



## Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 20, 2023

7:00 P.M.

### Members in Attendance at Roll Call:

**Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.**

**Alderman Simeon Profit**

**Alderman Janice Fleming**

**Alderman Leola Keys**

**Alderman Wysinger Cleveland**

The Town of Richwood met for Regular Meeting held on April 20, 2023 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 7:05 P.M.**

**II. Prayer-** was offered by Mayor Gerald Brown

**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) Aldermen present at time of roll call.**

**Present:** Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.

Alderman Simeon Profit

Alderman Janice Fleming

Alderman Leola Keys

Alderman Wysinger Cleveland

**V. Adoption of the Agenda-**

*It was motioned by Alderman Simeon Profit and seconded by Alderman Janice Fleming to adopt the agenda as presented.*

- The record shall reflect a vote was taken to adopt the agenda as presented as follows: (5) Yes Votes to adopt.**

**Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr. Yes**

**Alderman Simeon Profit**

**Yes**

**Alderman Janice Fleming Yes**

**Alderman Leola Keys**

**Yes**

**Alderman Wysinger Cleveland Yes**

**VI. Adoption of March 16, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes**

*It was motioned by Alderman Simeon Profit and seconded by Alderman Janice Fleming to adopt the March 16, 2023 as presented..*

- **The record shall reflect a vote was taken with the following results as follows: All (5) Yes Votes to adopt the March 16, 2023 Minutes as presented.**

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	Yes	Alderman Simeon Profit	Yes
Alderman Janice Fleming	Yes	Alderman Leola Keys	Yes
Alderman Wysinger Cleveland	Yes		

**VII. Adoption of Financial Reports**

*It was motioned by Alderman Simeon Profit and seconded by Alderman Janice Fleming to adopt the Financial Reports as presented.*

- **The record shall reflect a vote was taken to adopt the Financial Reports as presented with the following results: (1) Abstain and (4) Yes to Adopt the Financial Reports.**

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	Abstain	Alderman Simeon Profit	Yes
Alderman Janice Fleming	Yes	Alderman Leola Keys	Yes
Alderman Wysinger Cleveland	Yes		

**VIII. Public Comments as they relate to items on the agenda.**

**Mr. Anthony Anderson ( Club Onyx)** – addressed the forum concerning proposed Ordinance 2023-01 which would amend Ordinance 2021-02 regulating the operation hours of all places of business where alcoholic beverages were sold, stored for sale at retail, served or consumed.

**Mr. Anthony Anderson-** advised the forum he had concerns on how the change from 3:00 a.m. closing time to 2:00 a.m. closing time would affect his business, and that it seems everything that happens on Winnsboro Road they are held responsible for it; and concerning the incident that happened they have majorly changed the security protocols of his business.

**Mr. Anderson -** asked what is it they must do?

**Alderman Wysinger Cleveland-** said he appreciated the changes which have occurred, but he would like to see the security tightened up, the parking lot area as well.

**Mr. Anderson-** discussed with the forum that since the incident that occurred, major security measures had been put in place, if something is brought to their attention, they do everything possible to make changes.

**Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.** – stated I think all of us are aware that within the last 60 days there has been an incident, and what I am getting at is this isn't the first time and it won't be the last time when you deal with these types of businesses, within the last 6 months what improvements in security has been made at that location ?

**Mr. Anthony Anderson** – answered, “We added the only metal detector around, you cannot enter the building unless you walk through the metal detector.

**Alderman Leola Keys-** stated, my concern is for the Town and its' citizens, I am going to make a general statement, but it never was the intent of the founders of Richwood to never have Richwood identified with two images, the first image, Richwood being a plantation; the second image being a town where the activities conducted in that town is criminal. We have laws in place, and it is for a specific purpose, there was trouble with a club down on HWY 15, and some way we have got to stop this, we have to enforce our laws.

#### **IX. Mayor's Dialogue :**

**Mayor Gerald Brown** – addressed the forum and shared that this Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the City of Monroe is sponsoring a Blight Boot Camp there will be an opportunity receive information on the Rental Rehabilitation Grant as well as the Healthy Homes Grant, the Healthy homes grant is potentially up to \$ 20,000. Although we are not in Monroe, we can qualify through the parish.

**Mayor Gerald Brown-** advised the forum that Live-Well Delta will be providing a free screening event on Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. there will be a free screening event at the Monroe Civic Center; if you want to participate in this you will need to contact Mary Byrd Cancer Center, their number is 318-414-9758,

**Mayor Gerald Brown-** stated when we met last month Mr. Reed discussed with us the possibility of moving from a town to city status, in those copies Mr. Reed you indicated based on your research we have somewhere around 6,000 population, can I ask where you got those numbers?

**Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.** – stated, it was online.

**Mayor Gerald Brown-** inquired if it was on the census? Census.gov ?

**Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.** – replied, no it was an area that had the compilation for including in the incarcerated, I can provide that, I didn't bring it tonight, but I can provide that.

**Mayor Gerald Brown-** replied, “Please do, because based on what I can find out with the Census, the inmate retention numbers are added into their number already, the 2020 Census had us at 3,881 they advised the prison number was already added into it. So, if you got something different than that, I definitely would like to see that.

**X. Rufus Ward:** Requesting permission to place a 1999 mobile home at 5501 Highland Road

- **The record shall reflect that a vote was taken with the following results: (5) Votes yes to allow Mr. Rufus Ward to move the mobile home to 5501 Highland Road.**

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	Yes	Alderman Simeon Profit	Yes
Alderman Janice Fleming	Yes	Alderman Leola Keys	Yes
Alderman Wysinger Cleveland		Yes	

**XI. Adoption of Ordinance 2023-01** ( *An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2021-02 Regulating operation hours of all places of business where alcoholic beverages are kept, sold stored for sale at retail, served or consumed*)

**Mayor Gerald Brown-** stated to the forum there was a business owner that came to him this week and stated that an Alderman had advised him if he closed his bar area at 2:00 a.m. he could stay open until 3:00 a.m., and that is not correct, it does not work that way, if you are a business *where alcoholic beverages are kept, sold stored for sale at retail, served or consumed you will need to close at 2:00 a.m., well right now it is 3:00 a.m., whatever time the ordinance states, you must close at that time.*

*It was motioned by Alderman Simeon Profit and seconded by Alderman Janice Fleming to adopt Ordinance 2023-01.*

**The record shall reflect a vote was taken with the following results: ( 4) Votes No and (1) Abstain vote Ordinance 2023-01 does not pass.**

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	No	Alderman Simeon Profit	No
Alderman Janice Fleming	No	Alderman Leola Keys	No
Alderman Wysinger Cleveland		Abstain	

**XII. Adoption of Resolution 2023-03** *(A resolution appointing an Auditor for the Town)*

**Mayor Gerald Brown** – informed the forum that they had discussed this in length and at the last meeting Mrs. Keys had reached out to him....

- *Mayor Gerald was interrupted by Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr. with a question concerning the vote on Ordinance 2023-01.*

**Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr. - asking about the Ordinance about the time,**

**Mayor Gerald Brown-** advised it failed there were (4 )No Votes and (1) Abstain vote to adopt the ordinance.

**Alderman Simeon Profit** – stated he mis-understood the vote and had wanted to adopt Ordinance 2023-01 .

**Mayor Gerald Brown-** inquired of each alderman if they wanted to change their vote ?

**Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.** – stated he did not want to change his vote he intended to vote No to the ordinance, he was voting to leave the time as it is.

**Alderman Simeon Profit-** stated he wanted Ordinance 2023-01 to pass and voted Yes.

**Alderman Janice Fleming** – stated she wanted the time to change to 2:00 a.m. and voted Yes.

**Alderman Leola Keys-** stated, she wanted the time to change to 2:00 a.m. and voted Yes.

**Alderman Wysinger Cleveland-** Abstained.

- **The record shall reflect due to a misunderstanding of the vote, the Board re-cast their vote on Ordinance 2023-01 as follows with the following results: (1) Vote No , (3) Votes Yes and (1) Abstain . Ordinance 2023-01 Passes changing closing time 2:00 a.m.**

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	No	Alderman Simeon Profit	Yes
Alderman Janice Fleming	Yes	Alderman Leola Keys	Yes
Alderman Wysinger Cleveland	Abstain		

**\*\* Continuation of Item # XII. Adoption of Resolution 2023-03( A Resolution appointing an Auditor for the Town.)**

***It was motioned by Alderman Simeon Profit and seconded by Alderman Janice Fleming to adopt Resolution 2023-03 ( A resolution appointing an Auditor for the Town.)***

***The record shall reflect a vote was taken on Item XII. Adoption of Resolution 2023-03( A Resolution appointing an Auditor for the Town.) with the following results:***

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	No	Alderman Simeon Profit	Yes
Alderman Janice Fleming	Yes	Alderman Leola Keys	Yes
Alderman Wysinger Cleveland	No		

***For the record:***

*Alderman Wysinger Cleveland requested the following statement be included for the record as to the clarification of his No Vote.*

***For the record: The reason I voted No is because Walker and Bruno share a suite, you can't have both.***

***Mayor Gerald Brown-*** *advised I understand what you are saying, I reached out to the Legislative of Auditors advised as long as they have separate offices it is okay, and they do have separate offices.*

**XIII. Adoption of Resolution 2023-04 ( A resolution authorizing the Town to Sell Surplus Properties)**

***It was motioned by Alderman Janie Fleming and seconded by Alderman Simeon Profit to adopt Resolution 2023-04.***

- **The record shall reflect a vote was taken with the following result: (5) Votes to adopt Resolution 2023-04 ( A resolution authorizing the Town to Sell Surplus Properties.)**

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	Yes	Alderman Simeon Profit	Yes
Alderman Janice Fleming	Yes	Alderman Leola Keys	Yes
Alderman Wysinger Cleveland	Yes		

**XIV. Adjournment:**

It was motioned by Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr. and seconded by Alderman Janice Fleming to adjourn @ 7:54 P.M.