

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Of the
Fordoche Town Council
November 12, 2024
6:30 p.m.
Fordoche Town Hall- 5390 Fordoche Road, Fordoche, Louisiana, 70732

Call to order

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tempore Beth LaCombe

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Pro-Tempore Beth LaCombe

Roll call

Present: Cody Gros, Beth LaCombe, Kirk LaCombe, Tori Robillard

Absent: Charles Sonnier, Mayor Teddy Gros

Amend Agenda

Motion by Tori Robillard, seconded by Cody Gros

Resolved, the agenda is amended, 1. LAMP transfer from General Fund to Utility Fund for Audit compliance purposes. 2. Hire of part time employee.

Mayor Pro Temp asked for a roll call vote which resulted as follows:

YEAS: Cody Gros, Beth LaCombe, Kirk LaCombe, Tori Robillard

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Charles Sonnier

Motion carried unanimously

Adopt Minutes

Motion by Beth LaCombe, seconded by Tori Robillard

Resolved, Minutes of August 13, 2024, September 10, 2024, October 8, 2024 meeting approved.

Review and approval of invoices and financial statements

Motion by Beth LaCombe, seconded by Cody Gros

Resolved, invoices and financial statements of previous month reviewed and approved.

Public Comment

None

Reports

Mayor Pro-Tempore Beth LaCombe

No report

Town Manager Report Justin K. Cox

- Bid opening with the Mayor and PEC Kevin Gravois 11-07-2024
 - Bid came in at \$1.9m with \$1.5m allocated.
 - Before rejecting bids, Kevin spoke to the contractor to see if location or other changes can be made to reduce cost.
 - May have to use ARPA fund in amount of \$300k currently in LAMP
 - Advised state rep and he will ask for more money if needed.
- ARPA – Needs to be allocated via contract before 12-31-2024. Or, review payments going back to 04-01-2020 to this date to offset cost via “Revenue loss allowance.” I am working on this because we will not have a contract signed before the end of the year.
- Park funds – Spoke to Paul Armand of PC REC. He is pricing replacement of swing area and possible reworking the walking path.
- Community Center marketing campaign – Promote to community and corporate clients a turnkey package with hopes of increasing rental and promotion of our town. The community center was washed last week.
- Because of the lack of members needed for the tax roll forward option, the town lost approximately \$1,000.00.
- Spoke with John Disotell about accounting services. He will resume with our account.
- I have been informed that a person has obtained paperwork from the Secretary of State to begin a recall election of the Chief of Police. Approximately 278 signatures is required.

Police Chief Tait Slocum

Chief Tait Slocum reported there were 3 citations and 9 violations that were issued, and \$427.00 was collected for the month of October. There are 3 open investigations ongoing as of now.

Drainage Commissioner

Councilwoman Tori Robillard addresses the issue continuing with the erosion between Mrs. Hatcher and the Brown's, states she will contact the parish drainage commissioner to come and look at it to make sure that is what the issue is.

Beautification Commissioner

Councilwoman Beth LaCombe had nothing new to report.

Grass Commissioner

Councilman Kirk LaCombe reports the grass is looking good. The chemicals that were used to kill some of the grass worked well. The John Deere is now up and running again.

New Business

**A RESOLUTION SEEKING SUPPORT FOR AUTHORITY
TO APPOINT CHIEF OF POLICE AND OTHER MATTERS
WITH RESPECT THERETO**

WHEREAS the Town of Fordoche, Louisiana currently elects a chief of police for a term of four (4) years, and

WHEREAS the board of aldermen for the Town of Fordoche, Louisiana is in favor of abolishing the elective position of chief of police and is in favor of having the chief of police appointed by the mayor upon approval by a majority vote of the board of aldermen, and

WHEREAS the board of aldermen for the Town of Fordoche, Louisiana desires that LSA-R.S. 33:381 be amended by the Louisiana Legislature to provide that the town's chief of police be an appointive position rather than an elective position, and

WHEREAS the board of aldermen and mayor further desire that its legislative delegation be apprised of this resolution and of the intents and purposes therein

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Fordoche, Louisiana desires that LSA-R.S. 33:381 be amended by the Louisiana Legislature to provide that the town's chief of police be an appointive position rather than an elective position and that said appointment shall be made by the mayor upon approval by majority vote of the board of aldermen of said town.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such appointment shall not be effective until the end of the term of the chief of police in office at the time of that action and that the term of the appointed chief of police shall be concurrent with that of the appointing mayor and aldermen

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board of aldermen shall establish the salary of the chief of police upon recommendation of the mayor and the mayor and board of aldermen shall establish the duties and responsibilities of the chief of police

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chief of police shall report directly to the mayor

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chief of police shall not have to reside within the municipal boundary limits of Fordoche, Louisiana

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be forwarded to the Town of Fordoche, Louisiana's legislative delegation seeking their support

The above Resolution was offered by Tori Robillard, seconded by Beth LaCombe Resolved. The following votes were recorded:

YEAS: Beth LaCombe, Tori Robillard

NAYS: Kirk LaCombe

ABSENT: Charlie Sonnier

WHEREUPON, the presiding officer declared the Resolution adopted on this 12th day of November, 2024.

Introduction of Ordinance - AN ORDINANCE ENACTING CHAPTER 31 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF THE TOWN OF FORDOCHE, LOUISIANA OWNED EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

Introduced By Councilman Kirk LaCombe. Public Hearing will be held on 12-10-2024.

Introduction of Ordinance - AMENDING CHAPTER 12 ARTICLE II DIVISION 2 SECTION 12-40 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO LITTERING AND MATTERS INCIDENTAL THERETO

Introduced by Councilperson Tori Robillard. Public Hearing will be held on 12-10-2024.

Introduction of Ordinance - AN ORDINANCE ENACTING CHAPTER 32 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE TOWN OF FORDOCHE, LOUISIANA PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF MOBILE HOMES AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

Introduced by Councilman Cody Gros. Public hearing will be held on 12-10-2024.

Payment of 911 invoice

Motion by Tori Robillard, seconded by Beth LaCombe

Resolved, Invoice in the amount of \$4,744.00 is authorized to be paid to the Pointe Coupee Sheriff's office.

Contract for maintenance employee

Motion by Cody Gross, seconded by Tori Robillard

Resolved, the mayor is authorized to sign the agreement with the Pointe Coupee Parish Government.

Promotional funds for the community center.

Motion by Kirk LaCombe, seconded by Cody Gros

Resolved, \$1000 is approved for the expenditures on promotional cost for the community center.

Event Coordinator

Motion by Beth LaCombe, seconded by Cody Gros

Resolved, Lisa Cormier is appointed as the Event Coordinator at a monthly fee of \$100.00

Audit engagement and SAUP agreement for Faulk and Winkler

Motion by Tori Robillard, seconded by Cody Gros

Resolved, the mayor is authorized to execute and sign the audit engagement and SAUP letter.

Budget amendment ordinance for 2023 General and Utility fund

Ordinance introduced by Cody Gros. Public hearing will be held on 12-10-2024.

2024 Proposed budget for the General Fund and Utility Fund

Ordinance introduced by Cody Gros. Public hearing will be held on 12-10-2024.

Authorize the clerk to transfer funds.

Motion by Cody Gros, seconded by Tori Robillard.

Resolved, the clerk shall transfer \$300,000 from general fund to the utility fund LAMP accounts.

Authorize the Manager and Mayor to apply for LGAP grant.

Motion by Cody Gros, seconded by Tori Robillard.

Resolved, the mayor and manager is authorized to apply for and execute the appropriate paperwork for funding of drainage improvement projects.

Part time maintenance employee

Motion by Cody Gros, seconded by Tori Robillard,

Resolved, the town manager is authorized to hire a part time maintenance employee.

Adjournment

Motion by Tori Robillard, seconded by Cody Gros

Resolved, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

By our signatures, we hereby attest true and approved minutes of the Town of Fordoche.

Beth Lacombe, Mayor Pro-Tempore

Lisa Cormier, Town Clerk