr. Amaker provided information and had to leave.

XI. Attorney Jay Nolen Pertaining to Police Manual

Attorney Jay Nolen- stated the Board had requested at the time the Police Policy Manual had been presented by Chief Cleveland, that he look at the Policy Manual to determine if it was okay.

Attorney Jay Nolen- indicated he had examined it and provided feedback to Chief Cleveland of the needed changes to requirement for officers to register to vote and attend church to be removed because they infringed upon certain rights. Attorney Jay Nolen expressed he had experience as a Military Police and compared what we had to that information and what we had was good.

XII. Mayoral Updates-

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised we will no longer having elections at the Old Building, but they will be hosted at the New Richwood Middle School. That per Mrs. Bond it was thought to have the elections here may be a conflict of interest because there are governmental offices here.

Mayor Gerald Brown – advised he went to a training seminar a couple of weeks ago and one thing he found very interesting concerning heir property, they have passed some new regulations and laws and they have a Louisiana Civil Justice Center Hotline number (1-800-310-7029) where you can get this assistance at a much more reduced rate than just going to a regular attorney. We have a lot of homes that fall under this, and they are not able to get certain assistance, because there is not just one specific person listed on the title. If you tell them you have questions on what is called an Heirship Affidavit, they will put you on the path to get that taken care of.

Aldersperson Margie Davis – inquired if we had a form yet addressing the alarm? That was talked about, the ordinance in place people were supposed to sign up?

XIII. Adjournment:

It was motioned by Aldersperson Simeon Profit and Seconded by Alderman Donald Richard to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 P.M.