OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

TOWN OF WELSH

 WELSH, LOUISIANA

 JULY 11, 2017

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Welsh met in regular session in their

regular meeting place, the Town Hall, on Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Carolyn Louviere called the meeting to order and John Hall led the pledge.

Roll call follows:

Present: Mayor Carolyn Louviere; Aldermen: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier,

Colby Perry, and Robert Owens.

Absent: None

Others in attendance: Richard Arceneaux, Town Attorney; Eva Kibodeaux, Book Keeper;

Marcus Crochet, Police Chief; John Hall, Fire Chief; Michelle Ramagos, Director of Parks and

Recreation; Co-Superintendent, Wayne Hebert; Co-Superintendent, Tracy Goodwin.

108. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Rodney Trahan to adopt the Agenda of the Day which consisted of 115. John Navarre-Hathaway Alumni Tournament; 116. Ben Richard-Baseball Recreation Program; 117. Marcus Crochet-New Hires

 Roll Call Vote:

 Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Robert Owens

 Nays: None

 Abstaining: None

 Absent: None

 Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

109. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Lawrence Mier to approve the minutes of June 6, 2017 as presented. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

111. The following resolution was offered by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Lawrence Mier.

RESOLUTION NO. 010-2017

 A Resolution for the Town of Welsh to transfer funds from

 General Fund to Welsh Police Equipment and Maintenance

 Bank Account.

Roll Call Vote:

 Yeas: Andrea King, Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Colby Perry, Robert Owens

 Nays: None

 Abstaining: None

 Absent: None

 Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

113. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Rodney Trahan to accept the bid of $97,460.00 from E.B. Feucht & Sons, LLC for the replacement of broken sewer crossing. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

114. Robert Owens, Alderman and Chairman of 5 year plan Committee, spoke about the plans for this committee and gave the names of the Committee Members. The Committee Members are the following: Financial, Ronnie Petree; Business Owners, Chuck Abell and Skip Broussard; Citizens: Gloria Viney, Allen Ardoin, Karl Arceneaux, and Matt Dossman. He stated that one thing he would like to see the Town do is to put money aside each month for the purchase of equipment needed in each department and not have to take out a loan for the purchases. The second phase of getting the Committee going will be having public meetings and getting the communities input on what they would like to see done in the next five years. The Committee will then put together a plan and have it approved. The goal is economic growth.

110. Mayor Carolyn Louviere opened the public hearing for Proposition No. 268 “An Ordinance to Amend Police Chief Marcus Crochet’s annual salary to $55,000. Tony Cormier said that our Police Chief is below salary and for the future of Welsh we need to increase his salary for future quality and qualified candidates. Jim Wright said that Marcus has done well in his position and has been very successful. His salary should be comparable to other communities and would like the Council to support the raise. Bob said to respect the Police Department for putting their lives on the line and they deserve praise. Marcus has done a good job. Father Alan Trouille said when he asked about the Welsh Community, he was told it was a good Community. He said success comes with prayer. He agrees with all previous comments and that the Chief does deserve a raise and would like the council to support him by giving him the raise. Ada Cline said that the Chief is here to serve and protect and deserves to make a decent salary. Jaime Festervand said she moved to this Town for the atmosphere and everyone embraced them. She said that Marcus does not do his job for the pay and he deals with phone calls all hours of the night. He does things for the Community. Kevin McGee said that you get what you pay for and the future of Welsh is the protection of the Chief. He said that if we do not give people what they deserve, they will not want to serve. Bengt Lindell said that it is important to give the increase and for future candidates. He said to have a Plan B if you do not plan on going with it. Sharon Todd told the Council that the citizens voted for them and they should vote the way the people would. Jackie Balmer said she is in favor of the increase. She said the Chief is an honorable, professional, dependable, compassionate man and that crime is way down in our Town. Jackie said she talked to the citizens of Welsh and the response was good with high levels of trust. She also said that the Chief was re-elected loud and clear with 72% of the votes. She said that safety is the number one priority. It was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Andrea King to close the public hearing. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

112. It was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Lawrence Mier, to adopt Proposition No. 268, “An Ordinance Amending Police Chief Marcus Crochet’s annual salary to $55,000”.

Roll Call Vote:

 Yeas: Rodney Trahan, Lawrence Mier, Carolyn Louviere

 Nays: Andrea King, Colby Perry

 Abstaining: Robert Owens

 Absent: None

 Motion Carried. Vote 3-2.

\*\*\*\*Was later notified that this failed but showing what was done at the time of meeting\*\*\*\*

115. It was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Lawrence Mier to lift open container already listed in the ordinance for Hathaway to host their Alumni Tournament at Sportsman Park on August 11, 2017 from 5:00pm-1:00am and August 12, 2017 from 10:00am-1:00am. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

116. Ben Richard spoke on behalf of the two Welsh Recreation Teams that have advanced to the Zone Tournament to be held in Florida. He asked that the Town consider paying the $500 per team fees for the Teams that are advancing. The checks need to be made to the Tournament.

117. It was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Rodney Trahan to accept the Police Chief’s recommendation to hire Full-Time Detective Terry Guillory with a 90 day probationary period and he is post certified. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

 It was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Robert Owens to accept the Police Chief’s recommendation to move David Amrine from Part-Time Patrol to Full-Time Patrol. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

 It was moved by Rodney Trahan, seconded by Robert Owens to accept the Police Chief’s recommendation to hire Part-Time Dispatch Randall Murphy. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

 Police Chief Marcus Crochet thanked the council for the approval of his pay increase and also thanked the Citizens that came out to give him support at the Public Hearing. He did not ask Citizens but appreciated them coming out and giving him support.

 Director of Parks and Recreation, Michelle Ramagos, announced that two of the Town’s All-Star Teams qualified to go to Tampa, Florida. She said that the team’s would be selling Sno Cones, Raffle Tickets, and having a Silent Auction during the Alumni Tournament. The Team was raising money to pay hotel rooms and other expenses while attending the Tournament starting on July 26, 2017 – July 30, 2017. Last year the left over money raised by the Team that advanced was used to help build the new batting cages at Sportsman Park.

 Fire Chief, John Hall, reported 60 days ago that the radio console was struck by lightning and it would be getting replaced and upgraded because the old system was outdated and could not be repaired or replaced. This would be handled through our insurance company and a claim has been filed. Fire Department is in the process of making a training field and gravel has been poured. There will be more gravel to start the construction of the burn building. This process will take up to three years for completion and something will be done each year until completed.

118. There being no further business, it was moved by Robert Owens, seconded by Lawrence Mier to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. Vote 5-0.

ATTEST: APPROVAL:

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Stephanie Benoit, Town Clerk Carolyn Louviere, Mayor