

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

TOWN OF WELSH

WELSH, LOUISIANA

OCTOBER 4, 2016

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Welsh met in regular session in their regular meeting place, the Town Hall, on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Carolyn Louviere called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. Becky Hudson led the pledge.

Roll call follows:

Present: Mayor Carolyn Louviere; Aldermen Allen Ardoin, Becky Hudson, Hugh Fruge, Robert Owens, and Charles Drake.

Absent: None

Others in attendance: Rick Arceneaux, Town Attorney; Stephanie Benoit, Town Clerk; Marcus Crochet, Police Chief; Tracy Goodwin, Co-Superintendent; Wayne Hebert, Co-Superintendent; Michelle Ramagos, Director of Parks and Recreation.

121. It was moved by Becky Hudson, seconded by Hugh Fruge to adopt the Agenda of the Day which consisted of 133. Runway Extension; 134. Approval of Nichols Bridge Repairs; 135. Authorization to advertise for I-10 project; 136. ROCK-DA-BLOCK-HALLELUJAH NITE; 137. Drainage and Cemetery-Charles Drake.

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Robert Owens, Hugh Fruge, Charles Drake, Becky Hudson, Allen Ardoin

Nays: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

122. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Hugh Fruge to approve the minutes of September 6, 2016 as presented. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

128. Byron Racca, Engineer with Meyer & Associates, gave an update on getting the Nichols Street Bridge repaired and re-opened. Byron stated they had a proposal to repair the bridge for \$129,213.00 but would have to put a load rating that would allow the school buses to pass but not the garbage truck or fire truck. The bridge would eventually need to be redone with a cost of \$500-700,000. This fix should last for another 5-10 years.

134. It was moved by Allen Ardoin, seconded by Robert Owens to defer approving the repairs to Nichols Bridge until next meeting. Motion carried. Vote 5-0.

135. It was moved by Becky Hudson, seconded by Allen Ardoin to give authorization to Meyer & Associates to advertise for the I-10 Electrical Project. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

123. The following resolution was offered by Hugh Fruge, seconded by Robert Owens.

RESOLUTION 010-2016

A resolution making application to the State Bond Commission for consent and approval of the issuance of not exceeding Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) of Limited Tax Certificates of Indebtedness of the Town of Welsh, State of Louisiana, and providing for the employment of bond counsel and other matters in connection therewith.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Robert Owens, Hugh Fruge, Charles Drake, Becky Hudson

Nays: None

Abstaining: Allen Ardoin  
Absent: None  
Motion Carried. Vote 4-1.

124. The following resolution was offered by Hugh Fruge, seconded by Becky Hudson.  
RESOLUTION 011-2016

A resolution to levy a millage rate of 7.03 for the 2016  
Tax Roll on all property subject to tax. Motion carried. Vote 5-0.

125. It was moved by Becky Hudson, seconded by Charles Drake to introduce Proposition No. 260 "Amending 2015-2016 Budget" and set Public Hearing for November 1, 2016. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.
126. It was moved by Charles Drake, seconded by Hugh Fruge to introduce Proposition No. 261 "An Ordinance providing for the incurring of debt and issuance of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) of Limited Tax Certificates of Indebtedness, Series 2016" and set Public Hearing for November 1, 2016. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.
127. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Charles Drake to condemn trailer on property at 1109 Welsh Street since property owner was notified. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.
129. It was moved by Charles Drake, seconded by Robert Owens to grant a hardship variance for Mr. Lee Iguess at 307 Rowland Street. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.
130. It was moved by Becky Hudson, seconded by Charles Drake to grant a hardship variance for Mrs. Jean Thomas at 521 S. Joseph. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.
131. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Hugh Fruge to accept the recommendation of Police Chief, Marcus Crochet, to hire full time Patrolman, Robert Polk, with a 90 day probationary period. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Hugh Fruge to accept the recommendation of Police Chief, Marcus Crochet, to hire part time dispatcher, Robert Bryant, with a 90 day probationary period. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

132. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Allen Ardoin, to set "Trick or Treat" for Monday, October 31, 2016, from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.
136. It was moved by Hugh Fruge, seconded by Charles Drake to block King and Lautel Streets in front of Richmond Park on October 31, 2016, from 5:30pm-9:30pm for a "ROCK-DA-BLOCK"-HALLELUJAH NITE with food, games, and music put on by Reverend Stevens, Pastor of New Jerusalem Baptist Church and everyone is invited. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.
133. It was moved by Becky Hudson, seconded by Robert Owens to approve sending a letter from the Board requesting help from IMCAL to extend the Airport Runway to 1000 feet to State and Federal Agencies. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.
137. Charles Drake stated he will have a meeting tomorrow on drainage and will try to get help with that for the Town. He said the Town needs to get a plan together and deal with the drainage problems of the Town and it needs to be addressed like tomorrow. Culverts need to be opened to ensure proper drainage.

Charles Drake said the Town has been having problems with East Ridge Cemetery since the 70's. He said that Wayne Hebert said there were 86 loads of dirt hauled into the Cemetery and Charles said that was not true. He also said that no one should be buried in that section any longer.

Michelle Ramagos, Director of Parks and Recreation, reported she had Pee Wee Football here in Welsh the past two Saturdays with 9 to 10 games per day. Soccer Registration will begin this Month.

138. There being no further business, it was moved by Charles Drake, seconded by Hugh Fruge to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

ATTEST:

APPROVAL:

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Stephanie Benoit, Town Clerk

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Carolyn Louviere, Mayor