

**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF KINDER, LOUISIANA**

January 6, 2025

The Notice of Meeting/Agenda having been duly posted in accordance with requirements, and a quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Wayland LaFargue at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor, Council and Staff Present:

Wayland LaFargue, Mayor
LaToya Tunwar, Councilwoman Dist.1
Maria DeWees, Councilwoman Dist. 2
Jerry Nevils, Jr., Councilman Dist. 3
Angie Van Norman, Councilwoman Dist.4
Susanne Sonnier, Councilwoman at Large
Paul Courville, Chief of Police
Traci Fontenot, Town Clerk
Michael Holmes, Town Attorney
Eric Fontenot, Public Works Superintendent
Tom David, Pan American Engineers

Council and Staff Absent:

None

Approval of Minutes

Mayor LaFargue asked the council to consider approving the minutes for the regular council meeting of December 6, 2024.

Motion: To dispense with the reading of the minutes from December 6, 2024, and approve them as distributed.

Made by: Councilwoman Tunwar

Second: Councilwoman Sonnier

Vote: 5-0, passed

Mayor's Report

Mayor LaFargue called on the Town Auditor, Royce Scimemi to give the annual audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Mr. Scimemi stated that the audit report resulted in a clean opinion. He explained that the significant expenditures were primarily attributed to the Water Sector Program grant and the DEQ loan, both of which are being utilized to fund the wastewater treatment plant project. He also provided an overview of other key highlights from the audit report. The mayor and council also discussed appointing Mr. Scimemi as Town Auditor for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

After some discussion, the following motions were made.

Motion: To accept the audit report for FYE 06/30/2024 as presented by Royce Scimemi.

Made by: Councilwoman Sonnier

Second: Councilwoman Tunwar

Vote: 5-0, passed.

Motion: To appoint Royce Scimemi as the Town Auditor for fiscal year 2024/2025.

Made by: Councilman Nevils

Second: Councilwoman Tunwar

Vote: 5-0, passed.

Chief of Police Report

Chief Paul Courville asked the council to consider approving some personnel matters. He reported that he hired Tavis LaFosse as a full-time police officer and that he moved Angela South from part-time to full-time dispatcher to fill the dispatcher position that was vacant due to Betty Zachery's retirement. He also reported that he had two police units that he wanted to bring to the auction and asked the council to declare them as surplus property. After some discussion, the following motions were made.

Motion: To approve Chief Paul Courville's request to hire Tavis LaFosse as a full-time police officer.

Made by: Councilwoman Sonnier

Second: Councilwoman DeWees

Vote: 5-0, passed.

Motion: To approve Angela South as full-time dispatcher.

Made by: Councilwoman Tunwar

Second: Councilman Nevils

Vote: 5-0, passed.

Motion: To declare a 2014 Ford Taurus (VIN 0224) and a 2015 Ford Explorer (VIN 2136) as surplus property to be sold at auction.

Made by: Councilwoman Tunwar

Second: Councilman Nevils

Vote: 5-0, passed.

Town Attorney Report

Mr. Holmes asked council to consider introducing an ordinance providing for the levy of a 0.3% sales and use tax in the Town of Kinder as authorized at a special election held December 7, 2024. After some discussion, Councilwoman Van Norman introduced the ordinance. He also asked council to consider adopting Resolution No. 2025-01, a resolution to provide for the canvassing of the returns and declaring the result of the sales and use tax extension and rededication election held on December 7, 2024. After some discussion, a motion was made.

Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2025-01.

Made by: Councilwoman Van Norman

Second: Councilman Nevils

Vote: 4-1, passed.

Engineer's Report

Tom David reported that the state was currently accepting applications for the Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) and the Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) grants. He explained that the town could apply for up to \$35,000 for each grant. After some discussion, the following motions were made.

Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2025-02, authorizing the mayor to submit an application for the CWEF grant to replace aged water mains and valves.

Made by: Councilman Nevils

Second: Councilwoman Tunwar

Vote: 5-0, passed

Motion: To adopt Resolution No. 2025-03, authorizing the mayor to submit an application for the LGAP grant to replace gas meter registers.

Made by: Councilwoman Tunwar

Second: Councilwoman Sonnier

Vote: 5-0, passed

Council Report

Councilwoman Angie Van Norman reported that she had received a complaint from a citizen in her district regarding the noise ordinance. She requested that he be allowed to address the mayor and council with his concern.

Mr. Leonard Marcantel explained that his neighbor plays Christmas music at what he believes to be an excessive volume throughout the Christmas season. He described it as a nuisance and asked the council to review the noise ordinance to determine if an amendment is needed to address this issue.

The town attorney explained that the town currently has two ordinances that address noise. One is listed under the Unified Development Ordinance (Zoning Ordinance) and specifies maximum decibel levels allowed. He said that he will consult with the police department to see if an amendment to the current ordinance is necessary.

Public Works Report

Eric Fontenot reported that his staff had been busy preparing for the upcoming extreme weather that is expected. He explained that he would keep the public updated as much as possible via the alert system and the town Facebook page. Additionally, he mentioned that he had a few items he wanted to bring to auction and asked the council to consider declaring these items as surplus.

Motion: To declare an old PipeHunter Sewer Jetter and an old diesel engine as surplus property to be sold at auction.

Made by: Councilwoman Tunwar

Second: Councilwoman Van Norman

Vote: 5-0, passed.

Town Clerk Report

Traci Fontenot reported that the monthly budget-to-actual financial statements are included in the council packets.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn.

Made by: Councilwoman Tunwar

Second: Councilwoman Sonnier

Vote: 5-0, passed

/s/Wayland LaFargue, Mayor

/s/ Traci B. Fontenot, Town Clerk