

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, October 14, 2024 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 Dimettera Frazier, seconded by Dennis Smith to adopt the minutes from the last regular meeting held on September 9, 2024.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Mike Whitlock, seconded by Derek Melancon to approve the financial statement for September 2024.

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ronnie Dees, 708 James Street, spoke in regard to agenda item (g) Consider adopting an Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 106, Article II entitled “Water Service,” Division 2, Regulations; Policies; Rates; Section 106-57, Connection Deposit Required by the City of Springhill Is Increased from \$150.00 to \$300.00 for Renters effective November 1, 2024”. Mr. Dees went on to state that he thought the Council should not adopt this Ordinance because he is afraid that it would further reduce the population in Springhill to much lower levels than the 2020 census forcing many current residents to move out of town bringing the city closer to the town category which would reduce the funding amounts of money and grants that the city could apply for in the future. Also, he felt that it would be discriminatory to single out a class of people “renters” for the increase.

Carroll Breaux, 107 Ashley Circle also addressed agenda item (g). Mr. Breaux stated that there were other options to consider before doubling the water meter deposit rate for rent property. One option may be to consider taking people to court to try and collect unpaid bills. Also, he went on to state that no one has been up in arms over the thousands of gallons of water that have been running out on the ground at the complex on Morgan Street for over two years that went unmetered, not billed, and not repaired. Nobody questioned this and he would like to know why. Maybe y’all weren’t aware of it. It’s been fixed since, not sure by who, but not by the city. Not sure why the city didn’t fix it because it is our water line it’s not metered. We are losing and you know who gets to pay the bill for that, it’s the taxpayers, so I would appreciate it if y’all would consider other options before doubling the meter deposit.

There were no further comments.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

Main Street Manager Amie Poladian thanked everyone that participated in the painting at the park. Special shout out went to Teijin, Wal-Mart and Springhill Medical Center for supplying water and paint supplies for the event. We had about 30 people to show up and help spruce up the city park with bright new paint.

Amie thanked everyone for coming out and supporting the Lumberjack Parade and Car Show. It was a really good turn out and thanks went out to Ronnie Dees for supporting the car show with several nice cars and motorcycles. Also, thanks go out to Lofton Motor Sports and O’Reillys for sponsoring gift cards and trophies for the show. It was a really good turn-out.

Historic District Commission will be meeting quarterly on the fourth Thursday at the Chamber of Commerce at 5 PM. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 5 PM. Everybody is welcome to attend.

Three new businesses opened this month. Buds N Blooms Floral Shop, 318 Laser Company, and Main Street Barber Shop.

North Louisiana Council of Governments had a grant for several parishes and people in our community participated in a survey to see how funds might be used in the area.

Louisiana Main Street also awarded a grant and Springhill was one of the winners. Amie has more information at her office if any one is interested in finding out more about it.

Love N Lace Collective is the winner of the 2024-2025 Quarter 1 Municipal Grant Winner. Amber Spencer the owner is going to do a vinyl mural on the side of her building with the money.

Food Truck Friday Night is Friday, October 25, 2024 from 4 PM – 9 PM.

City Attorney Nelson Smith opened the bids for the surplus vehicle a 1999 Dodge Van. There was only one bid from JJ Merchant Company from Purvis Mississippi in the amount of \$777.77.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Mike Whitlock to accept the bid of \$777.77 from JJ Merchant.

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion was made by Stacey Willard, seconded by Dimettera Frazier to adopt a Resolution for Audit Engagements of Governments entitled "A Resolution Approving and Adopting a Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire as the City of Springhill, Louisiana 71075".

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Dimettera Frazier, seconded by Stacey Willard to adopt a Resolution entitled "Annual Certification of Compliance with State of Louisiana Off System Bridge Replacement Program".

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Dimettera Frazier, seconded by Dennis Smith to adopt a Resolution FY 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan for the Springhill Airport.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Mike Whitlock, seconded by Derek Melancon to adopt an Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 106, Article II entitled "Water Services," Division 2, Regulations; Policies; Rates; Section 106-57, Connection Deposit Required by the City of Springhill Is Increased from \$150.00 to \$300.00 for Renters effective November 1, 2024."

Mayor Huddleston called for a roll call vote. The vote was as follows:

Alderman Frazier-----	Nay
Alderman Smith-----	Nay
Alderman Willard-----	Nay
Alderman Whitlock-----	Yea
Alderman Melancon-----	Yea

MOTION was 3 AGAINST and 2 in FAVOR.

MOTION FAILED.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Stacey Willard to approve an alcohol license for Southern Market.

MOTION CARRIED.

Three quotes were presented for power washing Main Street District. The quotes were \$3,500, \$4,500, and \$7,500.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Mike Whitlock, to accept the low quote of \$3500.

Discussion followed on the matter.

A roll call vote was called for and the vote was as follows:

Alderman Frazier-----	Nay
Alderman Smith-----	Nay
Alderman Willard-----	Yea
Alderman Whitlock-----	Yea
Alderman Melancon-----	Yea

MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Huddleston presented a quote for Little Crooked vegetation spraying. There was only one quote for this in the amount of \$3,000. This is done by a drone flying over the area spraying the vegetation. There are no other companies in the area that perform this service.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Dennis Smith.

Discussion followed on the matter with some questions being asked and answered.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Stacey Willard, seconded by Mike Whitlock to consider the purchase of a new tractor and make repairs to the other tractor.

After a brief discussion with questions being asked and answered.

MOTION was made by Mike Whitlock, seconded by Derek Melancon to make the smaller repairs to the one tractor and put off the purchase of a new tractor till later.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Mike Whitlock to approve the Police Chief's request to match funds for a \$7,000 Mobile Forensics Grant Award for a combined total of \$14,000.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Mike Whitlock to approve the Police Chief's recommendation to hire Jason Chachere as a patrolman, and to accept the resignation letter of Bobby Roton.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Dimettera Frazier, seconded by Mike Whitlock to change the council meeting on Monday, November 11, 2024 to Tuesday, November 12, 2024 due to the Veterans Day Holiday.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Stacey Willard to pay the monthly vendor bills for September 2024 in the amount of \$163,542.93.

MOTION CARRIED.

Announcements: Alderman Derek Melancon said that hopefully the new Emergency Room will be open about the middle of November. All the black top has gone in by the new entrance.

Police Chief Will Lynd thanked everyone for coming out to the Springhill Rodeo. Springhill has something to be proud of. Largest event in Webster Parish.

Lumberjack Festival was a good event too.

Fuller Center is having a Gospel Concert with the Monday Night Choir Boys at the Community Activity Building on Friday, October 18, 2024 at 6:30 PM. Free concert and silent auction. Proceed go to finish the house on Oak Street.

Alderman Frazier wanted the minutes to reflect that October is "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" which is recognized globally and locally.

No further announcements the meeting was adjourned.

Shelli Malone, LMMC
City Clerk

W. Ray Huddleston
Mayor