

## MINUTES

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Springhill, Louisiana met in regular session in the Council Chambers at Springhill City Hall on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 5:00 P.M with Mayor W. Ray Huddleston presiding.

PRESENT: Dimettera Frazier, Stacey Willard, Mike Whitlock, and Derek Melancon, Aldermen.

ABSENT: Dennis Smith.

Mayor W. Ray Huddleston called the meeting to order.

Alderman Dimettera Frazier opened the meeting with Prayer.

Mayor Huddleston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Stacey Willard to adopt the minutes from the last regular meeting held on December 9, 2024.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Dimettera Frazier, seconded by Stacey Willard to approve the financial statement for December 2024.

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

Vickie Case, CPA with Cook and Morehart presented the Financial Audit FYE 6/30/2024. Ms. Case started the report with the prior year findings for public bid law and controls over credit cards. Ms. Case stated that both of those findings had been corrected and would go away for this year's audit. The other finding for vehicle use reimbursement was still not corrected in time for the audit this year so it would be a repeat finding for AUDIT FYE 6/30/2024. This is the only finding for AUDIT FYE 6/30/2024. However, it is being worked on and should be corrected in time for next year's audit which would make the finding go away for it.

Management is currently working with the City Attorney to develop a policy to correct the finding for vehicle use reimbursement.

Ms. Case moved on to the General Fund and Sales Tax Funds and said the City spent a little more money than the City took in FYE 6/30/2024, which is not terrible but you don't want to do that every year. One good side note was that the City's sales tax fund did go up which is good news.

The Water and Sewer Funds are still not self-sustaining and rely on monies from the Sales Tax Fund to help it be self-sustaining. There is a 2% increase to be implemented in 2025 for the water fund. There was no increase for the sewer fund. Ms. Case is highly recommending a rate increase and maybe have a water and sewer rate study done. The City basically had a break even year but stressed that the City needs to stay on top of it and make sure that is being looked at on a regular basis. This needs to be made a top priority according to Ms. Case.

Overall, the City's Audit Report FYE 6/30/2024 finished in good standing.

Mayor Huddleston thanked Vickie Case, CPA with Cook and Morehart for coming and presenting the report.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Mike Whitlock to approve the AUDIT Report FYE 6/30/2024.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Stacey Willard, seconded by Dimettera Frazier to declare the property located at 235 North Main Street as surplus property no longer needed for public use advertise it for bid.

Discussion followed by Alderman Derek Melancon wanting to pursue the possibility of trying to obtain some historic grants to fix the building up turning it into a Museum or using it as a Main Street Office for the City to use and then if no grants are available to maybe put it up for bid in June 2025.

Alderman Whitlock mentioned that he had talked to the former occupants of the building and the problem with the building is the large windows in it making it very hot inside during the summer and cold during the winter.

More discussion followed with comments from Alderman Frazier and Alderman Willard.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Mike Whitlock to table the matter till May 2025.

The vote was two in favor and two against to table the matter. Alderman Smith was absent at this meeting. Since there is a tie vote it is up to Mayor Huddleston to break the tie vote.

Mayor Huddleston voted to table the matter till May 2025.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Stacey Willard to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with LA DOTD for the Springhill Airport and adopt the Resolution pertaining to it.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Mike Whitlock, seconded by Derek Melancon to approve the Police Chief's recommendation to hire Jamie Cole as a part-time patrol officer.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Mike Whitlock to pay the monthly vendors bills for December 2024 in the amount of \$149,661.04.

MOTION CARRIED.

Announcements: Police Chief Will Lynd announced that on January 28, 2025 the Springhill Police Department will begin monthly information classes in partner with Bonvenu Bank supplying the meal. The first class will be on Frauds and Scams. The class will be held at the Springhill RV Building at 6:30 PM.

Springhill Main Street Mardi Gras Parade will be held on Friday, February 7, 2025 from 5 PM – 8 PM. Parade will start at 6 PM. The South Main Mall Parking Lot will have food trucks, live music with a special guest DJ, and other activities for everyone to enjoy.

Alderman Frazier announced that the North Webster 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Parade will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 1 PM.

No further announcements the meeting was adjourned.

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Shelli Malone, LMMC  
City Clerk

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W. Ray Huddleston  
Mayor