**MINUTES**

**FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Mandeville City Council was called to order by the Council Chairman at 6:00 p.m. followed by roll call.

**ROLL CALL - present:** Jason Zuckerman, Jill McGuire, Rick Danielson, Skelly Kreller, Rebecca Bush

**Also present:** Keith LaGrange, Public Works Director, Mayor Madden, Elizabeth Sconzert, City Attorney, Kathleen Sides, Finance Director, Cara Bartholomew, Planning Director

**MINUTES:**

Adoption of the February 22, 2024, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mrs. Bush and seconded by Dr. Kreller. With no further comments or questions a vote was taken and the minutes were adopted 5-0.

**REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**:

The mayor announced the first Trailhead concert will be March 15th. Also, on April 13th and 14th there will be two crawfish events: Crawfish Cookin’ for a Cause and Crawfish for the Corp.

**PRESENTATION**:

Mr. Don McLean and Mr. Philip Rebowe presented the 2023 audit results. Mr. Danielson had sent some questions to the auditors, and he reviewed them with the council. He will send copies of the questions and Mr. McLean’s answers to the council and administration (see attached). Dr. Kreller noted there were several repeated findings: financial closing process accuracy/timing and budget statements need to include beginning and ending closing balances and another late audit. Dr. Kreller explained the council and administration need to work together to have a better audit in the future and have an accurate picture of the financial situation of the city. Mr. Zuckerman asked for copies of the questions and answers from Mr. Danielson and Mr. McLean. Mrs. Thompson had questions about the liabilities and the deferred outflow of resources and is that number in the liabilities number. Where is that number coming from, do we have a lot of people retiring? Also, 2022-2023, the third-party accounting, how does the council know what and how it is being done. Mrs. Sides asked for the questions to be sent to her for a response. Mr. Runyon feels there were quite a few adjustments this year. The auditors said two things: 2022 general fund reduction of $4 million and that was due to Ida, 2023 they discussed $1.2 million Ida expenses, but we have a $4.4 million deficit. There was no major cause of the deficit from Ida. They also said we are running equal with revenue and expenses before capital expenditures which are discretionary. In the future he requests the council needs to realize all general fund capital projects will be coming from the general fund balance. Mr. Danielson asked if we could update exhibit H. Mrs. Sides misunderstood what he was asking for. Mr. Danielson said he wants exhibit H to update the budget actuals. Mrs. Sides stated this could be on the agenda. This would be an amended budget ordinance.

The mayor presented a proclamation declaring Northshore Robotics Day 2024. Mr. David Shapiro explained several teams went to state competitions and one has qualified for worlds in Dallas. Tomorrow will be their first festival with over 20 booths.

Mr. Kyle Jones with Rostan Solutions discussed the FEMA Grant Elevation Process. From 2014 – 2021 the city has secured 7 grants, and 34 properties will benefit from these grants.

They submitted 35 properties, and the FEMA scoring committee makes the decision as to which properties get the funding. Once funding has been granted, they take about 3-4 months to review applications and present them for funding. The state then does their review which takes between 3-6 months. They received notification in June 34 out of 35 properties were selected. They will continue to look for alternative funding sources for the 35th property. They feel they will have only 2 properties for the 2023 cycle which will be announced this summer. The 2022 properties selected are in the request for information period and hope to get a funding award notice in a few months. Mr. Danielson asked if GOSEPH can pull the application. Mr. Jones has never seen that happen, each property must pass a benefit cost analysis and his firm will not present a property that would not meet this analysis. The state has a firm which helps them vet the properties and make sure the minimum criteria has been met. From application to award could be about 2 years. Once the award is made then can the applicant select their contractor. Mr. Jones said he will leave that up to the city. Ms. Bartholomew stated the city will try and streamline the process. As each project kicks off, they must hit milestones and then the contractor will be paid by the city and the city will get reimbursed by FEMA. The money does not go straight to the applicant, it flows through the city.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**: none

**NEW BUSINESS**:

1.Approval of the liquor license for Blue Crystal, LLC d/b/a Kelly’s Coastal Cabana to be located at 124 Girod St. Mandeville, LA. A motion was made by Mrs. Bush and seconded by Mrs. McGuire. Mrs. McGuire explained this is the former Beach House which is now going to continue to be run by Kelly’s sons in his honor. With no further comments or questions, a vote was taken, and the permit was approved 5-05-0.

2.Adoption of Resolution No. 24-09; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE AND MANCHAC CONSULTING GROUP INC. TO WORK WITH THE CITY TO ADJUST WATER RATE STRUCTURES AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. A motion was made by Dr. Kreller and seconded by Mrs. Bush. This is for a continuation of services to provide options for changes in customer water rates. Mr. Danielson asked why we could not do this internally instead of spending $25K? Mrs. Sides explained this firm knows how to do this and will put together a rate structure for the city; this will take about a year. Our rates have not increased since 2019 and the enterprise fund is to be self-sustainable, and it is not. Mrs. Thompson asked if this is the same with the garbage fees as noted in the audit. Would they do the garbage rate structure as well. Mrs. Sides stated no, garbage rate is fixed, and water is varied. Mr. Runyon stated the city should find out how much a contract will cost and ask if there is money in the budget before adoption. With no further comments or questions, a vote was taken, and the resolution passed 5-0.

3.Adoption of Resolution No. 24-10; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE TO AMEND THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE AND CSRS, LLC FOR THE INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL SCOPE, PRICE CHANGE AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. A motion was made by Mrs. Bush and seconded by Mrs. McGuire. Mr. Danielson stated this was a follow up to the study of Ravine Aux Coquille on Lafitte St. This is the design phase of the process, and the project will be separated into tasks. The contract amount is $250K. With no further comments or questions, a vote was taken, and the resolution passed 5-0.

4.Adoption of Resolution No. 24-11; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE CONFIRMING THE CITY ATTORNEY’S APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL. A motion was made by Mrs. Bush and seconded by Mrs. McGuire. Mrs. Sconzert explained due to some questions relating to other lawsuits regarding the Port Marigny case, the mayor decided to use Liskow law firm. They are familiar with the CLURO and can get quickly up to speed with this case if there was any additional litigation. The city attorney’s office has been overloaded the past few months and agrees with the appointment of special legal counsel. With no further comments or questions, a vote was taken, and the resolution passed 5-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Craig Toomey has issues with the drainage on Sandra Lee (east side).

Mrs. Stephanie Danielson wanted to support local artists and acknowledged the artist of the month Abby Sands. She encouraged everyone to visit the lobby and support her work.

**PROJECTS IN PROGRESS:**

Mr. LeBreton reviewed the project of the city. Mr. Danielson asked for an update on the safety study. Mr. LeBreton stated they just had a review meeting and are getting close to presenting it to the council. Mr. Danielson also asked if there would be more culverts along Hwy 22/190 to improve the drainage situation.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mrs. McGuire made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Bush. Mr. Zuckerman adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

/s/ /s/

Kristine Scherer Jason Zuckerman

Council Clerk Council Chairman