

**PROCEEDINGS OF MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF OAK GROVE, LOUISIANA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Town Council of Oak Grove met in regular session on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. Present for the meeting were Council Members Nevels, Gammill, Walker, Allen and Rye. Mayor Holland presided.

Invocation was led by Council Member Allen.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rye to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2018 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rye to add the following new business to the agenda (A) authorization to advertise for bids for the LCDBG water plant rehab project; (B) AirEvac membership. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to approve the September 2018 financials and bills for payment. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Russell stated that the property at 1005 West Main Street has been torn down and no further action is required at this time.

Chief Russell stated that some clean-up had begun on the property at 608 Beale Street but there was still a lot to be done. Mayor Holland stated that he would like to set a demolition date for on or after November 1, 2018 for this property. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rye to continue with condemnation procedures and set a demolition date for on or after November 1, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Holland stated that nothing had been done to the property at 1014 Lindsey Street. Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to continue with condemnation procedures and set a demolition date for on or after November 1, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Holland stated that the property at 1017 Lindsey Street has been condemned in the past, but clean-up was never complete. Council Member Walker made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nevels to approve the Mayor to take necessary action to have the property cleaned-up. The motion passed unanimously.

Merle Sistrunk with the Fire Department discussed the drainage problems at fire station #1. It was discussed that this is something that the Superintendent could take care of. No action was required.

Mayor Holland recommended a proposed employee insurance plan with a \$2,000 deductible and 80/60 coinsurance instead of the current plan that is set to increase to a \$4,300 deductible with 70/50 coinsurance beginning in December. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rye to approve the proposed employee insurance plan. Those in favor were Council Members Nevels, Gammill, Walker and Rye. Council Member Allen abstained due to conflict of interest. The motion passed.

Mayor Holland stated the he and Council Member Gammill had met with AWWM to negotiate their contract and keep them on to operate the sewer plant. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with AWWM. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Holland stated that the contract with Ouachita Meter Reading expires on December 31, 2018. He stated that he feels that the staff the town has in place now is capable of reading the meters without taking away from other duties that they have. He asked for approval to not renew the contract. Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to not renew the contract with Ouachita Meter Reading. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Gammill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to adopt a resolution to apply for a CWEF grant to replace old deteriorated water lines. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Allen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to approve permanently moving Sam Hodges to the water department and moving Johnny Smith to street maintenance. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to amend the overtime policy for utility workers and for supervisory and appointed by the Mayor and make it retroactive to October 1, 2018. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the policy is available for review in the Clerk's office.

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to approve the annual compliance questionnaire. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Russell gave his verbal monthly report.

Superintendent Colquette gave his monthly report.

Byron Lewis gave his monthly report for the water department. Council Member Gammill stated that he and the Mayor had recently traveled to Springhill to meet with Mayor Carroll Breaux and discuss their water line replacement project. He asked that the following statement be entered into the record: "The City of Springhill's distribution system, much like Oak Grove's, was at the time primarily transite, cast iron and galvanized pipe with no maps to document their location. Over the past 12 years the town has replaced the entire distribution system with the exception of one isolated subdivision. Mayor Breaux confirmed what we have been told many times by Mayor Holland that free money has all but dried up. He informed us that the majority of their project was funded by USDA and DHH loan/grant combos with water rate increases being used to pay off the loans over various terms. The Springhill project was a multi-stage project. Breaux said looking back with hind sight being 20/20 that he should have took the heat by completing it all at one time, as actual progress toward improving their quality of water was not seen until the project was completed".

Council Member Nevels made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rye to authorize advertising for bids for the LCDBG water plant rehab project pending approval from DHH. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Allen stated that the AirEvac membership for all town employees would be \$1,300.00. He also stated that the Police Jury would be discussing membership for the entire parish at their meeting. Council Member Allen stated that he would suggest that the town agree to pay \$1,500.00 to assist with membership for the entire parish, only if the Police Jury voted for such coverage. Otherwise, he suggested that the town pay the \$1,300.00 membership fee to cover all town employees. Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Gammill to approve paying \$1,500.00 to assist with parish-wide membership if approved at the Police Jury meeting and if there would be no parish-wide coverage, to pay \$1,300.00 to cover membership for all town employees. Voting for the motion were Council Members Nevels, Gammill, Walker and Rye. Council Member Allen abstained due to conflict of interest. The motion passed.

Council Member Rye made a motion, seconded by Council Member Allen to adjourn at 5:41 P.M. The motion passed unanimously.

MELLISSA CORLEY, LCMC

ADAM T. HOLLAND, MAYOR