TOWN OF ADDIS MINUTES

January 5, 2022 – REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council for the Town of Addis was called to order by Mayor David Toups at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at the Addis Municipal Center. The pledge to the flag was led by Jade Simpson.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Toups; Councilors Bliss Bernard, Ray Lejeune Sr., Rusty Parrish, Rhonda Kelley and Kevin LeBlanc

Absent: None

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 1, 2021 regular meeting were approved on a motion by Councilor Lejeune; seconded by Councilor Kelley and adopted unanimously. The minutes of the December 15th special meeting were approved on a motion by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ATT BROADBAND EXPANSION – LETTER OF SUPPORT:** Mayor Toups advised that he received an email from Mr. Levar Greenhouse, Regional Director for AT&T Louisiana, requesting a letter of support from Addis leadership for Broadband Expansion. He further advised that AT&T is conducting analysis and gauging local government interest in a potential expansion of broadband service through the Louisiana Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO) grant program. A letter of support for AT&T does not exclude Addis from providing a letter of support to other providers and it does not hold the city responsible for any funding.  It simply means that Addis supports AT&T’s efforts to expand its broadband footprint in the region.  After brief discussion, a motion to approve Mayor Toups to sign the Letter of Support for the AT&T Broadband Expansion was made by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor Bernard and adopted unanimously.

**WBR PARISH HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION:** A motion to adopt the West Baton Rouge Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan and authorize Mayor Toups to sign the resolution, was made by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Councilor Parrish and adopted unanimously.

**ADDIS MARDI GRAS – 2022 BALL & PARADE:** Mayor Toups advised that the parade is set for Saturday, February 19th at 1:00 p.m. and the Mardi Gras Ball is February 12th at the Addis Community Center. Tables are still available. He also advised that he spoke with a representative from the Addis Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary regarding the Mardi Gras parade. He stated that they would like the town to consider taking over the planning of the parade. The Council members agreed that it’s too late to do that this year, but feel that it shouldn’t be an issue in the future. Mayor Toups suggested forming a planning committee that consist of two council members and staff.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**ENGINEER REPORT:** No report.

**PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:**

1. **Planning & Zoning Commissioners Per Diem Resolution:** A motion approving the following resolution, “Resolution by the Town of ADDIS, as provided by Section 13, article iii of the constitution of Louisiana, to request the introduction by our local legislators to introduce at the forthcoming session of the legislature of Louisiana, to be convened on March 14, 2022, a bill relative to the town of ADDIS: to authorize the governing authority of the town of ADDIS to pay members of the ADDIS planning & ZONING commission a per diem; to add ADDIS to the list of municipalities authorized to decide by ordinance whether and how much to compensate planning commission members; to provide for the amount of the per diem and the number of meetings for which members may be paid; and to provide for related matters”, was made by Councilor Lejeune; seconded by Councilor Kelley and adopted unanimously.
2. **Application for Home Occupation – Aleks Gregory:** The application for home occupation presented by Aleks Gregory to operate AG Bullion LLC, an E-commerce business from his home was approved on a motion made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously.
3. **Application for Home Occupation – Princess Beethe:** The application for home occupation presented by Princess Beethe to operate Gracious Lane Boutique, an online sales business was approved on a motion made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor Lejeune and adopted unanimously.

**PARISH COUNCIL REPORT:** No report.

**POLICE REPORT:** The December 2021 police report, given by Chief Anderson, consisted of 235 traffic citations issued; 4 misdemeanor arrests; 8 felony arrest; 7 vehicle crashes and 123 calls for service. The misdemeanor arrest included 1 damage to property, 2 simple battery and 1 interfering with emergency communications. The felony arrests included 2 thefts, 2 burglaries, 2 domestic abuse aggravated assaults.

**PUBLIC WORKS/SEWER REPORT -** Phil Smith reported that for the month of December 2021 there were 35 residential/commercial control panel issues, 39 residential/commercial tank issues, 22 collection system issues, 3 new inspections, 125 dig tickets and 225 total calls. He noted that public works crew dug the south side of Harris Street open ditch to existing grade and will need a project to reset the 2nd Street culverts and private driveway culvert that are incorrect.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON INTRODUCED ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE 2021-13 (AMENDING THE 2021 GENERAL FUND BUDGET) –**Mayor Toups read the ordaining clause and then opened the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was then closed and Ordinance 2021-13 was turned over to the Council for review/discussion. A motion to approve Ordinance 2021-13 “AN ORDINANCE REVISING AND AMENDING THE BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF ADDIS, GENERAL FUND FOR 2021” was made by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor Bernard and adopted on the following roll call vote: **YEAS**: Bernard, Parrish, Lejeune, Kelley, LeBlanc **NAYS**: None; **ABSENT**: None; **ABSTAINED**: None.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE 2022-1 (MAYOR & CHIEF OF POLICE 2022 SALARIES) -** A motion to introduce **Ordinance 2022-1**, “ AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE YEARLY SALARY FOR DAVID H. TOUPS, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF ADDIS FOR 2022 AT A FOUR (4%) PERCENT INCREASE FROM HIS 2021 SALARY COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2022”, was made by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor Lejeune and adopted unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE:**

1. **Pay Bills Found in Order:** A motion to pay bills found in order was made by Councilor Lejeune; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously.
2. **Monthly Budget to Actual Reports:** The monthly budget to actual reports were reviewed with no comments.

**POLICE:** No report

**PERSONNEL:** Councilor LeBlanc reminded everyone to review the employee policy manuals and send all comments and questions to Jade.

**SEWER:** Grinder Pump issues were discussed and the possibility of having to institute service call fees.

**DRAINAGE:** Mayor Toups will follow-up with Toby to determine the status of the drainage improvement project.

**BUILDINGS:** No report

**STREETS AND ROADS:** No report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Police Personnel was made by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Councilor Kelley and adopted unanimously. A motion to return to Regular Session was made by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor Bernard and adopted unanimously. As a result of Executive Session, a motion to hire Timothy Gilbert as a full-time police officer at a rate of $17.22/hour was made by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor Parrish and adopted unanimously. Chief Anderson then advised that he would be putting together a bid package for two (2) police pursuit vehicles. It was suggested that he contact Paul Holmes with LAMATS and utilize the online bid platform service.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Councilor Kelley and adopted unanimously.

/s/ Jade V. Simpson ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_ /s/ David H. Toups\_

JADE V. SIMPSON, TOWN CLERK DAVID H. TOUPS, MAYOR