TOWN OF ADDIS MINUTES

MARCH 3, 2021 – 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, February 3, 2021 at the Addis Municipal Center. The Pledge to the flag was led by Mr. Levar Greenhouse.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the February 3, 2021 regular meeting were approved on a motion by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A citizen reported what looks to be a business being operated at a home located along Highway 1. He stated that there are all sorts of equipment in the back yard including a track hoe, trailer, backhoe, etc. The zoning and use of the property were briefly discussed. Town Attorney, Dana Larpenteur stated that he will do further research to determine if the homeowner is in violation and will report his findings to the Mayor and Council and the April meeting.

A citizen expressed concerns about the trains blocking the railroad crossings. Mayor Toups stated that he has reached out to Union Pacific Railroad multiple times regarding this concern. He reported that the cameras located at all railroad crossings in Addis are now live on the Town of Addis website and can be viewed to determine which crossings are open and/or blocked.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mayor Toups reported the following…

* An email was received from LA-DOTD advising that LA Highway 1 will have alternating lane closures, in both Northbound and Southbound directions, from the Intracoastal Bridge to LA Highway 75 beginning Monday, March 8, 2021; and will remain in effect until further notice. These closures will take place from 7:00 pm to 4:00 am Monday thru Friday. The closures are needed to patch and resurface the roadway.
* The Congressional election to replace Congressman Richmond is being held on March 20th, with early voting taking place March 6th-13th.
* Tier III Financial Disclosure Reports are due May 15th.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**5G Ordinance:** Mr. Levar Greenhouse, Regional Director for AT&T Louisiana attended the meeting to explain the details surrounding the 5G ordinance. He advised that AT&T is in the process of decongesting the network. The way they do this is by installing what they call “small cell” towers to offset the congestion on the larger “macro” towers. He explained the process in which the “small cell” towers are installed and addressed questions and concerns from the Council with regards to placement and appearance of the towers. He advised that the Town of Addis is not included on the 2021 Build Plan, but should receive an email with more details soon. A motion to readvertise for a Public Hearing on Ordinance 2021-3 (5G Ordinance) was made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor Kelley and adopted unanimously.

**Remote-Control Slope Mower Bid – Crawler Supply LLC.:** Public Works Director, Phil Smith advised that the one and only bid received last month from Crawler Supply was taken under advisement. After further review, it was determined that the bid did not meet all required specifications. He made a recommendation to reject the bid from Crawler Supply and readvertise. A motion to approve the recommendation presented by Phil Smith to reject the Crawler Supply bid and readvertise for the Remote-Control Slope Mower was made by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Councilor Parrish and adopted unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Final Plat – Cane Ridge Subdivision:** Mr. Bo Booty, Engineer with Centerline Engineering presented the Final Plat for Cane Ridge Subdivision and requested approval. Mayor Toups advised that the payment for sewer impact fees has been received and the Final Plat checklist is complete. Questions were raised about the sidewalks and Mr. Booty advised that the sidewalks are built as the houses are built. A motion to approve the Final Plat as presented for Cane Ridge Subdivision was made by Councilor Lejeune; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Engineer Report:**

1. **Balancing Change Order – YMCA Bernhardt Force Main:** Town Engineer, Mr. Oscar Boudreaux reported that the Substantial Completion for the project was recorded on March 1st. He presented the Balancing Change Order for the YMCA Bernhardt Force Main with a net decrease in the amount of ($162,473.07) and recommended approval. A motion to approve the Balancing Change Order for the YMCA Bernhardt Force Main project with a net decrease in the amount of ($162,473.07) was made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor Kelley and adopted unanimously.

**Planning & Zoning Commission:**

1. **Application for Home Occupation, Allison Guidry:** Mayor Toups advised that the Planning & Zoning Committee was unable to have their monthly meeting because of the Ice Storm that occurred. Due to the circumstances the Council decided to move forward with the review/approval process. After brief review, a motion to approve the Application for Home Occupation submitted by Mrs. Allison Guidry to operate an online boutique was made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor Lejeune and adopted unanimously.

**Parish Council Report:** Parish Representative, Mr. Kershaw, provided an update on the following: (1) LA Highway 1 construction/resurfacing; (2) Ice Storm; (3) Parish President term limit; (4) water well repairs.

**Police Report:** The February 2021 police report, given by Chief Anderson, consisted of 258 traffic citations issued; 5 misdemeanor arrest; 0 felony arrest; 4 vehicle crashes and 137 calls for service. Of the misdemeanor arrests, there were 3 warrants; 1 DWI and 1 domestic abuse battery.

**Public Works and Sewer Report:** The February 2021 sewer report, given by Mr. Phil Smith, included 17 residential and commercial equipment calls; 31 tank issues; 2 collection system issues; 105 one-call tickets completed; and 5 new construction tie-in inspections. He advised that there were no environmental impacts due to the Ice Storm and the sewer plant ran at 100%. Two generators were obtained and stationed at Sugar Mill pump stations 1 and 2 due to loss of power and ran for approximately 14 hours. The Ice Storm caused roads to freeze which increased issues with pot holes mainly in Sugar Mill and Acadian Crossing. Mayor Toups thanked Phil and his staff and the police department for working continuously through the Ice Storm. He also advised that the Discharge Permit that has to be renewed every five years for the Sewer Treatment Plant was approved.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON INTRODUCED ORDINANCES**

None

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**Home Occupations –** Councilor Bernard advised that she has researched the home occupancy ordinance, which seems to be outdated and voiced her specific concerns to the council. Councilman Leblanc and Bernard stated that they will work together to implement a more modern ordinance.

**Ordinance 2021-5 (Sidewalks) –** A motion to introduce Ordinance 2021-5, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE ADDIS CODE OF ORDINANCES, PARTICULARLY***, PART II – LAND DEVELOPMENT; CHAPTER 111 - SUBDIVISIONS, § 113-13 IMPROVEMENTS PARAGRAPH (2) Street Improvements SUBPARAGRAPH (d)*** TO provide specifications for width, material and length of sidewalks in subdivisions in the town of addis”, was made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance :** A motion to pay bills found in order was made by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor Parrish and adopted unanimously. The monthly budget to actual reports were reviewed with no comments.

**Police:** Executive Session to discuss Police Personnel.

**Personnel:**

1. **BCBS Health Insurance Renewal** - The 2021 Health Insurance Renewal packet was reviewed. A motion was made by Councilor Parrish; seconded by Councilor Lejeune to approve the renewal of the health insurance for employees through Blue Cross Blue Shield. The motion was adopted unanimously.

**Sewer:**

1. **2020 Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) Resolution** - The 2020 MWPP report was approved on Resolution of Acceptance by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously.
2. **Addis Sewer Plant Rehab – Beard International LLC. –** Mr. Gary Beard with Beard International, LLC., explained the history and presented an in-depth report of the sewer plant. He advised that there are three areas of improvement that are necessary at the existing treatment plant that would allow the system to meet existing conditions. The first phase would be to expand the intra-channel clarifier, which would allow the plant to treat the high, peak flows that are currently being experienced. Mr. Beard stated that this improvement is of the highest priority. Public Works Director, Phil Smith made a recommendation to approve the quotation received from Beard International in the amount of $323,700 for the extension to the clarifier. After further discussion, a motion to approve the quotation received from Beard International in the amount of $323,700 for the expansion of the clarifier at the Addis Sewer Treatment plant was made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously.

**Drainage:** Phil Smith advised that we are waiting on the design package from Owen & White for the First Street drainage improvement project to go out for bids.

**Buildings:** Councilor LeBlanc advised that he spoke to Tipton Associates regarding the Town Hall renovations. He asked that we invite them to attend the April meeting to give a presentation and bring the new members up to speed on the current proposed plan. Councilor Bernard also requested that they provide information on securing grant funding for the re-build.

**Streets and Roads:**

1. **2021 Road Rehab Project** - Jason Ellis with Novus Reb Engineering presented the preliminary plans for the 2021 Road Rehab project. Suggested changes were presented. Mr. Ellis stated that he would make the changes and resubmit the plans for review/approval at the April meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Police Personnel was made by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously. A motion to return to Regular Session was made by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Bernard and adopted unanimously. As a result of the Executive Session, the following motions were made.

* A motion to approve Chief Anderson’s recommendation to increase the annual salary for Police Secretary, Nell Pepitone to $48,689.48, was made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor Leblanc and adopted unanimously.
* A motion to introduce **ORDINANCE NO. 2021-6,** “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE YEARLY SALARY FOR RICKY ANDERSON, CHIEF OF POLICE OF THE TOWN OF ADDIS FOR THE REMAINDER OF HIS PRESENT ELECTED TERM AT $89, 157.23 PROVIDED HE ENTERS THE POLICE RETIREMENT DROP PROGRAM ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2021 AND SAID SALARY SHALL COMMENCE MAY 1, 2021.”

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Live at Five on the Westside was discussed and the council authorized Mayor Toups to move forward with planning for Fall 2021.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m. on a motion by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Councilor Bernard and adopted unanimously.

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

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