

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HAUGHTON STATE OF LOUISIANA TAKEN AT THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

December 12th, 2023

The Town Council of the Town of Haughton, State of Louisiana, met in Regular session in Council Chambers, 118 West McKinley Avenue, Haughton, Louisiana, December 12th, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

Invocation was given by Council Member Colby Isom

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Phillip Smith

Roll Call as follows:

Present: Doug Adams, Carlton Anderson, Colby Isom, & Phillip Smith

Absent: Buck McGee

Also Present: Mayor, Kim Gaspard, Town Attorney, Neil Erwin, MPC Director, Sam Marsiglia, Fire Chief, Jimmy Holland, Public Works Superintendent, Jacky Hicks, Town Clerk, Misty Pee, and Deputy Clerk, Lane Brown.

By Mr. Smith

Motion to approve the council minutes for the November regular meeting.

Seconded by: Mr. Adams

Comment from citizen Johnny Smithy: Mr. Smithy asked about minutes not being posted. Mayor Gaspard replied with they are posted on the Town's website.

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous

OLD BUSINESS

By Mr. Adams

Motion to accept the budgeted financial statements from October 2023

Seconded by Mr. Smith

No Comment

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous.

By Mr. Smith

Motion to accept Ordinance 7 of 2023 – Amending the 2023 Budget.

Seconded by Mr. Adams

Comment from citizen Hilda Pratt: Mrs. Pratt asked if the budget increased. Mayor Gaspard replied yes.

Vote in favor of motion

By Mr. Smith

Motion to accept Ordinance 8 of 2023 – The 2024 Proposed Budget.

Seconded by Doug Adams

Comment from Mr. Isom: Mr. Isom made a motion to table the acceptance/rejection of the ordinance due to the proposed budget changing several times. No Second. Motion dies.

Vote in favor of original motion

By Mr. Adams

Motion to accept Ordinance 9 of 2023 – Setting Salaries for the 2024 Budget Year.

Seconded by Mr. Smith

No Comment

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

By Mayor Gaspard

Stating that the Council Members had been presented with the financial statements for the month of November 2023. The vote to approve will be next month.

By Mr. Smith

Motion to introduce Ordinance 1 of 2024 – An ordinance to amend Ordinance 1 of 2021 for the purpose of changing a zoning classification from residential low density to a light industrial district.

Seconded by Mr. Adams

Comment from citizen Hilda Pratt: Mrs. Pratt asked about the exact location for this ordinance. Mayor Gaspard responded saying it will be across the road from the Pin Oak Landing subdivision.

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous.

Attorney Erwin suggested that a workshop is needed before introducing Ordinance 2 of 2024 – an ordinance that revises, updates, and restates the employee personnel handbook. He stated that this is a subject that could possibly be extended two months of discussion before presenting it to be introduced.

No action taken.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

By Fire Chief Holland

The total number of responses was 72. Ladder 1 remains out of service. Currently it is in Longview being repaired. The pump has been rebuilt and the power steering has been repaired. They are currently waiting on a condenser for the A/C. Brush 1 is out of service due to the pump and motor being replaced. Engine 3 currently remains as a frontline unit until Ladder 1 returns from the shop. New Rescue 1 was delivered on November 28th. They are waiting on several pieces of equipment before placing it in service. The goal is January 1st if everything comes in. Daily training continues for full-time personnel. They are looking at a possible launch date in January to run a pilot Instructor 1 class through HFD.

Police Chief Gibson was absent. His report stated that there were 56 tickets issued totaling \$15,901.50. The department was busy with the toy drive and Grinch fun, putting smiles on faces.

By Public Works Director Jacky Hicks

Mr. Hicks reported that they are having problems with Quala Wash in Haughton. He stated that something they are using to clean their tanks with or what they are releasing into the sewer plant is killing the chlorine levels at the plant and they are failing tests. He stated that what they are releasing doesn't look right, but the sample passed through Gulf State Testing. He recommends to get Quala Wash off our system. He stated that DLH is wanting all of the wells in the town to be on a generator in case of emergencies. DEQ came to the sewer plant and said it looks good, but they need to need to work on clean up.

Comment by Citizen Parks McCormick

He stated about four month ago he came and addressed the Mayor about Quala Wash and what they were dumping and if it was harming the sewer plant. He stated that the Mayor assured him that nothing was wrong with their release. The Mayor responded that we now have new and different information about Quala. Parks asked who was doing the testing and Mayor asked Mr. Hicks to clarify. Mr. Hicks stated that CENLA and Gulf State both test what Quala is releasing.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Mayor Gaspard adjourned the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Lane Brown

Deputy Clerk

Publish: November 19th, 2023

Bossier Press Tribune