

## 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, February 10, 2025 at 5:00 P.M with Mayor W. Ray Huddleston presiding.

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

ABSENT: None.

Mayor W. Ray Huddleston called the meeting to order.

Alderman Mike Whitlock opened the meeting with Prayer.

Mayor Huddleston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Dennis Smith to adopt the minutes from the last regular meeting held on January 13, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Dennis Smith, seconded by Stacey Willard to approve the financial statement for January 2025.

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

Amie Poladian, Main Street Manager said that Mardi Gras on Main was a great success with several thousand people in attendance for the event and parade.

Special thanks goes out to Southern Market the new owners of Piggly Wiggly for the use of their property to host the event. If you haven't visited the store lately go check it out they are making improvements and it looks amazing.

Thanks also to Springhill Medical Center for the use of their event tent.

Thanks to the City of Springhill Public Works Department for all their hard work on getting everything set up and tore down for this big event.

Also, a big Thank You and Congratulations to David Smith who was the Grand Marshal for the Mardi Gras Event. David has renovated over 20 buildings in the downtown area. He goes all over the area asking businesses to open locations in our City. We appreciate all he does for our community.

The first Farmers Market will be Saturday, April 5, and every first Saturday of each month after that. The first Farmers Market Vendor Meeting will be on March 19 at the Chamber of Commerce Building. Anyone interested in becoming a vendor please attend.

Main Street Boutique is the winner of the façade match grant for this quarter. They will be making improvements to the building and awning with their grant.

Frank Lofton owner of the historic Branch Brothers Building located at 301 South Main Street is the winner of the \$55,000 Paul Bruhn Revitalization Grant and work on that building will begin in the near future.

Mayor Huddleston, Alderman Dereck Melancon, Public Works Director Mike Dunaway, and Amie all met with LA DOTD Officials and have been working on an alternative transportation grant for the city. They have made it into the pre-application phase of the grant, and after receiving feedback from them on that they will move on to the next phase of the application process.

North Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG) has a grant for safe streets and roads for all. Surveys were taken and community feedback was taken in our area. There will be some improvements made in our surrounding area to benefit the community.

Destination Downtown will be held in the fall in El Dorado, Arkansas.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Stacey Willard to accept the recommendation from John French, JBF Engineering & Surveying, LLC to terminate the contract with Derrick Vice, Elite Pools and Spas, LLC for the Springhill Pavilions and Spray Park, FY21 CDBG-CV-LLOP Contract No. 2000742487 and to authorize the Mayor to file a claim with the bonding company Liberty Mutual Surety Performance Bond No. 999314476.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Mike Whitlock to adopt a Car Allowance Policy of \$500 a month for the Mayor and \$750 a month for the Police Chief for the use of their personal vehicles to correct Audit Finding FYE 6/30/2024.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Stacey Willard, seconded by Mike Whitlock to adopt a Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) Resolution for the January 2024 to December 2024 Audit Report.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Huddleston presented two quotes to construct a new road in the Springhill Cemetery to access the new section for development in the cemetery as the city is running out of space for burials. The first quote was from George Rodgers and Sons Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$238,024 and the second one was from Budd's Construction in the amount of \$135,000.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Dennis Smith to accept the low quote from Budd's Construction in the amount of \$135,000.

MOTION CARRIED.

A grant of \$50,000 from Louisiana Government Assistance Program (LGAP) was obtained for the city to rehabilitate manholes. Two quotes were presented for this project. Versatile Construction proposed \$49,950 and the second proposal was from High Tech Concrete Repair, LLC in the amount of \$59,850.

MOTION was made by Stacey Willard, seconded by Derek Melancon to accept the proposal from Versatile Construction in the amount of \$49,950.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Stacey Willard, seconded by Dennis Smith to grant an alcohol license to Butler House Bistro.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Stacey Willard to grant an alcohol license to Cajun Gypsy.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Mike Whitlock to accept the Police Chief's recommendation to move Jaimee Cole from part-time patrol officer to full time and to terminate Dominick Mims

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Mike Whitlock, seconded by Stacey Willard to pay the January 2025 monthly vendor bills totaling \$135,364.13.

MOTION CARRIED.

Announcements: Mayor Huddleston announced that there were plenty of things for people to do this past weekend. Saturday was the North Webster 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Parade and then it was followed by a beauty pageant at the Civic Center that evening.

Pineywoods Jamboree had about 300 in attendance for that show.

Mardi Gras Event and Parade had about 5,000 people in attendance at it.

Alderman Derek Melancon announced there would be an open house at the Springhill Medical Center Emergency Room on Tuesday, February 11 at 4 PM for the ribbon cutting.

Springhill Police Chief Will Lynd announced that due to the time frame he was not able to get this on the agenda for today but it would be on the next meeting agenda. He has hired with the Mayor's approval Andrew Evans as a full time officer at the department.

Amie Poladian announced that the Webster Parish Convention and Tourism Bureau is looking for a new director.

No further announcements the meeting was adjourned.

---

Shelli Malone, LMMC  
City Clerk

---

W. Ray Huddleston  
Mayor

