

TOWN OF BALL, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
February 20, 2024

MINUTES

Notice of the meeting was posted on the doors of Town Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 16, 2024.

Mayor Gail Wilking and the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Ball, Louisiana, held its Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at Town Hall, 100 Municipal Lane, Ball, LA 71405. The following actions were taken:

1. Mayor Gail Wilking called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. The invocation was led by Pastor Robert Hebron New Life Apostolic Church, Ball, LA.
3. The Pledge of Allegiance, in honor of Ms. Annie Ables, was led by Allie Nowlin, Candidate for Ninth Judicial District Judge, and said by all.
- Allie Nowlin introduced herself and shared her qualifications for the Ninth Judicial District Judge position.
4. ROLL CALL was as follows:

Present	Alderman Carroll Ward Alderwoman Suzanne Duncan-Furby Alderman Marc Mercer Alderwoman Kimberley Krischke Alderwoman Charlotte Williams-Smith
Absent	None
5. Mayor Gail Wilking welcomed everyone to the meeting.
6. Community Spotlight focused on the following business:
 - Stephen Gatch, LLC was in attendance and spoke about his business of painting, pressure washing, carpentry, etc. He is available to provide quotes upon request.
 - Ursula Dewalt was in attendance and spoke regarding the Business Bridge, founded by Marc Mercer. She shared that it is a diverse group of entrepreneurs that mentor each other and help spotlight each other's businesses. Join the Facebook group if interested.
- Mayor Wilking opened the floor for public comment on any item on the agenda.
7. A motion was made by Alderwoman Duncan-Furby and seconded by Alderwoman Williams-Smith to approve the minutes of the Cancelled January 16, 2024, Council Meeting, as published. There being no public comment on vote, 5-0, the motion carried. Roll call was as follows:

YEA	Alderpersons Ward, Duncan-Furby, Mercer, Krischke, Williams-Smith
NAY	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	None
8. A motion was made by Alderman Mercer and seconded by Alderwoman Williams-Smith to approve the minutes of the Rescheduled January 22, 2024, Council Meeting, as published. There being no public comment on vote, 5-0, the motion carried. Roll call was as follows:

YEA	Alderpersons Ward, Duncan-Furby, Mercer, Krischke, Williams-Smith
NAY	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	None
9. A motion was made by Alderman Ward and seconded by Alderwoman Krischke to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2024, Special Meeting, as published. There being no public comment on vote, 5-0, the motion carried. Roll call was as follows:

YEA	Alderpersons Ward, Duncan-Furby, Mercer, Krischke, Williams-Smith
NAY	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	None

10. A motion was made by Alderman Ward and seconded by Alderwoman Duncan-Furby to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2024, Special Meeting, as published. There being no public comment on vote, 5-0, the motion carried. Roll call was as follows:
- | | |
|---------|---|
| YEA | Alderpersons Ward, Duncan-Furby, Mercer, Krischke, Williams-Smith |
| NAY | None |
| ABSTAIN | None |
| ABSENT | None |

OLD BUSINESS

- Mayor Wilking called for public hearing/public comment prior to the final adoption of item #11. Following no public comment, the meeting proceeded.
11. A motion was made by Alderman Ward and seconded by Alderwoman Krischke to adopt ordinance amending Ordinance 362-2022 the Ball Code of Ordinances Sections 90:49, #4 to increase wastewater rates based on the index rate promulgated by the U.S. Department of Labor Consumer Price Index - Urban (CPI-U). There being no public comment on vote, 4-1, the motion carried. Roll call was as follows:
- | | |
|---------|---|
| YEA | Alderpersons Ward, Duncan-Furby, Krischke, Williams-Smith |
| NAY | Alderman Mercer |
| ABSTAIN | None |
| ABSENT | None |
- Mayor Wilking called for public hearing/public comment prior to the final adoption of item #12. Following no public comment, the meeting proceeded.
- The Mayor and Council spoke regarding reasons for the ordinance as being due to the improper use of the dumpsters by contractors. The possibility of relocating some of the dumpsters this coming holiday season was also discussed.
12. A motion was made by Alderwoman Williams-Smith and seconded by Alderman Ward to adopt an ordinance to regulate use of dumpsters placed throughout the Town of Ball during Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Season. There being no public comment on vote, 5-0, the motion carried. Roll call was as follows:
- | | |
|---------|---|
| YEA | Alderpersons Ward, Duncan-Furby, Mercer, Krischke, Williams-Smith |
| NAY | None |
| ABSTAIN | None |
| ABSENT | None |

NEW BUSINESS

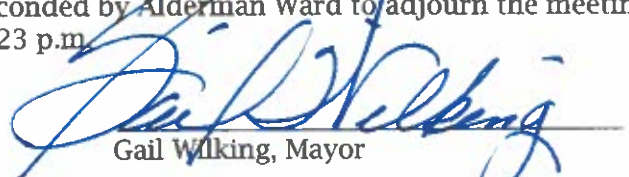
13. A motion was made by Alderwoman Williams-Smith and seconded by Alderman Ward to approve a resolution removing Alderman Marc Mercer, at his request, as an authorized signatory on all financial instruments on behalf of the Town of Ball. Deem Alderwoman Kimberley Krischke, Mayor Pro-Tempore, as an authorized signatory on financial instruments on behalf of the Town of Ball, effective February 20, 2024. There being no public comment on vote, 5-0, the motion carried. Roll call was as follows:
- | | |
|---------|---|
| YEA | Alderpersons Ward, Duncan-Furby, Mercer, Krischke, Williams-Smith |
| NAY | None |
| ABSTAIN | None |
| ABSENT | None |
14. A motion was made by Alderwoman Krischke and seconded by Alderwoman Duncan-Furby to approve a resolution authorizing the Town of Ball to state its intention to maintain wastewater permit requirements found in the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) report as required by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) to prevent wastewater permit violations and other matters with respect thereto. There being no public comment on vote, 5-0, the motion carried. Roll call was as follows:
- | | |
|---------|---|
| YEA | Alderpersons Ward, Duncan-Furby, Mercer, Krischke, Williams-Smith |
| NAY | None |
| ABSTAIN | None |
| ABSENT | None |
15. A motion was made by Alderwoman Williams-Smith and seconded by Alderman Ward to approve the promotion of Ron Clemence to the rank of Corporal at a pay rate of \$1,350.00 per pay period. Following comments, on vote 5-0, the motion carried. Roll call was as follows:
- | | |
|---------|---|
| YEA | Alderpersons Ward, Duncan-Furby, Mercer, Krischke, Williams-Smith |
| NAY | None |
| ABSTAIN | None |
| ABSENT | None |

- Office Clemence was in attendance. Mayor Wilking introduced him and thanked him for his dedication to the town. Chief Deen shared the reason for Officer Clemence promotion was due to his desire to take on more responsibility. He will also be put in charge of the maintenance and upkeep of the evidence.
16. Report from Police Chief Marshall Deen was as follows:
 - Chief Deen reported things to be going good in the town.
 - He also addressed the problem of garbage being dumped in the Cardboard Recycling Dumpsters at Town Hall. He stated that a portion of the funds from the recycling are donated to the local schools for the special needs program, and when garbage is dumped, the cardboard can't be recycled. There is a \$500 fine for violators.
 17. Report from Fire Chief Jude Thiels was as follows:
 - 40 calls so far for the month of February 2024.
 - Chief Thiels reported a very busy last few days.
 - Hazmat Training is currently underway to better train the fire fighters to protect the town.
 - A proposed millage tax to benefit the Fire Department will be on the Town of Ball election ballot Saturday, April 27, 2024.
 - The Holiday Village Fire Department Smoke Trailer will be on site for the Moon Pie Festival.
 18. Department Head Reports were as follows:
 - Public Works Director Debo Ewing was not in attendance due to illness.
 - Mayor Wilking reported no breakdowns that day in the Wastewater Department.
 - Pan American Engineer Tom David was in attendance and reported that Merrick will be moving in to begin drainage construction work in the coming week.
 - The bids that came in for the Curtis Park project were 25% higher than the project cost projection. He suggested pressing hold on the project until the bids for Lift Station 11 come in on March 26th, so priority of project can be determined at that time.
 - Kerlin Park bridge rebuild has been completed.
 - As per request of Mayor Wilking, Pan American will be keeping an eye on trees around the town which may need to be removed due to the drought. They will review right of way vs. private property of trees to determine the responsible party. Cleco has committed to helping with tree removal for those that hang over their lines of use, although they are very busy with similar issues throughout the state.
 - Auditor Steven McKay announced the town to be in a strong financial position with a years' worth of operating funds in the bank. This is great for a small town.
 19. Neighborhood Watch report was given by Yvonne McKay as follows:
 - She requested that the information about improper dumping in the recycle dumpsters be put on Facebook so it can be shared to the Neighborhood Watch Facebook page.
 - She requested that if anyone is interested in being on the Neighborhood Watch Board that they reach out to her.
 - Glass Recycling can be dropped off at the Town Hall on Fridays during business hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.). Only clean, food grade glass will be accepted.
 - Ball Foods no longer accepts monetary donations for Neighborhood Watch. Thank you to all of those that have donated.
 - A garage sale is being planned for a future date. Donations will be accepted soon.
 20. Announcements were as follows:
 - The Moon Pie Festival will be held March 23, 2024. It will be a full day of exiting events. Promotional flyers are currently being posted announcing games, contests, etc. which will be held during the festival. Please get involved and sign-up!
 - A Fish Fry Fundraiser is being held on March 22nd to provide funds for the festival. Tickets are on sale now.
 - All volunteers are welcome!
 21. Council Comments were as follows:
 - Alderman Ward reported that he is honored to now be serving on the Finance Committee.
 - Alderwoman Duncan-Furby shared an exciting Moon Pie Committee meeting with great people helping plan the event. It will be a great event. Tickets are currently on sale for the Fish Fry Fundraiser.
 - Alderwoman Williams-Smith spoke regarding her appreciation for the Ball Police Department. They are available right away and are doing a great job.
 - Alderwoman Krischke shared her excitement about serving on the Moon Pie Committee with so many committed people. She is happy for a great response from the community to serve as well.

- o Alderman Mercer tipped his hat to all the town employees for the work they do to support the Town of Ball.

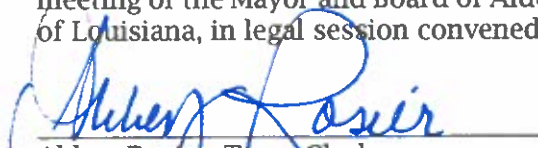
22. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Alderwoman Duncan-Furby and seconded by Alderman Ward to adjourn the meeting. The meeting stood adjourned at 8:23 p.m.


Abbey Rosier, Town Clerk


Gail Wilking, Mayor

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Abbey Rosier, Clerk of the Town of Ball, Louisiana, do hereby certify that the attached above and foregoing is a true and correct record of the official action taken at the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Ball, Parish of Rapides, State of Louisiana, in legal session convened on February 20, 2024.


Abbey Rosier, Town Clerk