

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TOWN OF WELSH
WELSH, LOUISIANA
JULY 2, 2019

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Welsh met in regular session at the Welsh Council Room on Tuesday, July 2, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Carolyn Louviere called the meeting to order and Mr. Lawrence Mier led the pledge. Roll call follows:

Present: Mayor Carolyn Louviere; Aldermen: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Jackie Balmer.

Absent: None.

Others in attendance: Eva Kibodeaux, Town Clerk, Richard Arceneaux, Town Attorney, Marcus Crochet, Police Chief, Michelle Ramagos, Recreation Director, John Hall, Fire Chief and Tracy Goodwin Co-Superintendent.

86. There was no agenda of the day.

87. It was moved by Mrs. Jackie Balmer, seconded by Mr. Lawrence Mier to approve the minutes of June 4, & June 20, 2019 as presented. Motion carried. Vote 5-0.

95. Mr. John Marceaux, Police Juror District 2 discussed the Mermentau Water Shed. He stated that Louisiana Water Shed suggested that the different areas of the state form committees to represent their area. So they are forming a committee for our area they would like for someone to represent the Town of Welsh. Mr. Alex Guillory, Civil Engineer stated that the amount of funds the state has set aside is \$1.2 billion. He stated the reason the committee needs to be formed is to make proprieties of what projects need to be done first. When the funds are released we will have a plan to move forward. He stated that the most at risk areas needs to be addressed first. He said that Lake Arthur would be first, then Grand Chenier would be next. Mayor Carolyn Louviere said she would go to the meetings and represent the Town of Welsh.

90. Mayor Carolyn Louviere opened public hearing for Proposition No. 285 Ordinance No. 787 to rezone Block 38 of Welsh Op which is where the old clinic was located to change Zoning from Residential District to Business District. Mrs. JayVon Muhammad, Chief Executive Officer of SWLA Center for Health Services spoke on behalf of the new clinic. She said they would have medical, dentist and behavioral health clinics to serve the community. She also stated that they had study that stated there was a need for this in the Town of Welsh and Lacassine area. Mr. Chuck Davidson, stated he lived across the street from where they are going to be located. He said is not opposed to the progress, but take the clinic out of Residential neighborhood because it wouldn't serve anyone in the neighborhood. Mrs. Muhammad stated that it would definitely serve the neighborhood. Mr. Davidson also asked who would pay to demolish the building. Mrs. Muhammad stated they already had the funds to demolish the building. Mr. Davidson stated that we already have two other providers in our area. Mrs. Muhammad stated that they would have other services to offer our community including substance abuse, and stated that they would not be bringing people from different areas. Mrs. Muhammad said that they will serve people on an out patient basis and not as in patient facility. Mr. Davidson asked if they would be offering abortion services. Mrs. Muhammed stated that they will not offer abortions at this facility. She stated that their main goal is provide to primary medical, dental and behavior health therapy. Mrs. Muhammed said that the board is made of 51% of their patient representatives and she said less than 1% of their patient are migrants. She also mentioned they will be hiring people from our community for the facility. Mrs. Genieve Benoit stated she would like to see the needs assessment to know the needs of our community. Mrs. Benoit also stated that they have staffing problems and that they wouldn't hire from the community. Mrs. Muhammad stated that they would hire the field workers from the community such as receptionist and CNA's and they would hire qualified providers for the clinic from qualified educators. Mrs. Muhammad also stated that she knows they will have challenges and she understands the concerns. Mr. Donald Pickle, asked if they had other clinics in a residential area, also stated he didn't want to lose property value on his home because of the clinic. Mrs. Muhammad stated that their goal is to service 200 square miles of Louisiana and she thought it made sense to serve the Town of Welsh. She also said the Lake Charles Clinic is in a Residential neighborhood. Mrs. Francis Victorian, said she has to bring her son to Lake Charles to receive treatment for his condition. She said that it would be good to come to Welsh plus she stated that we see all the people on drugs in our community plus people with mental health issues. Mr. Jim Wright, chief executive officer of a group home said he was

concerned about the property value, but he said he didn't think it would do anything to the value of his property. He said why not return the use of property to what is was originally used for years ago. Ms. Mary Williamson, said that we definitely have a need for this in our community. She asked how do they treat the patients with methadone. Mrs. Muhammed stated that they don't use methadone. They use suboxone instead. Ms. Williamson stated she was also concerned because the school was just down the road. Mrs. Muhammad said they have 2 different strategies to treat the patients plus she said They would have programs in the school to be against drugs and also programs in the community to deter crime. Mrs. Muhammad said their clinic is open to view at any time. Mrs. Kristi Davidson said she contacted the Jennings American Legion Hospital and they stated that they could open a satellite clinic in the Town of Welsh. Mrs. Muhammad said they were a non-profit organization.

It was moved by Mr. Rodney Trahan, seconded by Mrs. Jackie Balmer to close the public hearing. Motion carried. Vote 5-0.

88. Mayor Carolyn Louviere opened public hearing for Proposition No. 282 Ordinance No. 284 to lift open container for Welsh Alumni Tournament on July 19 & 20, 2019. No comments were made during the hearing.

It was moved by Mr. Lawrence Mier, seconded by Mrs. Jackie Balmer to close the public hearing. Motion carried. Vote 5-0.

89. Mayor Carolyn Louviere opened public hearing for Proposition No. 283 Ordinance No. 785 to amend 2019 – 2020 budget for repairs to the Old City Hall and for surveillance equipment for the building. Marcus Crochet, Police Chief stated he had already given the quotes for the work to the alderman last month and stated that he would use Ted funds to make the necessary repairs.

It was moved by Mr. Rodney Trahan, seconded by Mrs. Jackie Balmer to close the public hearing. Motion carried. Vote 5-0.

91. It was moved by Mrs. Jackie Balmer, seconded by Mr. Rodney Trahan to introduce Proposition No. 284 Ordinance No. 786 to “Amend 2018 – 2019 budget” to set public hearing on August 6, 2019. Motion carried. Vote 5-0.

92. The following ordinance was moved for adoption by Mr. Rodney Trahan, seconded by Mr. Lawrence Mier.

PROPOSITION NO. 282 ORDINANCE NO. 784

An Ordinance Amending Sec. 15-66 regulating the consumption of Alcoholic beverages on public streets and in public parks.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Jackie Balmer.

Nays: None.

Abstaining: None.

Absent: None.

Motion carried. Vote 5-0.

93. The following ordinance was moved for adoption by Ms. Jackie Balmer, seconded by Mr. Lawrence Mier.

PROPOSITION NO. 283 ORDINANCE NO. 785

An Ordinance Amending a budget for the Town of Welsh, Louisiana, for fiscal year 2019 – 2020.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Jackie Balmer.

Nays: None.

Abstaining: None.

Absent: None.

Motion carried. Vote 5-0.

93. It was moved by Mr. Colby Perry, seconded by Mr. Lawrence Mier to table the matter until Tuesday, August 6, 2019, in reference to Proposition No. 285 Ordinance No. 787 An Ordinance amending Zoning Ordinance #572, for the Town of Welsh, Louisiana; providing for a change in Appendix A, Official Zoning Districts and Classification Map of the Town of Welsh. Motion carried. Vote 5-0.

John Hall, Fire Chief reported that they have stopped flow testing of the fire hydrants for Approximately one week to one and half weeks. He also stated they are 25% done and have 25% more that needs to be done. They will start the flow testing of the fire hydrants in another one to one and half weeks. He recommended this time that we contact, KPLC, KATC and KLFY and do a call out to inform the residents to be aware of what is going on. He stated that this is necessary for the fire rating and also we do it every year to make

sure all fire hydrants are working in case of an emergency. He also stated that they will start building the fire burn building in the next few weeks.

Michelle Ramagos, Recreation Director stated that they had started the All Star games this week. Three of the four teams are advancing to the next round. She stated that the Mustang division will be going to Erath and the T-ball and Pony division will be going to Youngsville.

94. There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Rodney Trahan, seconded by Mr. Lawrence Mier to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Vote 5-0.

ATTEST:

APPROVAL:

EVA C. KIBODEAUX, TOWN CLERK

CAROLYN LOUVIERE, MAYOR