

Town of Bernice
Council Meeting
August 12, 2025

Mayor Mildred Ferguson and the Town Council met in regular session August 12, 2025, in the Council Room of the Town Hall with the following present: Gene Terral, Amy Pesnell, Karen Hall, Joanna Ward, and Lanell Clubbs.

Also present: Town Attorney Joe Cusimano; Lana Patton, Town Clerk; Police Chief Larry Jones; Police Officer Arica Thompson; Martravious Kennedy; Dena Lee, The Banner; Justice Beavers; Darvenski Jones and citizens.

Mayor Ferguson called the meeting to order. Amy Pesnell led the prayer. Lana Patton called the roll. Karen Hall made a motion with Joanna Ward seconding the motion to approve the previous minutes. Vote was unanimously approved. The Council was presented with financial reports.

Mayor Ferguson reported that the town will be applying for the LCDBG 2025 Clearance Program to tear down and clean up dilapidated property. Mayor Ferguson also said that people will have 30 days to respond if they do not want their property torn down and must attend a council meeting and come to say how they will rehab the property within 60 days. Mayor Ferguson said the first public hearing will be held on August 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Room of the Town Hall. Mayor Ferguson also informed the group that the amount of the grant has been increased from \$250,000.00 to \$500,000.00 so the town can tear down additional dilapidated properties.

Three sealed bids were opened for the 2015 Ford Explorer. Joanna Ward made a motion with Karen Hall seconding the motion to approve the highest bid of \$1,777.77 made by J. J. Merchant. Vote was unanimously approved.

Mayor Ferguson reported on the activities of the town saying the first Annual Back to School Giveaway Program was a tremendous success. Mayor Ferguson also said the Corney Creek Festival will be held on October 4th and the Corney Creek Pageant will be held on September 6th. Mayor Ferguson also said the Northeast Louisiana Music Trail will be honoring Robert "Slim" Finley with a plaque on September 20th at 2:00 p.m. at the Depot Museum.

Police Chief Larry Jones recommended to the council that Darvenski Jones be hired as a full-time Patrol Officer. Joanna Ward made a motion to approve the recommendation with Karen Hall seconding the motion. Vote was unanimously approved. Police Chief Larry Jones recommended that Justice Beavers be hired a Part-Time Patrol Officer. Joanna Ward made a motion with Karen Hall seconding the motion to approve the recommendation. Vote was unanimously approved.

Karen Hall made a motion with Amy Pesnell seconding the motion to pay bills. Vote was unanimously approved. Gene Terral made a motion with Karen Hall seconding the motion to adjourn.



Attest: Lana Patton, Town Clerk



Approve: Mayor Mildred Ferguson