

TOWN OF BALL, LOUISIANA
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
April 16, 2024

MINUTES

Notice of the meeting was posted on the doors of Town Hall at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, April 12, 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, April 16, 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 7:06 p.m.
2. The invocation was led by Pastor Dan Riemer of Simms Cornerstone Church, Pollock, LA
3. The Pledge of Allegiance, in honor of Ms. Annie Ables, was led by Paul Cedars and said by all.
4. ROLL CALL was as follows:

Present	Alderman Carroll Ward Alderman Suzanne Duncan-Furby Alderman Marc Mercer Alderman Kimberley Krischke Alderman Charlotte Williams-Smith
Absent	None
5. Mayor Gail Wilking welcomed everyone to the meeting.
6. Community Spotlight focused on the following business:
 - Paul Cedars, Tractor Supply, Store Manager of the new store located at 4807 Monroe Highway, Ball, LA. He announced the official Grand Opening will take place on May 18, 2024. He detailed a variety of family friendly activities scheduled to take place at the store that day.
 - Mayor Wilking opened the floor for public comment on any/all items on the agenda.
 - Bobbie Kerry spoke regarding the Lions Camp and shared the contact information if anyone is interested in more information. She also spoke about the continuation of the collection of eyeglasses and reminded all that a box is in the lobby of Town Hall for those that want to donate.
7. A motion was made by Alderman Duncan-Furby and seconded by Alderman Williams-Smith to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024, Council Meeting, as published. There being no public comment on vote, 5-0, the motion carried. Roll call was as follows:

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

OLD BUSINESS

8. Following announcement of Public Hearing by Mayor Wilking, a motion was made by Alderman Ward and seconded by Alderman Krischke to adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 86, Article II of the Town of Ball Traffic Code to revise, enact, adopt and update fines and penalties for traffic violations committed within the Town of Ball. There being no public comment on vote, 5-0, the motion carried. Roll call was as follows:

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

- To quote Alderman Mercer verbatim "Mayor, under legal counsel, I am going to recuse myself." Mayor Wilking responded, verbatim "So noted."
9. Following announcement of Public Hearing by Mayor Wilking, a motion was made by Alderman Ward and seconded by Alderwoman Krischke to adopt an ordinance amending Ordinance 373-2023 an ordinance to regulate the disposal of commercial and industrial waste within the municipal limits of the Town of Ball. Following no public comment, on vote, 4-0, the motion carried. Roll call was as follows:
- | | |
|---------|---|
| YEA | Alderpersons Ward, Duncan-Furby, Krischke, Williams-Smith |
| NAY | None |
| ABSTAIN | Alderman Mercer |
| ABSENT | None |

NEW BUSINESS

10. A motion was made by Alderwoman Williams-Smith and seconded by Alderwoman Krischke to designate the Town Talk as the Official Journal of the Town of Ball as required by R.S. 43:150. 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 |
11. A motion was made by Alderman Ward and seconded by Alderwoman Williams-Smith to accept for introduction an ordinance amending Ordinance 360-2022 , Chapter 2, Administration, Article III, Officers, Officials and Employees, Division 1, Generally, Section 2-57, Salaries of (a) - Mayor and (b) - Police Chief and (c) - Town Clerk and (d) - Board of Aldermen of the Town of Ball, Louisiana. 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 |
12. A motion was made by Alderwoman Duncan-Furby and seconded by Alderwoman Krischke to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and enter into an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Revenue Office of Debt Recovery, as authorized by R.S. 47:1676, to pursue the collection of inactive utility accounts, fines, or other court ordered penalties due and payable to the Town of Ball. 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 |
13. A motion was made by Alderwoman Duncan-Furby and seconded by Alderman Ward to accept the donation of an Attack PRO+ Camera, 2 batteries, 1 desktop battery charger, 1 Attack PRO truck charger, and a SEEK TIC Attack Pro Gearkeeper with Aluminum Carabiner, worth \$4,118.98. All of which was paid for and provided by the Leary Firefighters Foundation Grant Award and to be used by the Ball Fire Department. 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 Duncan-Furby and seconded by Alderman Ward awarding Dixie Overland Construction, LLC, the bid for Sewer Pump Lift Station No. 11 Replacement located on Camp Livingston Road, Ball, Louisiana. 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 Krischke and seconded by Alderman Ward authorizing the mayor to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Dixie Overland Construction, LLC for the replacement of Sewer Pump Lift Station No. 11 located on Camp Livingston Road, Ball, Louisiana. 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

- A motion was made by Alderwoman Williams-Smith and seconded by Alderwoman Duncan-Furby to add an item to the agenda regarding amending the time of the monthly Town Council Meeting. Following Council comment, on vote, 5-0, the motion carried with a unanimous vote. Roll call was as follows:

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

- Alderwoman Williams-Smith proposed that the time for the monthly Council Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. instead of the current meeting time of 7:00 p.m. She commented that the meetings should continue to be held on the third Tuesday of each month.

15. a) A motion was made by Alderwoman Williams-Smith and seconded by Alderman Ward to accept for introduction an ordinance amending Ordinance 289-2013 Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, Legislative Body, Section 2-20, Regular Meetings, to reflect that the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Ball, Louisiana. Following Council 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

16. Report from the Police Department was as follows:

- Lt. Jody Grabowski reported things to be going good in the town.
- He thanked Simms Cornerstone Church for their recognition of Officer Appreciation Day.

17. Report from the Fire Department was as follows:

- He encouraged citizens to go vote on April 27th for the proposed millage tax to benefit the Ball Fire Department.

18. Department Head Reports were as follows:

- Public Works Director Debo Ewing reported the continuation of ditch digging throughout the town.
- They are continuing to catch up on burning; still 15/20 piles to be burned.
- In the Wastewater Department, Wastewater Superintendent Mr. Pete Vaughn retired as of 4/16/2024. Michael Willingham is fully qualified and certified to take his place and was promoted to be the new Wastewater Superintendent.
- The sludge removal at the plant is close to completion and will be completed this week. Upon completion, the contractor will provide landscaping services to clean up the worksite.
- Pan American Engineer Tom David was in attendance and reported the Capital Improvement Drainage Project A to be 60% complete. Project B is set to begin in the coming weeks.
- In the Water Sector Program, the Curtis Park Project contract will be sent this week to Merrick, the winner of the bid.
- The Lift Station 11 Rebuild bid has been awarded to Dixie Overland Construction, LLC with a bid of \$1,896,000.00.
- Peyton Forester will ride the streets of Ball to perform an assessment of leaning trees to help form a plan to remove those that may be in public right of way and could cause damage to public safety.

19. Neighborhood Watch report was given by Scott Wren, as follows:

- Ball Neighborhood Watch members will be participating in the Love the Boot Project.
- Please do not hesitate to report crimes to the local authorities.

20. Announcements were as follows:

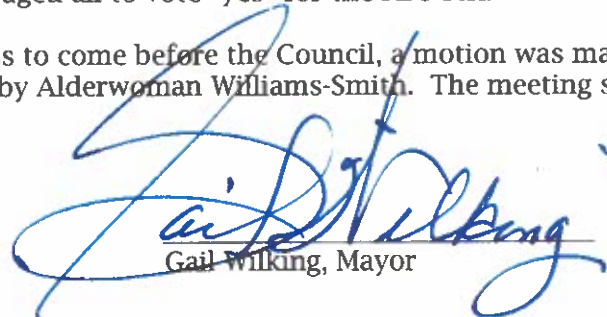
- The town will participate in the Keep Louisiana Beautiful "Love the Boot" Project. The Litter Committee will be working throughout the week of May 20th - 27th to help clean up efforts throughout the town. Watch Facebook for more details.
- The Moon Pie Festival was a huge success with an attendance of 8 to 10 thousand people, and over 50 vendors.
- The Town Council provided great help and participation.
- Mayor Wilking thanked all of those who took part, as well as all the Sponsors.
- Fish Fry Fundraiser sold over 550 plates at \$12 each.
- Business Decoration Contest Winners were:
 - 1st Place - Rays Pharmacy
 - 2nd Place - A+ Donuts
 - 3rd Place - Mug & Brush
 - Honorable Mention - Kings Deli
- Mayor Wilking declared "We Put Ball On The Map!"
- Save the date for next year, March 22, 2025.

21. Council Comments were as follows:

- Alderman Ward encouraged all to go out and vote "yes" for the Fire Tax.
- Alderwoman Duncan-Furby shared that those who have any questions should call Town Hall to make sure and get the correct information.
- Junk/leaves & limbs cannot be mixed and must be in separate piles. They are disposed of in different ways and picked up on different days. Remind your neighbors.
- Alderwomen Duncan-Furby and Krischke had fun last year cleaning up together and encouraged all to go out and do the same.
- Alderwoman Williams-Smith thanked Mayor Wilking for the Town Council Appreciation Day gifts and for putting on the Moon Pie Festival.
- Alderwoman Krischke said she is so appreciative of Mayor Wilking and shared thanks for all she does. Don't miss out on the Moon Pie Festival next year.
- Alderman Mercer spoke regarding the Moon Pie Festival, sharing that Uncle Willies Food Truck as well as some other vendors were all amazed at the huge turnout. He also encouraged all to vote "yes" for the Fire Tax.

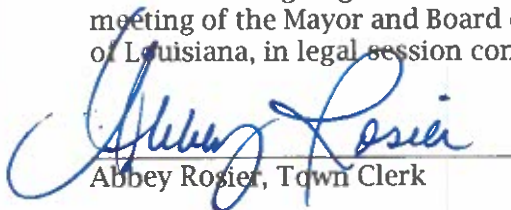
22. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Alderman Ward and seconded by Alderwoman Williams-Smith. The meeting stood adjourned at 8:42 p.m.


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 April 16, 2024.


Abbey Rosier, Town Clerk