

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HAUGHTON
STATE OF LOUISIANA TAKEN AT A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 12th, 2023**

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

Invocation was given by Council Member Phillip Smith

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Carlton Anderson

Roll Call as follows:

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

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.

Town Clerk, Misty Pee, read the decorum statement.

By: Mr. McGee

Motion to approve minutes of August, 2023, Regular Council Meeting.

Seconded by: Mr. Adams

No Comment

Vote in favor of motion us unanimous

OLD BUSINESS

By: Mr. Smith

Motion to accept the financial statements from July 2023.

Seconded by: Mr. McGee

No Comment

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Gaspard stated that the Council Members had been presented the financial statements for the month of August 2023. Vote to approve will be next month.

Mr. Jimmy Williams of Minden Medical Center came to give an update on the new building. He stated that it is taking longer than planned due to materials not being available. A punch list walk through is planned for October 1st. He also stated that a full-time pediatrician will be on staff as well as other special physicians.

By Mayor Gaspard

A proclamation recognizing constitution week. Mayor Gaspard also stated he is preparing another proclamation recognizing citizen

By Mr. McGee

Motion to introduce ordinance 6 of 2023 – and ordinance that will allow the town to purchase a new firetruck and to make a budget amendment due to this item not being budgeted for the current year. A special meeting will be called to vote on this ordinance.

Mr. Isom asked Fire Chief Holland to come up to the mic. He asked Chief Holland how many trucks he had. Chief Holland answered 3 frontline and 1 rescue. Mr. Isom stated that he wasn't aware of this ordinance being brought to the table. Mr. Isom asked Chief Holland could he adequately put out a fire with the current equipment? Chief Holland stated that while we were capable of extinguishing a fire, we were not currently capable of responding with the number of apparatus required through property insurance. He also stated that if we fail to respond with the proper amount of apparatus, property insurance rates would increase. Mr. Isom suggested that we look at other options for purchasing a new truck.

Citizen Parks McCormick addressed the council on this topic. He stated he also wasn't aware that the need of a fire truck was present. He agreed with Mr. Isom that the council should look at other options for this.

Citizen William Smithy addressed Mr. Isom, asking how did he get notified of this situation and ordinance. Mr. Isom answered from Mayor Gaspard.

Citizens Parks McCormick and William Smithy also had other comments, but said comments did not pertain to the current agenda item.

Seconded by Mr. Smith

No Further Comment

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous

By Mayor Gaspard

Table item 5 – Accept/Reject Resolution 7 of 2023 – a resolution that authorized the mayor to enter into a lease/purchase agreement with government capital corp. in order to procure a fire truck.

By Mr. Smith

Accept Resolution 8 of 2023 – this resolution accepts the water, sewer, and street drainage infrastructure at Legacy Pointe Unit 2.

Seconded by Mr. Adams

No Further Comment

Vote in favor of motion is unanimous

Department Reports

By Fire Chief Holland

The total number of responses were 83. They are currently only running 2 fire apparatus on fire calls. This puts us below the minimum requirements of PIAL. Rescue 1 returned from Freightliner and is now back out of service. The truck is failing to reach RPM's to shift gears. Engine 1 is also out of service. The truck continues to breakdown in route to calls. Engine 3's A/C remains out. Daily training continues for full-time personnel. Assistant Chief Palmer introduced himself to the council. His goals for this department are: improving training (day to day) receiving grants, and improving policy and procedures. Assistant Chief Palmer has already secured a grant from SWEPCO for \$1,000 and a grant for \$37,000 for a new set of battery-powered cutting tools from the Gary Sinese Foundation.

By Police Chief Gibson

Chief Gibson was absent. His report stated that 60 tickets were issued totaling \$15,394.00 Chief is in South Louisiana at a Homicide certification class, which is required by the state of Louisiana to work/investigate homicides. Chief has taken some calls again about the traffic light at the Buc Stop not working properly on weekday mornings. Chief called DOTD and they agreed.

By Public Works Superintendent Jacky Hicks

He stated that Well #2 had to have a new pump put in. We had to put in a boil advisory. All wells are running now and Well #6 is on constant pressure from Sligo to Spring Creek. The sewer plant is doing good; they have found out during the summer we do not have enough flow going into the plant. The plant is a little big during summer and we could not control the CL2.

By MPC Director Sam Marsiglia

He stated that his office now being 3 years old, the case load has doubled. He is waiting on a quote for liability insurance that he recommends getting.

By Glen Turner from MML&H

He stated that Legacy Pointe phase 2 has been approved. In reference to the drainage on West McKinley, they are going to reroute the flow by digging a ditch to Foxskin Bayou. The sewer plant is in warranty period and is working great. They are also getting ready to nail down the sites for the elevated tank and 2 wells on the north side of town.

By Mayor Gaspard

The department heads are going to meet with Ms. Pee on September 20th for their first budget meeting. They are going to attempt to get the first draft of the budget to the council by October. Mayor Gaspard also stated that they need to determine if the council needs to have a workshop or go straight into a public meeting for the Future Land Use Map.

PUBLIC COMMENT

By Klay Harrison

Mr. Harrison asked for an update on 3227 & 157. The mayor answered that David North is getting ready to take it to bid. Mr. Harrison also asked could we reinstate agenda meetings? Mayor answered that those meetings were for just department reports and that we already have those at the council meetings.

There being no further business to come before this Council, Mayor Gaspard adjourned the meeting at 7:43 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Lane Brown

Deputy Clerk

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