

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

TOWN OF WELSH

WELSH, LOUISIANA

MAY 02, 2017

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, May 02, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Carolyn Louviere called the meeting to order and Lawrence Mier led the pledge.

Roll call follows:

Present: Mayor Carolyn Louviere; Aldermen: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, and Robert Owens.

Absent: None

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

073. It was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Robert Owens to adopt the Agenda of the Day which consisted of 085. Colonel Bernie McLaughlin-Recent attacks on the Town of Welsh; 086. Paul Achan-Recall; 087. Jim Wright-Zoning

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Robert Owens

Nays: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

074. It was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Lawrence Mier to approve the minutes of April 4, 2017 as presented. Motion Carried. Vote 4-1.

085. Colonel Bernie McLaughlin spoke on recent attacks on the Town of Welsh and addressed Theresa Richard and Colby Perry. He stated that when he sees something wrong, he will be the first to stand up and point it out. He said that he supported every person's rights to request public records and he has requested hundred's himself but he has never brought a camera and because of Theresa Richard's actions; the Town Clerk has been attacked. He provided information on lawsuits Richard has against other Towns. He said he had proof of direct connection between Theresa Richard and Colby Perry, which they both denied. He said that Colby Perry used a Picture of himself in his Reserve Uniform for his campaign and did not include any disclaimer. Colby Perry said that Colonel McLaughlin only has one side. Colonel McLaughlin said they could talk private or with the Media at a later date if he would like.

083. Mr. Kyle Todd spoke about the Budget to be passed tonight and stated that a full increase for the Police Chief and an increase for his employees should be approved for all that they do. He also spoke on the Police Equipment and Maintenance Account stating he had 6 items backing up that the account was not improper.

Much discussion went on between the Council, Clerk, and Police Chief regarding the Budget and the Police Equipment and Maintenance Account. The Town Clerk also spoke on how the account works and provided information received from the Legislative Auditors Office.

075. Mayor Carolyn Louviere opened the public hearing. Alderman Robert Owens said that the council was accused that they were against the Police Budget. He asked Police Chief, Marcus Crochet, if the numbers he provided for increases were different than the numbers added to the budget. Marcus Crochet said that they were because he did not take into consideration that some employees work 12 hour shifts and that Fica, work comp, etc was not included in the first figures. Robert Owens said that is what was in question and it all got blown out of proportion. He said the budget will have an increase

of 25.9% from the previous budget and this should allow the Police Chief to give increases and not go over budget. It was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Robert Owens to close the public hearing. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

076. The following resolution was offered by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Robert Owens.
RESOLUTION NO. 007-2017

A Resolution for the Town of Welsh to transfer funds from General Fund Bank account to Welsh Police Equipment and Maintenance bank account.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Robert Owens

Nays: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

077. The following resolution was offered by Robert Owens, seconded by Lawrence Mier.
RESOLUTION NO. 008-2017

A Resolution for the Town of Welsh to advertise for bids for the Replacement of Broken Sewer Crossing of East Bayou Lacassine Project with bids to be received at the Town of Welsh Town Hall, 201 S. Elms St., Welsh, LA 70591 on May 31, 2017, at 3:00 P.M., And then at that time and at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Robert Owens

Nays: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

078. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Rodney Trahan to introduce and set a public hearing for Proposition No. 266, Ordinance No. 770 "An Ordinance to surplus an immovable property described as lot 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8 and of block 34 of the original plat of the Town of Welsh and authorize it's lease and/or private sale" for June 6, 2017.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Robert Owens

Nays: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

079. It was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Lawrence Mier, to adopt Proposition No. 265, Ordinance No. 769 "An Ordinance Amending, Adopting, and Enacting a Budget for the Town of Welsh".

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Robert Owens

Nays: Andrea King, Colby Perry

Abstaining: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried. Vote 3-2.

080. It was moved by Lawrence Mier, seconded by Robert Owens to abandon Wildman Street and donate to Larry Cox.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Robert Owens

Nays: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

081. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Andrea King to accept the recommendation of Police Chief, Marcus Crochet, to hire Full Time Patrol Officer Keesha Williams with a 90 day probationary period. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.
082. It was moved by Andrea King, seconded by Rodney Trahan to abandon W. South Street at the gravel and donate to Aaron Fontenot.
 Roll Call Vote:
 Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Robert Owens
 Nays: None
 Abstaining: None
 Absent: None
 Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.
084. Shonda Prudhomme would like to have the 1st Annual Welsh/Roanoke Reunion at Richmond Park and wants to block streets and lift the open container in the park. Chief Marcus Crochet does not think it is a good idea to block streets in case of an emergency. Colonel Bernie Mclaughlin volunteered his time as a Reserve Officer to go to this function so they would have security on site. It was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Andrea King to introduce and set a public hearing to lift the open container for June 6, 2017. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.
086. Paul Achan gave his opinion on the current recall going on of Alderman Colby Perry. He said he respected Colby Perry because he smelled something wrong, thought it wasn't right, and asked questions but got stupid answers. He told the Council that every one of them were recallable. He said we didn't say we would not argue but to make up and move on. He believes anyone that has something to question should always speak up. He said the recall was unnecessary and childish.
087. Jim Wright said that it was part of the Zoning Boards ordinance to meet annually and review the Zoning Ordinances. He said that they have met and see that there are a lot of conflicts that need to be addressed. He said they are working on a new map, looking at enforcement, and procedures. He will have information for the council to consider and look at.
088. There being no further business, it was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Lawrence Mier to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

ATTEST:

APPROVAL:

 Stephanie Benoit, Town Clerk

 Carolyn Louviere, Mayor