Town Council Meeting

Whitmire Town Hall Annex

May 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

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**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

 Mayor Billy Hollingsworth

 Galen Roche

 Dwight Lane

 Marty McMurtury

 Johnathan Ammons

 Charles Worthy

 Michael Thomas

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Carla Taylor Knotts, Clerk/Treasurer; Dawn Mosley, CPW Clerk; Jay Gardner, Recreation Coordinator; Officer Wilbanks, Whitmire Police Department; Attorney Robert Lake, IV; Tony Hill, Meg Meur, Peggy West, Donna Seaverson, Dean Sanders, and other concerned citizens.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Hollingsworth gave the call to order and Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION:**

Councilman Lane gave the invocation to council.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of April 11, 2022 were read and approved as written. Councilman Roche made the motion to approve as written and seconded by Councilman McMurtury. All in favor.

**POLICE REPORTS:**

We had 106 incidents, 101 citations, 8 warrants, and 2 traffic accidents. Some of the calls were larceny, domestic violence, possession of meth, possession marijuana, DUI, and failure to stop for blue light.

Chief Sinclair mentioned to council that he had been approached about putting up some kind of plaque to honor the two officers that were killed here in 1945. Council discussed this and all decided to do this. Motion to get picture and plaque made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Roche. All in favor. Councilman McMurtry told them he had pictures in the museum.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

The Town of Whitmire financial reports for the month of April, 2022 had a beginning balance of $50,320.79, deposits of $37,479.15, expenditures of $53,481.33, and an ending balance of $34,318.61.

Whitmire Public Works for the month of April, 2022 had a beginning balance of

$14,604.01, deposits of $69,207.98, expenditures of $79,917.08, and an ending balance of $3,894.91.

**RECREATION:**

Jay Gardner told everyone we are finishing the Softball, T-Ball, and Baseball programs. Pelicans came and gave snow cones to the teams and sold to others at the game. We will receive 20% back from the sales over a certain amount. Our Baseball and Softball teams were in first place. He said he has a meeting with some senior adults tomorrow at the First Baptist Church at 10:30 a.m. to discuss some plans he has for them. Stella Jones and Sea Pro will donate to recreation.

Councilman Lane asked if the snow cones took away from Concessions. Jay told him no.

**NEWBERRY MUSEUM:**

Peggy West, Meg Muer, and Rose Marie Favors discussed happenings at the Newberry Museum. Their last exhibit was to celebrate WKDK radio’s 75th year on the air. The next exhibit will be in October and it will be Coming Home to Newberry and is about the college. The museum has a new director, Mr. Steven Nap, and he has historical background. Rose Marie Favors has the 200 years of wedding dresses on exhibit now. We will be celebrating Juneteenth and Anne Lowe. The museum needs suggestions for things to exhibit.

**TAMMY JOHNS:**

Ms. Johns told council she just wanted to introduce herself. She let everyone know she was running for House of Representative and would appreciate everyone’s vote. She told them to go to her website to see more about her and what she stands for.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION:**

Mayor Hollingsworth told everyone he hasn’t got everything he needs to go over the budget yet, but he does know we are looking at getting gas cards for the vehicles. This will save a good bit of money each month. There will be no water or sewer increases this year. Some of the ARP money will be transferred to the General Fund to cover some of the expenses this budget year which is legal. We will have the first reading of the Budget at the June 13th meeting.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

Mayor Hollingsworth told council the Sewer line on Sims Street is to start construction as soon as they get the materials in. We will have to do a 10% match.

The paving projects have started.

We have lost our backhoe. The motor is gone in it. Kenny is researching what is available and getting some prices. Right now, we are renting one for $1750.00 per month. Mayor Hollingsworth said we had planned to purchase a mini excavator, but we are waiting to see what the water and sewer plant upgrades cost.

Mayor Hollingsworth told council he should be showing the old high school to some investors in a couple weeks. He said they sound positive.

Mayor Hollingsworth told council we are still looking at online payments.

Mayor Hollingsworth told council we requested $1,380,000 on the CPST project, but the ballot will probably only have $912,000 on it.

We have had a few calls on grocery stores, but most of them want an 11,000 to 15,000 square foot building or that they need more population in the area.

Mayor Hollingsworth told council he would include the increases for employees and mayor and council on this budget. Mayor and Council salaries would not go into effect until January 1, 2023. We will also have to have an Ordinance and two readings for it to go into effect.

**COUNCIL PRESENTS:**

Councilman Ammons asked if the Jaycees could get the $4,990.00 back that was given to the town to use on the gym. Mayor Hollingsworth told him we had discussed this with our attorney and was advised we could use the money for the gym. We did give them back the Cheer Fund money that was given to us to hold.

Councilman Ammons told council we need to trim the tree limb by the Lutheran Church on Main Street.

Councilman Ammons said food trucks need to be DHEC regulated.

Councilman Ammons said the hand rails in front of the hardware store are wobbly.

Councilman Ammons said the hole by the fire hydrant at the end of Main Street needs to be filled in.

Councilman Worthy asked about the building that is falling in beside the Doctors Office on Main Street. Mayor Hollingsworth told him the lady at the Cafe’ owns it. I do not know what we can do to make her fix it or what she is planning to do with it.

Councilman Thomas talked about a lot of sink holes in town and to get a paper trail we need to contact DOT on their website to do a request to get them fixed. Mayor Hollingsworth said DOT is coming to clean storm drains.

Councilman Lane asked what can be done when they pave his street to correct the drainage problem down there. He said his landlord is really upset. Mayor Hollingsworth told him he would talk to Herb Cooper about the problem and see if anything could be done.

Councilman Lane said the problem with the uncovered pipes is still on Calhoun Street.

Councilman Lane asked if the oil and stuff are being checked on the vehicles and equipment every morning before the day starts and do we need a form for them to sign off on. We need to do this to help take care of what we have and not burn up motors and stuff for having no oil.

**ADJOURN:**

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman McMurtry.

All in favor.

**APPROVED:**

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 Mayor Billy Hollingsworth

**ATTEST:**

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Carla Taylor Knotts, Clerk/Treasurer