



Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 18, 2024
7:00 P.M.

Members in Attendance at Roll Call:

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	Alderman Simeon Profit
Alderman Leola Keys	Alderman Wysinger Cleveland

Absent: Alderman Janice Fleming

The Town of Richwood met for Regular Meeting held on January 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Richwood Multi-Purpose Center, 2710 Martin Luther King Drive, Richwood, Louisiana to consider the following business:

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Gerald Brown at 7:08 P.M.**
- II. Prayer-** was offered by Mayor Gerald Brown
- III. Pledge of Allegiance -** recited in unison.
- IV. Roll Call-** Mayor Gerald Brown called roll with the following results:
 - **The record shall reflect all (5) Aldermen present at time of roll call.**

Present:

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	Alderman Simeon Profit
Alderman Janice Fleming	Alderman Leola Keys
Alderman Wysinger Cleveland	

V. Adoption of the Agenda-

It was motioned by Alderman Simeon Profit and seconded by Alderman Janice Fleming to adopt the agenda as presented.

- **The record shall reflect a vote was taken on the adoption of the agenda with the following results: (4) Yes Votes, (1) Abstain on the adoption of the agenda.**

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	Yes	Alderman Simeon Profit	Yes
Alderman Janice Fleming	Yes	Alderman Leola Keys	Yes
Alderman Wysinger Cleveland	Abstain		

VI. Adoption of November 16, 2023, and December 21, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

Adoption of November 16, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes:

It was motioned by Alderman Simeon Profit and seconded by Alderman Janice Fleming to adopt the November 16, 2023, Regular Minutes.

- *The record shall reflect there was a vote taken with the following results: (4) Yes Votes and (1) Abstain.*

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	Yes	Alderman Simeon Profit	Yes
Alderman Janice Fleming	Yes	Alderman Leola Keys	Yes
		Alderman Wysinger Cleveland	Abstain

Adoption of December 21, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes:

It was motioned by Alderman Simeon Profit and seconded by Alderman Janice Fleming to adopt the December 21, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.

- *The record shall reflect there was a vote taken with the following results: (3) Yes Votes and (2) Abstain votes.*

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	Abstain	Alderman Simeon Profit	Yes
Alderman Janice Fleming	Yes	Alderman Leola Keys	Yes
		Alderman Wysinger Cleveland	Abstain

VII. Adoption of Financial Reports:

It was motioned by Alderman Simeon Profit and seconded by Alderman Janice Fleming to adopt the November 16, 2023, Financial Reports.

November 16, 2023, Financial Reports:

- *The record shall reflect a vote was taken to adopt the November 16, 2023 Financial Reports with the following results: (1) Abstain, (2) Yes Votes and (2) No Votes.*

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	Abstain	Alderman Simeon Profit	Yes
Alderman Janice Fleming	Yes	Alderman Leola Keys	No
		Alderman Wysinger Cleveland	No

December 21, 2023, Financial Reports:

It was motioned by Alderman Simeon Profit and seconded by Alderman Janice Fleming to adopt the December 21, 2023, Financial Reports.

- Let the record reflect there was a vote taken to adopt the December 21, 2023, Financial Reports with the following results: (2) Yes, (2) No and (1) Abstain vote.

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	Abstain	Alderman Simeon Profit	Yes
Alderman Janice Fleming	Yes	Alderman Leola Keys	No
	Alderman Wysinger Cleveland		No

VIII. Public Comments as they relate to items on the agenda.

Public Attendee, Mr. Nathan Brown -provided his home address as being on Robinson Street, and inquired of the Mayor and the Board as to why the Town is still not on the compliance list?

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised he would be addressing part of the question asked by Mr. Nathan Brown .

Mayor Gerald Brown -advised as to the reason why the Town is not on the compliance list and is in reference to the financial audit and the policies and procedures as to when the Audit is to be filed. We were supposed to have filed the audit within 6 months of the end of the fiscal year; our fiscal year ends on June 3rd, so with that we were to have it in by December 31st , but that has not been submitted in a timely fashion.

Mr. Nathan Brown – asked, to the Board, “Why wasn't the audit submitted in a timely fashion?

Alderman Simeon Profit- advised, Mr. Nathan Brown, yet again to answer your question is because this Board hadn't voted to do it and it is our basic duty to do so, now I voted for it but there are others on this Board that didn't.

Alderman Wysinger Cleveland- stated, we are not on the non-compliance list and that we have paid Mr. Bruno Tervalon \$ 17,000 for the audit.

Mayor Gerald Brown- reminded Alderman Cleveland that was for the prior audit not the audit that is now past due.

Alderman Simeon Profit- stated, yet again we are not in compliance because there are members of this Board who have not taken care of their business, that's what it is.

IX. Mayor's Dialogue:

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised the forum that on February 6, the Monroe Chamber of Commerce will have a Small Business Summit here at 5:30 p.m. and we want all small business

owners and to participate in the session as we discuss things you think you need to grow your business.

February 29th a Resource Partner, Well Springs will be having a Parent Café, providing information on resources to help our children and families; we want our children and families to participate in this event.

X. Discussion of Forensic Audit

I put a copy of an email I received in front of you on the table. Ms. Sims has sent them the documents we have access to.

They are requesting documents from Chase which they must receive directly from them and there is a fee for Chase to access and provide these documents or they could train me or Ms. Sims so we could do it.

Alderman Janice Fleming – inquired, what is the initial cost? Do we pay them \$5,000 for the forensic audit and then pay an additional \$ 52,499 for them to access the documents?

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated he is not suggesting that pay Chase some fifty-two plus thousand dollars, I am saying they are offering a lower fee for them to train us to do that. What I am saying to this body there are some things we do not have that only Chase has. My question is would you like to explore that option?

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr. – said, yes I would be favor of the lesser cost option.

Mayor Gerald Brown- inquired of the Board can we have a vote to proceed with this option?

Alderman Wysinger Cleveland- no, this is a discussion.

XI. Discussion of the Interest- Bearing Account

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised the forum as it is mentioned in the financial statement, we collected \$3117.09 in interest on the General Fund Account in the month of December and Mr. Reed I think that you brought this up, is there anything you want to know or see?

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr. – to my understanding that would be for the after-school tutoring program ?

Mayor Gerald Brown – that is in your resolution, so that is where it will be.

XII. Discussion of Integrated Marketing Proposal for a new Town Website.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, I don't know if you have seen the Town's website, we spend about \$1800a year on that website, going with this new company we would pay approximately \$ 2,700

upfront and then we would pay \$ 50 per month. That \$2700 would just be for the first year. But then \$ 50 per month going forward.

Alderman Janice Fleming- stated, in keeping with standards and with the economy, I think it would be to our advantage to upgrade our website, to make it look like all the other websites in the surrounding areas as well as bring us up to the 21st century of being able to market ourselves for future endeavors.

Mayor Gerald Brown- requested this be called to a vote; we were supposed to have discussed this last month; we had the information.

Alderman Wysinger Cleveland- commented he had a problem with voting, and he would withdraw himself from this vote.

It was motioned by Alderman Simeon Profit and seconded by Alderman Janice Fleming to contract Integrated Marketing for our website.

- *The record shall reflect a vote was taken to contract with Integrated marketing for the Town's website with the following results: (4) Yes Votes and (1) Person doesn't want to be involved with that.*

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	Yes	Alderman Simeon Profit	Yes
Alderman Janice Fleming	Yes	Alderman Leola Keys	
Alderman Wysinger Cleveland		<i>(Does not want to be involved with that.)</i>	

XIII. Discussion of the Street Improvement Proposal

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated, he wanted to inform the Board we were accepting bids for the street projects for Martin Luther King and Brown Road to the dead end as well as Mitchell Lane.

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised that Greater Ouachita Water had some repairs on Lynn and the street repairs would be done after they completed their project to prevent the street from being torn up.

Adoption of Resolution 2023-09 A resolution appointing Bruno & Tervalon LLP as the FY 2022-2023 Auditor

Mayor Gerald Brown- advised the forum that the 2022-2023 Audit should have been turned in by December 31, 2023, and because the audit was not done we are on the non-compliance list. I continued to recommend Bruno & Tervalon, and if someone has another firm we need that information.

Alderman Janice Fleming- stated, that we put in the journal several times for auditors willing to work with the Town but did not receive any. We also asked if we had anyone to bring that information, but that didn't work either.

Alderman Wysinger Cleveland- stated, the reason he had not voted them was because he need it in black and white saying that it is not illegal for Mr. Walker and Bruno & Tervalon them to be in the same office, if I see something to say it's legal I would have a Special Meeting.

Mayor Gerald Brown- stated he can get that to you tomorrow and we can have that special meeting.

Alderman Janice Fleming – asked when the Special Meeting would take place, Alderman Wysinger Cleveland did not provide an answer.

XIV. Adoption of Resolution 2023-10 A resolution adopting the 2023 Ouachita Parish Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard mitigation plan update dated August 25, 2023

It was motioned by Alderman Simeon Profit and Seconded by Alderman Janice Fleming to adopt Resolution 2023-10.

- **The record shall reflect a vote was taken with the following results: (2) Votes Yes (3) Abstain votes.**

Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr.	Abstain	Alderman Simeon Profit	Yes
Alderman Janice Fleming	Yes	Alderman Leola Keys	Abstain
	Alderman Wysinger Cleveland	Abstain	

XV. Adjournment:

It was motioned by Alderman Wilbert Reed Jr. to adjourn meeting at 8:11 p.m.