TOWN OF ADDIS MINUTES

JULY 14, 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, July 14, 2021 at the Addis Municipal Center. The pledge to the flag was led by Mr. Mike.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the June 2, 2021 regular meeting were approved on a motion by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor Lejeune and adopted unanimously.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Mayor and Council heard questions and comments from the public regarding potential subdivision developments and drainage concerns.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mayor Toups didn’t have any correspondence to share.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Drainage Improvement Project – Mr. Toby Fruge:** Drainage Engineer, Mr. Toby Fruge advised that he is working with Phil to move the design of the First Street drainage improvement project forward. He has captured the survey data along the railroad to determine what can be done to allow the system to properly drain in that direction. His goal is to compute the required depths of the drainage structures then design this portion of the system to complete the set of plans for this project, which may take around 2 months to complete (hopefully sooner). In the meantime, he recommended that the town begin reaching out to the homeowners who border the drainage ditch and start the process to obtain construction/permanent servitude to construct the project. A motion authorizing Mayor Toups to begin the process of obtaining the needed servitudes for the First Street drainage improvement project was made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously.

Councilor LeBlanc asked about the drainage along Main Street. Mr. Fruge advised that him and Phil have taken a look at some of the issues in the area and the drainage flow patterns. He has since provided the mayor with a map of the ditches in the area that he would need to study in detail to determine the drainage deficiencies of the network. Based upon what they looked at, all of the ditches drain to the west and must flow under the railroad to eventually get to a good-sized open ditch down Main St. Mr. Fruge would like to start the model at that point and work upstream towards Town Hall. He would also need to include the water that is flowing under LA 1 that would enter the ditches around Town Hall. Cost estimate wise, structuring the proposal on an hourly basis, he is estimating a cost of $29,750. Since its hourly, this means the town will only be charged actual hours billed so there is a chance the job comes in under budget. The price does not include survey data of all the ditches and culverts. A motion to approve the cost proposal of $29,750 to extend the drainage study to the Main Street & Harris Street area was made by Councilor LeBlanc; seconded by Councilor Lejeune and adopted unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2021 Legislative Update, Representative Jeremy Lacombe:** Mayor Toups advised that Representative Lacombe was unable to attend the meeting.

**Open Container Permit – St. John Alumni Softball Tournament:** A motion to approve the Open Container Permit for the annual St. John School Alumni Softball Tournament on August 6-8, 2021 at Myhand Park in Addis was made by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously.

**Open Container Permit – Carli Jo Memorial Softball Tournament:** A motion to approve the Open Container Permit for the annual Carli Jo Memorial Scholarship Softball Tournament on July 23-25, 2021 at Myhand Park in Addis was made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously.

**Open Early Request – Charlie’s Lounge:** Mr. Darryl Crowson, owner of Charlie’s Lounge submitted a request to open early at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 19th for a Benefit Poker Run for Ricky Hernandez. The original event scheduled for May 27th was cancelled. The request was approved by a motion made by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor Lejeune and adopted unanimously.

**American Rescue Plan – NEU Award Terms & Conditions:** A motion authorizing Mayor Toups to sign and execute the Award Terms & Conditions for the American Rescue Plan funds was made by Councilor Kelley; seconded by Councilor Parrish and adopted unanimously.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Engineer Report:** None

**Planning & Zoning Commission:**

1. **Application for Home Occupation – Whitley Moore:** A motion to approve the application for Home Occupation submitted by Mrs. Moore to operate an online retail business where she would sell homemade vegan candles, wax melts and soaps was made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously.

**Parish Council Report:** Parish Councilman, Chris Kershaw advised that there was a recent issue with utility bills. An incorrect gas cost adjustment was applied, which resulted in a higher bill. Amended bills were mailed out and are due July 15th.

**Police Report:** The June 2021 police report, given by Chief Anderson, consisted of 187 traffic citations issued; 13 misdemeanor arrests; 3 felony arrest; 5 vehicle crashes and 134 calls for service. Of the misdemeanor arrests, 3 were traffic related; 2 warrants; 3 domestic abuse battery; 1 simple assault; 2 hit and runs and 2 criminal trespassing. The felony arrests included 2 narcotics and 1 unauthorized entry.

**Public Works and Sewer Report:** The June 2021 report was given by Mayor Toups. The sewer report included 40 residential and commercial equipment calls; 45 tank issues; 18 collection system issues; 166 one-call tickets completed and 12 new construction tie-in inspections. Mayor Toups advised that Phil has requested to declare the following items surplus: (1) 2009 Ford ½ Ton Truck – VIN 3493 (Maintenance Dept.); (2) 2010 John Deere HPX Gas Gator – VIN 0137; (3) 1997 Ford Tractor with Alamo A-Boom Slope Mower – Serial No. 00056640B. A motion to declare the equipment listed above surplus was made by Councilor Parrish; seconded by Councilor Lejeune and adopted unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON INTRODUCED ORDINANCES**

None

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance :**

1. **Pay Bills Found in Order:** A motion to pay bills found in order was made by Councilor Kelley; 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:** Chief Anderson requested a 5% pay increase for his full-time officers. After much discussion, a motion to approve the Chief’s request and provide a 5% pay increase to all full-time police officers, not including himself or Assistant Chief David Jones was made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor Kelley and adopted unanimously.

**Personnel:** None

**Sewer:** None

**Drainage:** None

**Buildings:** None

**Streets and Roads:** A motion to approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of $43,165.83 for the 2021 Road Rehab project was made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor LeBlanc and adopted unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Kean Miller Engagement:** At the last meeting, Councilor LeBlanc stated that he would like to see a “Not to Exceed” clause in the engagement letter. Since then, Mr. Larpenteur has spoken with Mr. Ed Hardin regarding capping the fees at $10,000. Mr. Hardin did not see an issue with that and will be sending an addendum to the engagement letter reflecting such. A motion authorizing Mayor Toups to sign the engagement letter contingent upon receipt and singing of the addendum was made by Councilor Bernard; seconded by Councilor Parrish and adopted unanimously.

**ADJOURN**

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

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

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