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**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS**

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The regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Alderpersons was held in the Courtroom at City Hall at 6:06 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, 2024. Mayor Betty Alford-Olive presided.

The Invocation was led by Mayor Alford-Olive. Mr. Darry Green led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was as follows:

Present: Angela Tappin (District A), Charles Bradford (B), James Green (District C), Darry Green (District D), Howard Loche, (District E)

Absent: None

Mr. Bradford motioned, and Ms. Tappin seconded the discussion of Records Coordinator Position and Job Duties and status of the City Clerk Position be added to the agenda. The Mayor made a statement these were administrative items. The meeting was expanded to add to agenda the Discussion of the 2022 and 2023 Audits, Discussion of the Records Coordination Position and Job Duties; Status of the City Clerk Position, the Status of the McFee Bridge on a motion by Mr. Bradford, seconded by Ms. Tappin, followed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Darry Green motioned, and Mr. Bradford seconded to expand the agenda to the discussion of the traffic light at the intersection of Marable and West Cypress streets. Mr. Mark Moore, 118 North Odom, commented, the community needs a traffic light at the intersection. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Tappin motioned, and Mr. Loche seconded the meeting be expanded to discuss the procedures for calling Special Meetings. Ms. Joann Bradford, 1320 South Washington Street, commented, the Council should approve the discussion of the City's business. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Bradford motioned to add to the agenda the discussion of the status of the Eastside building (115 McCreight) and the status of the Lowery Building (123 North Washington) and the abatement program. Ms. Joann Bradford commented, the Council should add the item to the agenda. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The Mayor opened the floor to announcements and asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Gary A. Freeman, brother of retired City of Bastrop Chief of Police Alan Freeman. Mayor Alford-Olive announced Juneteenth events would be held Saturday, June 15, 2024 at both Dotson Park (sponsored by the City of Bastrop) and Ralph George Park. Mr. Green announced plans to have a softball game during the Juneteenth celebration at Dotson Park. The Mayor announced the City offices would be closed Wednesday, June 19, 2024 in observance of Juneteenth. She reported work on the roof is ongoing; and reported workers found damage costing an additional \$100,000 that she requested the State's assistance to avoid interruption of the project. The Mayor announced the Bastrop City track team advanced to the district meet and will compete in Denham Springs. She commended the Parks and Recreation staff for their work with the team and asked the community to recognize the staff and participants whenever it sees someone. The Mayor stated the City has submitted two projects over the last couple of weeks, working with Senator Jackson-Andrews, Representative Fisher, and Representative Thompson. The City received funding for Parks and Recreation thanks to Senator Andrews and Representative Fisher. She is optimistic for another project that was submitted and will bring more information once notification is received. The Mayor recommended that people be on the lookout for summer youth programs. She encouraged citizens to inform the City of any activities to be publicized. The Mayor announced Youth Impact by New Light is scheduled June 17-21, 2024, and Youth Quake is in July 2024. Pelican State is hosting a summer program, and another organization is sponsoring Splash World to be held at the MAC July 13, 2024. The two-week period for applications for summer work closes June 14, 2024. The program will last four weeks.

Mr. Darry Green announced the gentleman that is sponsoring Splash World is also hosting a multi-sports camp that will begin in July 2024.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting May 9, 2024 and Special Meeting June 6, 2024, were approved on a motion by Ms. Tappin, seconded by Mr. Loche, followed by a vote of 4-1. Mr. Bradford voted no.

Mr. Loche motioned to accept the Finance Committee Report. After discussion, Mr. Loche rescinded the motion to accept the Finance Committee Report. The Council tabled accepting the Finance Committee Report to get clarity for line items costing more than \$5,000, on the amended motion by Mr. Loche, seconded by Mr. Darry Green, followed by a unanimous vote.

The Mayor stated Committee Reports were located in the Council Packets.

Mr. Darry Green left the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

The Council discussed the authority of the Mayor and Council to hire and terminate and request information of employees and officers of the City of Bastrop.

Ms. Tappin requested an Attorney General Opinion regarding the authority of the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Darry Green returned to the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

A bid by Ms. Lois Jordan in the amount of \$8,700.00 to purchase surplus City-owned immovable property located near 1906 Cooper Lake Road, accepted on a motion by Ms. Tappin, seconded by Mr. Loche, followed by a unanimous vote.

Special Projects Coordinator Mr. Jacob Orrels reported to the Council it will be asked to grant permission to advertise for bids for the McFee Bridge in its July 2024 meeting.

Ordinance 24-4276, to authorize an act of sale by the City of Bastrop to sell adjudicated property described as Parcel 00502/001/00008: Lot 8, Block 1, Madison-Watson addition, in accordance with LA R.S. 47:2202 et seq. and to authorize the Mayor of Bastrop to sign all necessary documents and to address their matters relative thereto, was introduced.

Ordinance 24-4277, to authorize an act of sale by the City of Bastrop to sell adjudicated property described as Parcel 00502/001/00007: Lot 7 of Block 1, Madison-Watson Addition, in accordance with LA R.S. 47:2202 et seq. and to authorize the Mayor of Bastrop to sign all necessary documents and to address their matters relative thereto, was introduced.

Ordinance 24-4278, to authorize an act of sale by the City of Bastrop to sell adjudicated property described as Parcel 03201/003/00007: Lot 7 of Block 3 of the W.H. Todd, Sr. Subd as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 4 in accordance with LA R.S. 47:2202 et seq. and to authorize the Mayor of Bastrop to sign all necessary documents and to address their matters relative thereto, was introduced.

The Council discussed the findings in the 2022 and 2023 Audit Reports.

Ms. Joann Bradford commented that the Council should be made aware of the status of audit reports and the creation of a new position.

The Council discussed the creation, duties, and salary of the position of Records Coordinator.

The Council discussed the vacancy of the City Clerk position.

Mr. Darry Green stated he received inquiries about the red light at Marable and West Cypress no longer being in place. The Mayor asked Special Projects Coordinator Jake Orrels to report on the matter. Mr. Orrels explained that Certified Traffic Engineers conducted a 7-month study and recommended a four-way stop to reduce liability. A flashing red light was placed. Mr. Green stated Marable is the corridor to Bastrop High School and asked why the Council wasn't notified. Mr. Green commented he did not know where the dirt placed on the road near Bastrop High School came from. Requesting bids to assess the cost of obtaining a red light at the corner of Marable and West Cypress was approved on a motion by Ms. Tappin, seconded by Mr. Bradford, followed by a unanimous vote.

The Council discussed the proper procedure for calling special meetings. Mr. Bradford asked the record reflect notice was submitted May 15, 2024 to call for a special meeting of the Mayor and Council May 22, 2024. Mr. Bradford asked the record to show that the Mayor refused to post the notice of meeting.

Bastrop resident Mr. Jim Raymond requested the status of the Eastside building (115 McCreight). Attorney Jones answered that in the May 9, 2024 meeting, the Council ordered the building to be demolished if no action was taken within 30 days.

The Council discussed the demolition of the Eastside building.

Ms. Joann Bradford asked why the Lowery building (123 North Washington) has not been demolished.

Mr. Bradford motioned signs to demolish be placed on the building.

Mr. Jim Raymond commented that citizens should be allowed to make inputs into the abatement program.

Mr. Loche asked if Code Enforcement had a list of dilapidated property. The Mayor requested a list of delapidated properties be provided.

Attorney Jones explained the three-phase process plan to address delapidated properties in the City of Bastrop.

The Council discussed the abatement program.

The Mayor asked that the record reflect that inference was made with regard to dirt by Bastrop High School. She stated the issue was brought before the Council during the flood because of the erosion of the road. She stated the Council decided to table it, but it was the City's responsibility to make it safe to keep buses from falling off the caving road. It was a liability.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Darry Green, seconded by Mr. Bradford, followed by a unanimous vote.

  
BETTY ALFORD-OLIVE, MAYOR