



## Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 15, 2024  
7:00 P.M.

### Members in Attendance :

**Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.**

**Alderman Simeon Profit**

**Alderman Janice Fleming**

**Alderman Leola Keys**

*Alderman Wysinger Cleveland ( Entered @ 7:25 p.m. to the forum)*

The Town of Richwood met for Regular Meeting held on February 15, 2024 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 (4) Aldermen present at time of roll call.**

**Present:** Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.  
Alderman Janice Fleming

Alderman Simeon Profit  
Alderman Leola Keys

**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 with the following results: 4 Yes Votes to adopt.**

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr. Yes  
Alderman Janice Fleming Yes

Alderman Simeon Profit Yes  
Alderman Leola Keys Yes

**VI. Adoption of January 18, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

*It was motioned by Alderman Simeon Profit and seconded by Alderman Janice Fleming to adopt the January 18, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.*

- **The record shall reflect a vote was taken with the following results: (4) Yes votes to adopt the January 18, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	Yes	Alderman Simeon Profit	Yes
Alderman Janice Fleming	Yes	Alderman Leola Keys	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 with the following results: (4) Yes votes to adopt the financial reports as presented.**

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

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

- **There were no comments.**

**IX. Mayor's Dialogue:**

**Mayor Gerald Brown-** advised the forum that the Richwood Black History Parade is to occur on February 17<sup>th</sup> with the lineup at 10:00 a.m. and parade beginning @ 11:00 a.m. .

**Mayor Gerald Brown-** advised the forum there would be a Parent Café provided by Wellspring on the February 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00, and on March 6<sup>th</sup>, a Candidate Forum to meet the candidates .

**Mayor Gerald Brown** – advised the forum on March 19, 2024, A Fine Arts night will be at the Richwood Multi-Purpose Center and is a Free Concert to the community presented by the Richwood Middle and High School at 6:00 p.m.

**X. Carla Gardner-Nelson: Discussion of Community Building Project****XI. Otis Blanson: Discussion of Settlement**

*It was motioned by Alderman Simeon Profit and seconded by Alderman Janice to table this item.*

**XII. Orther Meadows: Discussion of opening a night club.**

**Mr. Orther Meadows-** addressed the forum and requested permission of the Board to allow a night club to be opened on Highland.

**The Board of Aldermen-** advised Mr. Meadows there is currently a law in place preventing any new bars in Richwood.

**Mr. Meadows** – advised the Board that there was previously a bar located at the location he is requesting a bar.

**The Board of Aldermen** – advised Mr. Meadows that the laws have changed and there are currently no additional bars allowed in Richwood.

**Mr. Orther Meadows-** inquired of the Board if the laws could be changed?

**The Board of Aldermen** – advised Mr. Meadows they would take his request in consideration.

**XIII. Rodger McConnell (Homeland Security)- Discussion of Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation**

*Mr. Rodger McConnell-* addressed the Board and advised that he was requesting that the Board commit to being a part of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

*Mr. McConnell-* explained to the Board the Hazard Mitigation Plan is put in place to access and put a strategic plan of action in place in case of a natural disaster and he was requesting the Town's commitment to being a part of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.** – inquired would the Town of Richwood be covered in the case of a natural disaster?

**Mr. McConnell-** confirmed that Richwood would be a part of the Hazard Mitigation plan.

**XIV. William Smith (OIC) –**

**Mr. William Smith the Director of OIC( Opportunities Industrialization Center** addressed the forum and shared that OIC had been granted capital outlay funding approval and is interested in acquiring permission to use the Old Richwood High School building where it would be renovated and locate a culinary training school.

**Mr. William Smith** – explained this program would be a state-of-the-art culinary school and could change the dynamics of Richwood and the surrounding area.

**Mr. William Smith-** noted none of the other surrounding schools have a culinary art school, and he is requesting the Board's approval that Mayor Gerald Brown be allowed to accompany him in talks with the Ouachita Parish School Board to request the site be used for the culinary school.

**\* The record shall reflect a vote was taken to allow Mayor Brown to join Mr. William Smith in meeting with Ouachita Parish School Board with the following results: (2) Abstain Votes and (3) Yes Votes .**

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

**XV. Discussion of Forensic Audit:**

*It was noted that Ms. Sims has been trained to pull transactions from Chase Connect. It was also discussed the information may take some time to pull based on the number of years requested, 2020 through 2022.*

**XVI. Discussion of School Program**

*Mayor Gerald Brown- indicated he had checked with area schools which currently have after school tutoring programs being offered, and he found out the difference between the sign-up roster and the number of students actually attending showed the attendance was much lower than the sign-up roster and that although students signed up they were not showing up for the tutoring.*

*Mayor Brown – advised in talking with the schools currently running after school tutoring that he discovered there was an issue getting the children to actually attend. Mayor Brown questioned if it would be more helpful to assist the after-school programs already in place and support them in ways to increase the actual attendance of the students.*

**XVII. Discussion of Manhole Projects**

*Mayor Gerald Brown – advised the Board the current manhole situation is causing extra pressure on the sewer system and to correct this issue it would cost around \$247,000.*

*It was motioned by Alderman Wysinger Cleveland and seconded by Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr. to move ahead with the manhole project.*

- **Let the record reflect a vote was taken to proceed with the Manhole Project as follows: 5 Yes Votes to proceed.**

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

**XVIII. Adoption of Resolution 2023-10 ( A resolution adopting the 2023 Ouachita Parish Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation plan updated August 25, 2023**

*It was motioned by Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr. and seconded by Alderman Simeon Profit to adopt Resolution 2023-10.*

- **Let the record reflect a vote was taken to adopt Resolution 2023-10 ( A resolution adopting the 2023 Ouachita Parish Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation plan updated August 25, 2023, with the votes as follows: 5 Yes Votes to adopt the Resolution 2023-10.**

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

**XIX. Adoption of Resolution 2024-01 ( A resolution appointing Allen Green Williamson LLP as the FY 2022-2023 Auditor**

*It was motioned by Alderman Wysinger Cleveland and seconded by Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr. to adopt Resolution 2024-01( A resolution appointing Allen Green Williamson LLP as the FY 2022-2023 Auditor.*

- **The record shall reflect a vote was taken to adopt Resolution 2024-01 01 ( A resolution appointing Allen Green Williamson LLP as the FY 2022-2023 Auditor) with the following results: 5 Votes Yes to Adopt .**

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

**XX. Executive Session:** *It was motioned by Alderman Wysinger Cleveland and seconded by Alderman Simeon Profit to go into executive session @ 8:25 p.m. .*

*Adjournment of Executive Session: it was motioned and seconded to adjourn Executive Session @ 8:37 p.m. with 5 Yes Votes.*

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

**XXI. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned @ 8:38 p.m.**