

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, August 12, 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 Dimettera Frazier opened the meeting with Prayer.

Mayor Huddleston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION was made by Mike Whitlock, seconded by Dennis Smith to adopt the minutes from the last regular meeting held on July 8, 2024.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

Mayor Huddleston asked to amend the agenda for the following items of city business:

Amend the July 2024 Monthly Vendor Bills totaling \$136,188.14 to add an additional bill from Tim Smith Construction, LLC in the amount of \$87,759.00 that was inadvertently left out of the monthly bills that needed to be paid that changed the July 2024 monthly bill total to \$223,947.14.

Amend the BUDGET FYE 2023-2024 to reduce the budget for the Hwy. 371 Drainage Project that was budgeted for the 2023-2024 budget cycle but was not completed until July 2024, and amend the BUDGET FYE 2024-2025 to increase the budget for this same project.

MOTION was made by Stacey Willard, seconded by Dennis Smith.

Mayor Huddleston called for a roll call vote for the additional items to the agenda:

Alderman Dimettera Frazier-----Yea
Alderman Dennis Smith-----Yea
Alderman Stacey Willard-----Yea
Alderman Mike Whitlock-----Yea
Alderman Derek Melancon-----Yea

The vote was unanimous to amend the agenda for the above listed items.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Huddleston asked to amend the agenda for the Main Street Historic District Appointees to add an additional appointee to the list instead of the five that were listed.

MOTION was made by Dimettera Frazier, seconded by Stacey Willard to change the list of five appointees to six for the Main Street Historic District.

Mayor Huddleston called for a roll call vote:

Alderman Dimettera Frazier-----Yea
Alderman Dennis Smith-----Yea
Alderman Stacey Willard-----Yea
Alderman Mike Whitlock-----Yea
Alderman Derek Melancon-----Yea

The vote was unanimous to amend the agenda for this item.

MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Huddleston asked to amend the agenda to include quotes from our engineer John French for the Doctors Drive Project.

MOTION was made by Dimettera Frazier, seconded by Mike Whitlock.

Mayor Huddleston called for a roll call vote:

Alderman Dimettera Frazier-----Yea
Alderman Dennis Smith-----Yea
Alderman Stacey Willard-----Yea
Alderman Mike Whitlock-----Yea
Alderman Derek Melancon-----Yea

The vote was unanimous to add this item to the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED.

At this time Alderman Derek Melancon respectfully asked to amend the agenda and call for a roll call vote to equip 32 city vehicles including the black and white police cars for a year-long study on cost savings. The monthly cost is \$510, totaling \$6,124 for the year. This study aims to analyze the impact on operating costs, potentially saving the city and taxpayers money on fuel and maintenance. Implementing this GPS system will aid in making informed decisions about fleet management. This initiative is about enhancing efficiency and ensuring our city services are more reliable for residents. It also adds a safety element for employees and could help reduce insurance costs. By monitoring vehicle use, we can reduce unnecessary trips, optimize routes, and extend the lifespan of our fleet.

MOTION was made by Derek, Melancon, seconded by Mike Whitlock.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Alderman Dimettera Frazier-----Nay
Alderman Dennis Smith-----Nay
Alderman Stacey Willard-----Nay
Alderman Mike Whitlock-----Yea
Alderman Derek Melancon-----Yea

The vote was 3 Against and 2 in Favor of this addition to the agenda. The agenda addition did not pass.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Main Street Manager Amie Poladian started off stating that there are two grants open right now. The first grant that is open right now is via the State Main Street Program Louisiana Main Street and it for a \$55,000 grant for rehabilitation of their building and it is due August 31st. Contact Amie at the Main Street Office for more details.

The other grant is a Municipal Grant which is a \$2,000 matching grant. This is an exterior façade grant and the grant will close on September 15th.

The next Farmers Market is September 7th. Other activities coming up are Main to Main, October Food Truck Night, Lumberjack Festival, and Rodeo Week on Main Street in conjunction with the Springhill Rodeo Week. Lots of fun activities so come on out everyone and enjoy the fun.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Dennis Smith to appoint the following six people to the Main Street Historic District Committee: Dean Stamps, Will Lynd, Debbie Thomas, Dana Boyett, Mary Armwood, and Courtney Allen.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Dimettera Frazier, seconded by Derek Melancon to Adopt an Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Supplementing and Amending Chapter 102, Entitled “Taxation, Article 2, Entitled Ad Valorem Tax, Section 102-27, Entitled “rate of Assessment, Purposes”, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Springhill, Louisiana levying taxes of 7.22 mills General Alimony Tax, on all taxable property in the City of Springhill, Louisiana for the year 2024”.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Stacey Willard, seconded by Dimettera Frazier to authorize the Mayor to enter into engagement letters for the AUDIT FYE 6/30/2025 and the SAUP (Statewide Agreed Upon Procedures).

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Dimettera Frazier, seconded by Dennis Smith to approve the emergency sewer repair to South Street.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Mike Whitlock, seconded by Derek Melancon to approve the quote of \$1,983.67 for the camera system at the Westside Community Center and Complex.

MOTION CARRIED.

John French from JBF Engineering presented two quotes for the Doctors Drive Project. Mr. French stated that he had asked for another quote from Tim Smith Construction but had never received one. The quotes were from Budd’s Construction in the amount of \$37,767.20 and the second one was for \$45,000.00 from 3 Gen Construction.

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

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Mike Whitlock to approve the quote from Budd's Construction in the amount of \$37,767.20 for the Doctors Drive Project.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Derek Melancon, seconded by Dimettera Frazier to accept the Police Chief's recommendation to appoint Christian Dillon as a reserve police officer.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION was made by Mike Whitlock, seconded by Derek Melancon to pay the monthly vendor bills for July 2024 totaling \$223,947.14 and to amend the BUDGET FYE 06/30/2024 and the BUDGET FYE 06/30/2025 for the Hwy. 371 drainage project that started in the Budget for 2023-2024 and was completed in Budget for 2024-2025.

MOTION CARRIED.

Announcements: Alderman Dimettera Frazier wanted to acknowledge the great work that was done over by Brown Upper Elementary School and getting that project completed before school got started. Great job was done on the project.

Alderman Derek Melancon stated that the new ER Entrance at the Hospital is now being built. The new ER is coming along great thanks to the Hospital Board and the Chairman of the Hospital Board.

Alderman Melancon also congratulated PineyWoods Jamboree on their great concert last Saturday night with Steven Pride. It was a great show with over 350 people in attendance. He also went on to thank the man that helped get the building ready for the show.

No further announcements the meeting was adjourned.

Shelli Malone, LMMC
City Clerk

W. Ray Huddleston
Mayor